

TOTALLY AWESOME September 25, 2022

We want to know WHO God is, & what God is like!

Philippians 3:10a I want to know Christ...

MSG I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally...

TPT I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus...

Hebrews 1:3 TPT The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor the exact expression of God's true nature-His mirror image! He holds the universe together & expands it by the mighty power of His spoken word. He accomplished for us the complete cleansing of sins, & then took His seat on the highest throne at the right hand of the Majestic One.

We will move forward as our conception of God moves forward.

GOD'S LOVE

A problem w/ talking about God's love is we all think we understand it. We know all about God's love. It makes sense to us. His thoughts aren't that high, we get it. Therein lies the problem! It's like trying to take the ocean in your arms, embrace the atmosphere, or rise to the stars. Nevertheless, I will attempt the impossible, & trust the Holy Spirit to make up for my human lack.

God's love is eternal, immutable, & infinite. It never began to be, & it can never end. His love can never change & there is no boundary to it.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant (*loving*) for a thousand generations & lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him & obey His commands.

Love is an essential attribute of God's being.

God is the total summation of all love. All love comes from God.

God's love permeates His being. All that God does, He does in love.

Psalms 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God of compassion & mercy, slow to get angry & filled w/ unfailing love & faithfulness.

God's love is so great that we can't fully understand it. Human love often depends on the behavior of the person being loved. God's love does not.

Love identifies itself emotionally w/its object. - *If one of my daughters were dying (ok, sons too) & I could save them w/ a blood transfusion that would kill me, I wouldn't hesitate. I'm no hero, I'm a father.*

Love always emotionally identifies itself w/ its object.

God's love toward all that He has made, brings Him pleasure.

Zephaniah 3:16b ...Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid! 17 For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you w/ gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. (*He will renew you w/ His love*) He will rejoice (*spin*) over you w/ joyful songs.

God is in the midst of us, He saves us & rejoices over us w/ joy! The eternal God is dancing & singing! Our rejoicing - just reflects our God (who is loving) dancing & singing over us! Let's rejoice & sing w/ enthusiasm because of our loving God! Our loving God is in us, & He's rejoicing over us – singing w/ joy!

The Bible calls us the Bride & Jesus is the Bridegroom.

Song of Solomon 4:9 You have captured My heart, My treasure, My bride. You hold it hostage w/ one glance of your eyes, w/ a single jewel of your necklace. 10 Your love delights Me, My treasure, My bride...

God says this & He feels this toward His Church. Us!

We are created to know His love & feel it & sense it.

There's a loving deep, emotional, healing element in the Christian life.

He wants to shelter us, love us, care for us, & cherish us.

Mother Juliana of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*, “For our soul is so specially loved of Him that is highest, that it overpasseth the knowing of all creatures: that is to say, there is no creature that is made that may [fully] know how much and how sweetly and how tenderly our Maker loveth us.”

Romans 5:8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

God's love not only created us, but redeemed us (saved) & keeps us.

Romans 8:37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow-not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing that God does, is separate from the love of God.

1 John 4:8 AMP The one who does not love has not become acquainted w/ God, does not & never did know Him, for God is love. He is the originator of love, & it is an enduring attribute of His nature.

God's love is inconceivable. It's too great to be described in words.

God's love is incomprehensible.

9 By this, the love of God was displayed in us, in that God has sent His One & only begotten Son, the One who is truly unique, the only One of His kind into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this, is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us & sent His Son to be the propitiation, that is, the atoning sacrifice & the satisfying offering for our sins, fulfilling God's requirement for justice against sin & placating (*appeasing*) His wrath...

16b ...God is love, & the one who abides in love abides in God, & God abides continually in him. 17 In this union & fellowship w/ Him, love is completed & perfected w/ us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, w/ assurance & boldness to face Him; because **as** He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, dread does not exist. But perfect, complete, full-grown love drives out fear, because fear involves the expectation of divine punishment, so the one who is afraid of God's judgment is not perfected in love, & has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God's love.

All fear goes when we know God loves us.

Because of the cross, the name of Jesus, & the power of the Holy Spirit, love has come in, & fear goes out. So, I'm not afraid. I'm in His hands.

This is where our faith journey starts: understanding that God absolutely loves us. If you don't have an assurance of God's love, your faith walk will be weak. There's no force more powerful than the love our Father has for us. His love can move mountains, stop roaring seas, heal broken bones & wounded hearts, transform lives, & set free those held captive.

***His love is a powerful force, it's protecting & comforting us.
Being in God's love is a position of safety.***

Psalm 5:12 For You bless the godly, O Lord; You surround them w/ Your shield of love.

When we run to God for protection, He surrounds us w/ His shield of love. Let's experience the security we have because God's love surrounds us.

God's love never fails you or betrays you. He is totally trustworthy.

Isaiah 54:10 MSG For even if the mountains walk away & the hills fall to pieces, My love won't walk away from you, My covenant commitment of peace won't fall apart." The God who has compassion on you says so.

God's love is divine, true, & everlasting. His eternal love is unconditional & characterized by grace & forgiveness! Oh, that we would know God's wonderful, extravagant, amazing, & unstoppable love.

What can the world do to us, we who are grounded in the love of God?

Ephesians 3:14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees & pray to the Father, 15 the Creator of everything in heaven & on earth. 16 I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you w/ inner strength through His Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love & keep you strong. 18 May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, & how deep His love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete w/ all the fullness of life & power that comes from God. 20 Now all glory to God, who's able, through His mighty power at work w/in us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to Him in the church & in Christ Jesus through all generations forever & ever! Amen.