

Bible Thoughts

with
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What does “God is Love” Mean?

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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What does it mean "God is Love"?

[1 John 4:7-10](#) "7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. "

[1 John 4:14-16](#), "14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. "

The most important fact in your life should be the knowledge that *God loves you*, it is part of His nature, He is motivated by love and He created the universe and the humans in love. This thought should be every part of your day, it should control your day, your thoughts and your actions.

Confirmation of the love of God.

The Bible tells us that God is love, [1 John 4:8,16](#), not that "love is God," this is a very major mistake by many people. Mankind has an action we call "love," we can each experience the act of love, "love our wife, love our children, our home, others and even work" but this is not the same "love attribute of God," the love which we have for a person or object normally expects some relationship return for that love, your wife and family have love for you and you expect that in return for your love for them. But the Love of God is involved in all of His actions and plans, it is part of His nature, He made the universe in love, He made the world in love, He formed human beings because He is love, and He controls and rules the universe and all it contains in love.

Unfortunately it is possible for humans to create fake love, for example an act of kindness can often be interpreted as love. Another example is the use of discipline for a dangerous or bad action can cause pain but it is meant to create a safer situation, this action may not always be done in love for the person.

Sexual relationships can be full of true love for each other but can also be for a persons satisfaction and not love. This behaviour often ends up a disaster for someone.

Any fake love will also hurt the person involved and can prevent that person seeking real love, like the love and relationship offered by God. Though we each have an attribute we call "love" this is totally different to the love of God, His love is greater than anyone can write or speak about, it reaches the furthest place in the universe or the lowest place in hell. The more we learn about this love the more we realize how passionately God loves us.

Our way of life and personal relationships on earth teaches us that we must earn love from others, we need to be attractive or nice to know, possibly rich, we are prepared to love others if they offer something we want or need. We do not love those who are unattractive or repulsive in some way. But the love of God for each of us personally is totally different, the sun shines and the rain falls upon the "good and bad," equally, the love of God is given free of any restrictions, without our asking for it. Humans do not normally find love for something which is unattractive but there is nothing we can do to make God not love us, neither is there anything we can do to make Him love us more. God loves us because He is God, there is nothing we have to do or can do to cause God to not have this love for us.

Nothing you will ever do can make God love you any more than he does, no need to increase in worship or more spirituality. Most important, neither can a life of sin stop Him loving you. Paul wrote to Timothy these words in [2 Timothy 1:9](#), *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"* Also Paul writes to the Ephesians in [Eph 1:4,5](#) *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."* God is pleased to love us without a cause, God loved us first because it was His plan to do so. God does not love us because we love Him, actually *"we love him, because he first loved us."* [1 John 4:19](#).

[Isaiah 55:8,9](#), *"8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

[Rom 5:6-10](#), *"6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God*

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

The love of God does not consider our position, v8. Someone might be willing to die for a special good person, but would not consider to die for an evil, bad person, yet Christ died for all people, who are sinners, His love was so wide that He paid the price for all of our sins.

Before you were born God knew you and loved you.

What ever God does is for the fulfilment of His plan, this includes the development of any unborn human child.

[Psalm 119:73.](#)

"73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments."

[Job 31:15.](#)

"15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?"

[Job 10:8-11.](#)

"8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me.

9 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?

10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese?

11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. "

[Psalm 139:13-16.](#)

"13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth."

God knows all about how your body is made, and how complex it is. From the mixing of an egg from the mother and a sperm from the father, this microscopic single cell combination develops into a child, from something where a "O" on this page can contain thirty to forty thousand of them eventually becomes a living child.

After twenty-five days a heart and circulation is apparent, at thirty-two days arms and legs are developing and at fifty-two days the eyes and nose are developing. Each cell contains, from the beginning, the instruction on what to become, how to function and where it fits in this wonderful body construction.

During each moment of our life cells are dieing and being replaced, thousands of events are taking place in each cell during a day. The human body has a million, million of these cells, how can people say "this just happened by chance."

God, in His love for His creation has crafted this single cell into a human person, for whom He has loved from the beginning, before you were born God knew you individually.

[Col 1:16](#) *"16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"*

[Luke 1:35-44](#), The baby inside Elizabeth, the future John the Baptist, recognized the presence of the baby Jesus in Mary, the baby knew the significance and their futures. God equally knows all embryo's purpose and future, see the comments by Paul [Gal 1:15,16](#).

God knows your future.

[Jeremiah 1:5](#) *"5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. "*

I formed you,
I knew you,
I chose you,
I sanctified you,
I used you.

God knows exactly what He is doing with each of us, in the passage, Jeremiah felt that he was only a child and therefore not suitable to become the prophet as planned for him by God. But God knew exactly what he was doing, His choice of Jeremiah was all part of His plan because "before you were born I knew you." *"7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand,*

and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."[Jeremiah 1:7-9.](#)

God must have been waiting patiently as Jeremiah grew up, now He was about to release the abilities and potential He knew was in Jeremiah. Paul realized that God had reserved him for His plan before his birth when he wrote to the church at Galatia *"15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen;"* [Gal 1:15,16.](#) From the beginning of creation God had planned to make Man in Our image, it is interesting that there was a divine conference for the creation of Man but not of any other creation, [Genesis 1:26,27.](#) Each person is an image of God, but without His attributes, we reflect His nature, His love, His care and the dominion we have over the earth. Each person is known by God and so He has a special love for His creation. Note this means that God has also planned your life and knows all about your destiny, the joys, the pain and the difficulties, just as He did for Paul and Jeremiah, but ultimately you have a free will and we each must make the decision which way to go, for or does the decision result in being against God.

Though we are physical, we each seem to have a spiritual nature, Mankind has always created some sort of god to worship, though unfortunately it was a total waste of effort.

Initially all of creation was good, [Genesis 1:31.](#) *"31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* There were no exceptions, so we are precious to Him and He has unlimited love for all of His creation and for each of us personally.

It is at this point that we might consider the decision of Mankind to carry out the abortion of babies, who were made in the image of God and God knew the child at the point of conception, do we have the right to overrule what was God's plans for the child?

I believe that during the final parts of God's plan He will raise up those aborted babies, who were constructed in His image.

In Love God made the rules.

[Psalm 89:30-32.](#)

*"30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;
31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;*

32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes."

God gave men and women a free will, we are free to chose whether to love and obey Him or reject Him, therefore God has to set the limits for the attitude and behaviour of Mankind through the Ten Commandments. These were given by God to Israel after He had shown His love for them by releasing them from being slaves of the Egyptians, [Exodus 19:3,4](#), *"3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. "*

The Ten Commandments cover every part of our lives, they demonstrate the best way to live, it forbids nothing except an action which could injure us physically, socially or mentally. Like modern laws they are there for a persons safety and make our lives for the best, laws are made for our benefit. The Laws of God demonstrates His love for His creation.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." [Psalm 1:1,2](#).

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." [Psalm 19:7-11](#).

"13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." [Ecclesiastes 12:13,14](#).

[Deuteronomy 33:2,3](#). *"2 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.*

3 Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words. "

Some people say that as a True Believer lives under Grace then the Ten commandments is now obsolete, but Jesus made it clear that He honours the Ten Commandments, they have eternal authority, *"17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. "* [Matt 19:17.](#)

Jesus actually expanded the Ten Commandments in [Matt 5:21-30](#), *"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, RacaRaca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

God can discipline a Believer to purify us.

The discipline of God for His creation will never involve His wrath for the True Believer, that wrath is reserved for the unbeliever. Even if God has to use some sort of chastisement, punishment for the Believer's failures and to teach something, it will ultimately be of benefit for the Believer as God still

loves the Believer. An example of God in action on this subject is that Paul suffered from some illness, this was to stop him developing a life of pride, [2 Cor 12:7-9](#), *"7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

We do not know what the "thorn in the flesh" was, only that he asked God to remove it three times and the Lord denied his request, but it appears to have helped Paul's faith because he had to depend upon the power of God to overcome the problem.

[Heb 12:6](#), *"6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."*

[Heb 12:10](#), *"10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."*

You will find the word meaning "chastening," appears nine times in the passage [Heb 12:5-11](#). It has the meaning of the training of a child by parents or teachers, this action is always to help the child mature.

God often uses an action which may produce physical suffering but the result is always to the benefit of the Believer and will result in sanctification, the action behaving like a "fire which purifies."

This discipline is actually a sign of love by God, He is trying to make you more Christ like, so do not be angry with God if this seems to be happening. In fact, you should be the opposite, for a religious person who seems to have no problems suggests they do not actually belong to God, see [Heb 12:7](#),

"7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

The important point is that discipline is the sign of a child which is loved by their father. It is God saying "You are mine and I love you."

God's love never ends.

God has always existed and will continue for eternity,

[Psalm 90:2](#), *"2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."*

[Rev 1:8.](#) *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

[Isaiah 57:15.](#) *"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."*

[1 Tim 1:16,17.](#) *"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

God is not limited by time or space like us, we only exist in one place and time, just a short time but God is eternal and so are all His attributes, He knows all things and controls all events, therefore He knows all about each of us personally, His love for us remains the same from day to day for eternity.

Nothing can separate us from God.

[Romans 8:35-39,](#)

"35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

[2 Tim 2:13.](#)

"13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

[John 10:28,29.](#)

"28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. "

God's love is without limit.

[2 Chronicles 6:17,18.](#) *"17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David. 18 But will God*

in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!
"

[Acts 17 24:28.](#) *"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;*

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. "

God exists everywhere, yet he is not far from anyone,

[Psalms 139:1-12.](#)

"I O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.

2 Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, thou under standest my thought afar off.

3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

[Eph 3:17-21.](#)

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and

grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

The love of God is given through the Holy Spirit.

[Rom 5:5](#), "5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." 1

God's love never fails.

[Psalm 86:15](#), "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

How much do you believe this statement? As we each go through life we often have the feeling that "God does not care about Me." I believe this is a deliberate action by Satan to make us lose our confidence in God, because he knows that our relationship with God can easily be broken by the events happening in our life at the time. We often work on the idea that God only loves us when we are living a life which is pleasing to Him, this belief allows Satan to quickly whisper a negative thought which makes us feel "God does not love me." It is unfortunate that many people believe that the attributes of God are similar and at the same level of human attributes. For example, you and I can easily lose our love for another person if they upset us, many people seem to think that God behaves the same. We then believe that it is necessary to earn our way back into a good relationship with God like we would with a person. But God's love is not like our human love, before an incident, throughout and after the incident and our failure, His love does not change in anyway, it remains exactly the same, it remains constant in level and duration, and the duration has the value of eternity, complete and perfect, the Love of God never changes. If we feel we have lost His love it is probable because we are unable to feel His love in our life for some personal reason.

There are two reasons for us not being able to feel His love:-

1) When we are involved in a sinful personal act, or when we are under attack by Satan. In both situations the presence of evil does not mean an

absence of love from God, He is always there. We must remember that at no time does God tell us that we will not be exposed to evil in some way, but He is more powerful than anything Satan or the world can generate:-

[1 John 4:4](#), *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

[1 John 1:9](#) *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

[1 Cor. 10:13](#), *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

[Rom 8:28](#), *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

God's love never changes.

[Psalm 33:11](#); [Psalm 102:27](#); [Malachi 3:6](#); [James 1:17](#).

Because God never changes, therefore His attributes will not change either. God's love is therefore constant, faithful, never getting less and possibly disappearing. It is a love which will never change due to a persons circumstances or situations.

It is difficult for us to appreciate this situation as we are all very finite, none of us are able to see our future, with all the joys and possible problems we are going to suffer. All we know is that we each will get older and may have a possible illness, our body functions will slowly deteriorate, and everyone will eventually end their life in death.

We can see a small example of this love in the care and love Jesus had for us as he approached his sacrifice on the cross for each one of us.

[John 15:9](#), *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."*

With his sacrifice for Mankind being only hours away, Jesus knew Judas was about to betray him, Peter, in a few hours would deny knowing him, and the other disciples would flee in terror. Yet, Jesus could express his love for his disciples and us.

[John 17:9-20](#), *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."*

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." ... "20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

There is a wonderful thought which can come as a result of the unchanging love of God, He will not ever say "I have had enough of the behaviour of humans." Neither will He turn away if we decide one day that we have had enough of Him, He will still love us.

God's love is not difficult to understand.

[John 3:16,17](#), *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. "

All I have to do is **believe**, because "God loves me."

The love of God has no conditions.

It is totally opposite to our human nature, we normally only love another person because they suit our personal conditions or requirements, we only love those we considered worthy of our love. The love of God is not at all like this, it is a love for His totally unworthy creation, He does not expect any return for the love He is giving, this is a love which happens because **God is love**.

The love of God for His Son.

God revealed His love for His Son on two recorded occasions, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, where He made the announcement, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* [Matt 3:17](#). Then the second occasion is during the transfiguration, *"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."* [Matt 17:5](#).

The relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son, Jesus was with His disciples, just before the day of his crucifixion, and He was praying to His Father, in the prayer Jesus acknowledged the love of His Father for himself, then for the disciples and finally for those who were to believe in him after the crucifixion, you and I, [John 17:1-20](#).

This love has a greater meaning when we consider the words given by Jesus to Nicodemus, [John 3:16,17](#), *"For God so loved the world, that he*

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." It shows how great the love of God is for His creation, you and I, when He is prepared to sacrifice the Son He loves to pay for the sins of Mankind.

God Loves the world.

This is given in the words of Jesus, all races and beliefs, [John 3:16](#), *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

God loves His chosen nation.

The Bible record is centred upon the people of Israel, a group of people who He specially chose to be part of His plan for His creation, through them He was to offer salvation to His Human Creation. Despite the many times the Jewish nation turned away from God seeking other gods, He has faithfully continued to love them.

[Isaiah 49:15,16](#), *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."*

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

[Deuteronomy 32:9,10](#), *"For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance."*

10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

The True Christ Believer is special.

[John 17:20-23](#), *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

[2 Thess 2:16](#), *"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our*

Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,"

The Father's love for His Son has no limit and is holy, yet He has promised to love the Believer the same, we are heirs to His kingdom, we are now children of God who loves us as His own family.

God's Love is longsuffering, He never stops loving His creation.

[Exodus 34:6](#). *"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"*

[Numbers 14:18](#). *"The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."*

[Psalms 86:15](#). *"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."*

[Rom 9:22](#). *"2 What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:"*

[Gal 5:22](#). *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"*

[Col 1:10,11](#). *"10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; "*

[1 Tim 1:16](#). *"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."*

[1 Peter 3:20](#). *"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."*

[2 Peter 3:9](#). *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

[2 Peter 3:15](#). *"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;"*

God has never promised to keep evil away from us, though He regularly reminds us to avoid any evil and does not allow us to be exposed to evil more than we can stand. As we come up against evil we must just remember that God is more powerful than any evil Satan can create, [1 John 4:4](#), "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*"

We have to ask a question at this point, if God hates evil, how can He love us when we are so evil in nature? The answer is quite simple, He loves us because it is in His nature to love us the same as He has always loved us. Even when we fail and sin or deny Him, God remains faithful in His promises, [2 Tim 2:12,13](#), "*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*"

[Heb 13:5,6](#), "*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*"

God has kept His love throughout history, look at the failures of Mankind and the following actions by God. When Adam and Eve disobeyed Him, though He had to punish them, He still cared for them and loved them. God did not stop loving Abraham when he went to Egypt during a famine, there Abraham caused a serious situation and problem instead of depending upon God. [Genesis 12:10-20](#).

Then later Abraham and Sarah tried to help God fulfil His promise of a son by using an Egyptian servant girl.

Then there was Moses who murdered an Egyptian and later lost his temper striking a rock God had provided as a source of water for the people.

There was the adultery of David with Bathsheba and then later to cover up the sin David arranged the murder of her husband. David was punished by God but God did not desert him. [2 Samuel 11:1ff](#).

Peter denied the Lord three times, but Jesus went out of His way to show Peter his love for him, [John 21:15-17](#).

It is worth considering the story of Hosea, his relationship with his wife is a wonderful demonstration of the Love of God, for His people and the whole of the world. .

How can a Holy and pure God love evil mankind?

The holiness of God cannot accept and tolerate sinners, therefore God cannot allow sinners to contaminate His holy heaven, so how can God love

us if we are sinners who disobey and reject Him?

We find the answer in His Son, Jesus the Christ, [Matt 1:21](#), *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* Jesus, having no sins of himself, Jesus voluntarily took on all of our sins, he took our punishment, and on the cross paid the price demanded by God for sin. This left us free of sin, being washed by the blood through the death of Christ, so now we can enter into the presence of a pure and holy God. [John 3:16](#), *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* This is what the love of God is all about, not just the Jews, but for the whole world, you and I. It is the truth, the gospel in one verse, God loves you, and these words tell us what God was prepared to do for His creation, you and I, in love. [Rom 5:8](#), *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*