



How much does God really love us?

By Bill Subritzky

Most of us are aware of the remarkable statement by Jesus, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

We must understand the word "believes" means to trust in, cling to and obey. It is not just some intellectual belief but a heartfelt belief in God demonstrated by becoming born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit and then obeying the commandments of God.

Before He went to the cross Jesus spoke at length to His Father about what He had done in proclaiming the coming kingdom and also praying for His followers.

Then He made the following comments, "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:25-26.)

As we meditate on Jesus' statement the real truth that God has for us begins to become evident. **Jesus has asked God to love us with the same love that God loved Him.**

As any true father knows, he can have a tremendous love for his son. Let us think about the love that God has for Jesus. As Jesus came up from his water baptism a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22.)

He describes Jesus as His beloved Son.

And that is how God loves us when we submit to Him and follow Jesus.

What a tremendous revelation!

If we know that somebody really loves us we have no hesitation in asking them for help and approaching them for various reasons.

Now we know that God loves us just as He loved Jesus Christ and we can come boldly to the throne of Grace knowing that God loves us and will listen to us.

This increases our faith enormously. Our prayers will not go unanswered. God is listening to us His beloved children.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." (2 Chronicles 16:9.)

If we are true followers of Jesus Christ, God is constantly watching us. He loves us as He loves Jesus. He is listening to us.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15.)

As I have loved my own sons and listened to them and their requests, so I know that God listens to me and my requests.

This gives me tremendous confidence to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, to believe for miracles in my own life and those of others and most of all to see many people come to Christ.

Have you that same confidence? Do you really realise that God is a person who allowed His Son to die on the cross, to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. If not you need to submit to Him and allow Him to show you the same love as He gives to Jesus.

**Start now! Begin to realise that God does love you and offers you eternal life.
As you obey Him your prayers will be answered. Praise God!**

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