

Love is the Key!



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VIRTUAL

God is love, and humans were created to love God supremely, but they must *decide* to love Him—His *nature* will inspire love in us. The apostle wrote ¹ John 4:7 “*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.*”

Two vital issues of the Christian life are to *love God* with all our heart; and to *trust God* for all our needs. When our heart is right toward God, everything else is right—spiritually—our life will be *pleasing* to Him; we will be *in* His will, and we will *enjoy* His promised inner peace.

If the worst sinner on earth actually *knew* God and *understood* His character, they would be *compelled* to love Him because His very *character*; His *attributes*; His *ways*; and His *creation* inspire *love* in our heart. No one—especially a mother—has to *try* to love a new-born baby, because the baby’s innocence and everything else about the baby inspires love in our heart.

As wonderful and beautiful as this *human* love is, however, it is only a *glimpse* of the *divine* love, mercy, and grace God has for *us*. It is not that we love *God* to *make* Him love *us*; ¹ John 4:19 “*We love him, because he first loved us*”—love *inspires* love. If we take a right attitude toward God *first*, He will show us His divine

character *second*—then we will automatically love Him.

A right *knowledge* of God and His character enables us to ^{Proverbs 3:5} “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*” The emphasis is on the word—meaning that our entire *confidence* is to be exclusively on *God* for everything.

What really matters in life is a *genuine love* for God and a *continuing trust* on Him. No *human* being can *make* us love our Creator; only *God* can make us a new *creature* with a changed *heart* that wants to faithfully trust Him—resulting from the true love *for Him* in our heart. ^{Galatians 5:6} “*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any importance; but only faith working through love.*” The battle ground is on these two points—*faith in Him* acting from *love for Him*!

The situation is this—Satan and all of his agents are on *one* side; and all true believers are on the *other*. The devil will first attack our *faith in God*; and will present a multitude of substitutes for our *trust on God*. Satan is in back of and conceives all human plans—like he inspired the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar had constructed.

The devil is determined to have us trust in these *human things*, as much as he was determined to have the Hebrews bow to a *metal image*. Satan *knows* that *bowing to*, or *trusting in*, any human plan, pill, or policy—whether it be called science; sensible reasoning; medical advances, laser technology, or the latest vaccine—if it *replaces* our *trust* on the Atonement of Christ, it is just as wrong and unscriptural in the sight of God.

God’s plan is that our *present* life leads to *eternal* life—the *present* and the *future* are forever linked and cannot be separated. If we choose to shut God *out* of our life and try to make our *own* way, we shut ourselves *out* of eternal life—

but if we allow *God* to have full charge of our life here on earth—where we *can trust Him* with all our heart, because we *love Him* with all our heart—then He will be able to make our *life* what He meant it to be.

Satan continually offers some plan, pill, or procedure to depend *on* or trust *in* besides God. Whatever we *could* pray for, the devil is right there to suggest a *substitute*—and this human way will always involve some *human* plan. These alternative sources of help will *seem* reasonable and sensible—we *must* be on guard—we *must* ^{Matthew 7:15} “*Beware of false prophets*”—or false places of *trust*, as Jesus warned!

If we pray and ask God for money, the devil suggests we look to some *source* from where those finances could possibly *come*—something that is *not* trusting *God* with all our heart. If we *see* the instrument God might use, we unconsciously *depend on that* instrument—rather than on God.

God has *promised* to answer our prayers, but we must *not* select the *person* or the *source* He might use. We are to eliminate any possible *human* source, so that our view of God will not be hindered—then He can use some instrument. Our *eyes, hopes, and expectations* are to be on *God and God alone*. If there is *one* human possibility on the horizon, the human heart will focus on that one thing.

With healing—if there is any dependence on a *human* element—some therapy; medical formula; special food, or worldly opinion—like accepting and expecting a cold to run its course of several days—and then be over, we *could* have the oppression for *weeks*. We are to trust exclusively on *God* to deliver us from an oppression—and in the present moment.

Concerning the home—we should not depend on any *human* element—like wondering if some serious thing happening will change

someone's attitude—saying to ourselves: *That should wake them up; or that should show them how wrong they were;* etc. Something horrible does *not* have to happen for the devil to be cast out of someone.

It is all about our total dependence on God's divine power. If we are trusting God with all our heart—*then* His divine power can bring about change in any part of our life. 2 Chronicles 16:9 "*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*" God wants to *deliver* us from the problems and difficulties we meet along the path of life—He wants us to have *His peace* and *prosperity*.

The human heart was *designed* to have a supreme object of its *affection*, and the devil is always there to provide an *object*. When we begin to love God supremely, Satan will immediately come up with a *substitute*—a *human object* of our affection. We *began* life wanting to trust in something we can *see* and *love*—other than God whom we cannot see.

Human love is usually centered on a *person*, but it can be centered on *money*; a good-paying *job*; a *career*; our *business*; a desire for *fame* and *fortune*; or *riches* and *reputation*. Love can be centered on a *pet*—many lavish their love on an *animal*. We *must* have something to love—so we are always *tempted* to *love* something *more* than we love God.

It does not matter *who* the person is; how *lovable* the animal may be; or how much the person or pet *means* to us, if we love *anything* or *anyone more* than we love God, it will be a *curse* instead of a *blessing*. All *objects* of love—whether it is money, a pet, or anything else, it must be removed and our supreme love be on God alone. Misplaced affection must be *corrected* if eternal life is *expected*!

Many Bible verses tell of God's *love* and our *responsibility*; Psalm 91:14 "*Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him.*" Psalm 37:4 "*Delight thyself also in the LORD*"—choose *Him* as the supreme object of our love—"*and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*"

That is a *short cut* to anything we want in this life—and eternal life is the ultimate reward. *This* is where Satan *fights*, and *this* is the battleground all through life. All of God's teaching and working with us is to bring us to where our *love, affection, trust, hope, and confidence* is totally on *Him*.

Everything that touches our life will be used by God to eliminate any *false object* of love, or any wrong *human place* of trust, and to put God Himself in its place. It is possible to have this spiritual work accomplished, but it takes a decision on *our* part first.

Israel left Egypt and entered a desert—where there was nothing to *love* and nothing to *depend* on. While Moses was up on the mountain, they became discouraged and asked Aaron to make some *god* they could *see*. The fallen human nature *must* have something it can *see*—to *help* or *heal* them.

All the *blessings* God has provided us, and all the *help* He has been to us—it is to hide Himself from human view—this *compels* us to trust in an *unseen* God. Exodus 32:7 "*The LORD said unto Moses, [human trust is an abomination]; Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.*"

The *center* of that *corruption* was their depending on *idols*. It is as much *corruption* to depend on a *pill* for healing or on a *policy* for protection. To worship God with our *words*, but depend on a drug for relief from pain, is *idolatry* and blatant *unbelief*. It is a *terrible* spiritual condition

to be in, and if continued, will land us in the lake of fire. *That* is the *serious* part of it.

What *had* to be done so God could help them, was to grind those idols to powder and throw the dust in the river. *Then* God's presence was *with* them again; and He could *do* things for them again. The human object of *our* love and trust is to be eliminated, and it can be a painful process.

We can feel all alone, but God in His love and mercy removes the object of our love or our trust—and He takes their place. We can feel *lost* with nothing to love or to trust—we *need* those things to be happy and contented. When all seems empty and void, the great God of the universe comes in to take their place, and give us far *more* than we lost. Our affection and love are to be on *God*—the only *right* One.

The object of *Abraham's* love had to be out of the *way* in his life before God could have first place in his *heart*. When God saw that Abraham fully intended to sacrifice the love of his life, He said Genesis 22:12, "*Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*" Are we withholding anything from God—is the question!

God promised Genesis 12:2 "*I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.*" God was faithful to His promise—he blessed Abraham and everyone after him far more than we can imagine. It is all about *loving* and *trusting* God in faith—because Galatians 3:9 "*They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*" Love is the Key!



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:
PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120
info@fcgchurch.org #2916 0124 21P