

~LOVE (1902)

[Hebrew, 'a-hev', Greek, a-ga'pe, phi-li'a]

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- **A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a friend, for a parent or child, and so forth, warm fondness or liking for another, also, the benevolent affection of God for his creatures or the reverent affection due from them to God, also, the kindly affection properly expressed by God's creatures toward one another, that strong or passionate affection for a person of the opposite sex that constitutes the emotional incentive to conjugal union. One of the synonyms for love is, devotion.**
- **Aside from those meanings, the Scriptures speak also of love guided by principle, as love of righteousness or even love for ones enemies, for whom a person may not have affection.**

- This facet or expression of love is an unselfish devotion to righteousness and a sincere concern for the lasting welfare of others, along with an active expression of this for their good.
- The verb *‘a-hev’* or *‘a-hav’*, love and the noun *‘a-havah’*, love, are the words primarily used in Hebrew to denote love in the foregoing senses, the context determining the sense and degree meant.
- The **Christian Greek Scriptures** mainly employ forms of the words *a-ga’pe*, *phi-li’a*, and two words drawn from *stor-ge’*, *e’ros*, love between the sexes, not being used. *A-ga’pe* appears more frequently than the other terms.
- Of the noun *a-ga’pe* and the verb *a-ga-pa’o*, **Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words** says: **Love can be known only from the actions it prompts.**
- **God’s love is seen in the gift of His Son,**
- **By this the love of God was made manifest in our case, because God sent forth his only-begotten Son into the world that we might gain life through him. (1 John 4:9)**
- **The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)**
- **But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects,**
- **But God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**
- **It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself.**
- **It was not because of your being the most populous of all the peoples that Yehowah showed affection for you so that he chose you, for you were the least of all the peoples. [1981, Vol. 3, p. 21]**
- **It was not because of your being the most populous of all the peoples that Yehowah showed affection for you so that he chose you, for you were the least of all the peoples. (Deuteronomy 7:7)**

- But it was because of Yehowah's **loving** you, and because of his keeping the sworn statement that he had sworn to your forefathers, that Yehowah brought you out with a strong hand, that he might redeem you from the house of slaves, from the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt. (**Deuteronomy 7:8**)
- Regarding the **Greek verb, *phi-le'o***, Vine comments: It is to be distinguished from *agapao* in this, that *phileo* more nearly represents tender affection. Again, to **love *phileo* life**, from an undue desire to preserve it, forgetful of the real object of living, meets with the Lords reproof,
- He that is fond of his soul destroys it, but he that hates his soul in this world will safeguard it for everlasting life. (**John 12:25**)
- On the contrary, to **love life, *agapao*** as used in,
- For, he that would **love life** and see good days, let him restrain his tongue from what is bad and his lips from speaking deception. (**1 Peter 3:10**)
- Is to consult the true interests of living. Here the word *phileo* would be quite inappropriate.[Vol. 3, pp. 21,22]
- James Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, in its Greek dictionary [1890, pp. 75,76], remarks under *phi-le'o*: To be a friend to fond of an individual or an object, i.e. have affection for denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling, while *a-ga-pa'o* is wider, embracing especially the judgment and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety.

See Also AFFECTION

- **A-ga'pe**, therefore, carries the meaning of **love guided, or governed, by principle**. It may or may not include affection and fondness. That **a-ga'pe** may include affection and warmth is evident in many passages. At;
- The Father **loves** the Son and has given all things into his hand. (**John 3:35**)
- Jesus said; The Father **loves *a-ga-pai'*** the Son.

- For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, in order, that you may marvel. (**John 5:20**)
- He said; The Father has affection for *phi-lei'* the Son. Certainly God's **love** for Jesus Christ is coupled with much affection. Also Jesus explained; He that **loves** *a-ga-pon'* me will be **loved** *a-ga-pe-the'se-tai* by my Father, and I will **love** *a-ga-pe'so* him.
- He that has my commandments and observes them, that one is he who **loves** me. In turn he that loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will plainly show myself to him. (**John 14:21**)
- This **love** of the Father and of the Son is accompanied by tender affection for such loving persons. Yehowah's worshipers must love him and his Son, as well as one another, in the same way.
- When, now, they had breakfasted, Jesus said to Simon Peter; Simon son of John, do you **love** me more than these? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Feed my lambs. (**John 21:15**)
- Again he said to him, a second time; Simon son of John, do you **love** me? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Shepherd my little sheep. (**John 21:16**)
- He said to him the third time; Simon son of John, do you have affection for me? Peter became grieved that he said to him the third time; Do you have affection for me? So he said to him; Lord, you know all things; You are aware that I have affection for you. Jesus said to him; Feed my little sheep. (**John 21:17**)
- So, although distinguished by respect for principle, *a-ga'pe* is not unfeeling, otherwise it would not differ from cold justice. But it is not ruled by feeling or sentiment, it never ignores principle.
- Christians rightly show *a-ga'pe* toward others for whom they may feel no affection or fondness, doing so for the welfare of those persons.
- Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith. (**Galatians 6:10**)

- Yet, though not feeling affection, they do feel compassion and sincere concern for such fellow human's, to the limits and in the way that righteous principles allow and direct.
- However, while *a-ga'pe* refers to **love** governed by principle, there are good and bad principles. A wrong kind of *a-ga'pe* could be expressed, guided by bad principles.
- For example, Jesus said; If you love *a-ga-pa'te* those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. And if you do good to those doing good to you, really of what credit is it to you?
- Even the sinners do the same. Also, if you lend without interest to those from whom you hope to receive, of what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend without interest to sinners that they may get back as much.
- And if you **love** those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. (Luke 6:32)
- And if you do good to those doing good to you, really of what credit is it to you? Even the sinners do the same. (Luke 6:33)
- Also, if you lend without interest to those from whom you hope to receive, of what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend without interest to sinners that they may get back as much. (Luke 6:34)
- The principle upon which such ones operate is; Do good to me and I will do good to you.
- The apostle Paul said of one who had worked alongside him; Demas has forsaken me because he **loved**, *a-ga-pe'sas* the present system of things.
- For Demas has forsaken me because he **loved** the present system of things, and he has gone to Thessalonica, Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)
- Demas apparently **loved** the world on the principle that **love** of it will bring material benefits. The apostle John says; Men have **loved** *e-ga'pe-san* the darkness rather than the light, for their works were

wicked. For he that practices vile things hates the light and does not come to the light, **in order, that his works may not be reprov'd.**

- Now this is the basis for judgment, that the light has come into the world but men have **loved** the darkness rather than the light, for their works were wicked. (**John 3:19**)
- For he that practices vile things hates the light and does not come to the light, in order, that his works may not be reprov'd. (**John 3:20**)
- Because it is a truth or principle that darkness helps cover their wicked deeds, they **love** it.
- Jesus commanded; **Love, a-ga-pa'te,** your enemies.
- However, I say to you; Continue to **love** your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you. (**Matthew 5:44**)
- God himself established the principle, as the apostle Paul states; God recommends his own **love, a-ga'pen** to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. For if, when we were enemies, we became reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, now that we have become reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- But God recommends his own **love** to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (**Romans 5:8**)
- Much more, therefore, since we have been declared righteous now by his blood, shall we be saved through him from wrath. (**Romans 5:9**)
- For if, when we were enemies, we became reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, now that we have become reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (**Romans 5:10**)
- An outstanding instance of such **love** is God's dealing with Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul.
- But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest. (**Acts of Apostles 9:1**)
- And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he

- found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 9:2**)
- Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:3**)
 - And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (**Acts of Apostles 9:4**)
 - He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (**Acts of Apostles 9:5**)
 - Nevertheless, rise and enter into the city, and what you must do will be told you. (**Acts of Apostles 9:6**)
 - Now the men that were journeying with him were standing speechless, hearing, indeed, the sound of a voice, but not beholding any man. (**Acts of Apostles 9:7**)
 - But Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were opened he was seeing nothing. So they led him by the hand and conducted him into Damascus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:8**)
 - And for three days he did not see anything, and he neither ate nor drank. (**Acts of Apostles 9:9**)
 - There was in Damascus a certain disciple named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision; Ananias! He said; Here I am, Lord. (**Acts of Apostles 9:10**)
 - The Lord said to him; Rise, go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man named Saul, from Tarsus. For, look! He is praying. (**Acts of Apostles 9:11**)
 - And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands upon him that he might recover sight. (**Acts of Apostles 9:12**)
 - But Ananias answered; Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how many injurious things he did to your holy ones in Jerusalem. (**Acts of Apostles 9:13**)
 - And here he has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds

all those calling upon your name. (**Acts of Apostles 9:14**)

- But the Lord said to him; Be on your way, because this man is a chosen vessel to me to bear my name to the nations as well as to kings and the sons of Israel. (**Acts of Apostles 9:15**)
- For I shall show him plainly how many things he must suffer for my name. (**Acts of Apostles 9:16**)
- Faithful and deserving of full acceptance is the saying that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am foremost. (**1 Timothy 1:15**)
- Loving our enemies, therefore, should be governed by the principle established by God and should be exercised in obedience to his commandments, whether or not such **love** is accompanied by any warmth or affection.

•• God

- The apostle John writes, **God is love**.
- He that does not **love has not come to know God**, because God is love. (**1 John 4:8**)
- He is the very personification of **love**, which is his dominant quality. The converse is not true, however, that **love**, the abstract quality, is God. He reveals himself in the Bible as a **Person** and figuratively speaks of his **eyes, hands, heart, soul**, and so forth. He also has other attributes, among them justice, power, and wisdom.
- The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice, Righteous and upright is he. (**Deuteronomy 32:4**)
- Look! God himself acts exaltedly with his power, who is an instructor like him? (**Job 36:22**)
- Saying; Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. (**Revelation 7:12**)
- Moreover, **he has the capacity to hate**, a quality the very opposite of **love**. His **love** of righteousness requires his hatred of wickedness.

- You must not do that way to Yehowah your God, for **everything detestable to Yehowah that he does hate** they have done to their gods, for even their sons and their daughters they regularly burn in the fire to their gods. (**Deuteronomy 12:31**)
- There are **six things that Yehowah does hate**, yes, seven are things detestable to his soul. (**Proverbs 6:16**)
- **Love** includes the feeling and expression of warm personal affection, which only a **person** can have, or which can be extended toward a **person**. Certainly God's Son Jesus Christ is not an abstract quality, he spoke of being with his Father, working with him, pleasing him, and hearing him, as well as of angels beholding the face of his Father, things impossible with a mere abstract quality.
- Everyone, then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens. (**Matthew 10:32**)
- See to it that you men do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. (**Matthew 18:10**)
- But he answered them; My Father has kept working until now, and I keep working. (**John 5:17**)
- Not that any man has seen the Father, except he who is from God, this one has seen the Father. (**John 6:46**)
- Therefore Jesus said; When once you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing of my own initiative, but just as the Father taught me I speak these things. (**John 8:28**)
- And he that sent me is with me, he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him. (**John 8:29**)
- But now you are seeking to kill me, a man that has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. (**John 8:40**)
- So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory

that I had alongside you before the world was. (**John 17:5**)

· Evidence Of His Love

- The evidence that Yehowah the Creator and God of the universe is **love** is abundant. This can be seen in the physical creation itself. **With what remarkable care it has been made for the health, pleasure, and welfare of man!**
- **Man is made not just to exist but to enjoy eating, to delight in viewing the color and beauty of creation, to enjoy animals as well as the company of his fellowmen, and to find pleasure in the countless other delights of living.**
- I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, as my soul is very well aware. (**Psalms 139:14**)
- So, to me how precious your thoughts are! O God, how much does the grand sum of them amount to! (**Psalms 139:17**)
- Were I to try to count them, they are more than even the grains of sand. I have awaked, and yet I am still with you. (**Psalms 139:18**)
- **But Yehowah has displayed his love even more by making man in his image and likeness.**
- And God went on to say; Let us **make man in our image**, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him, male and female he created them. (**Genesis 1:27**)
- **With the capacity for love and for spirituality, and by revealing himself to man through his Word and his Holy Spirit.**
- Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God. (**1 Corinthians 2:12**)

- **These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by the spirit, as we combine spiritual matters with spiritual words. (1 Corinthians 2:13)**
- **Yehowah's love toward mankind is that of a Father toward his children.**
- **That you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45)**
- **He spares nothing that is for their good, no matter what it costs him, his love transcends anything that we can feel or express.**
- **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us. (Ephesians 2:4)**
- **Made us alive together with the Christ, even when we were dead in trespasses, by undeserved kindness you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:5)**
- **And he raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenly places in union with Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)**
- **That in the coming systems of things there might be demonstrated the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness in his graciousness toward us in union with Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)**
- **For the thoughts of you people are not my thoughts, nor are my ways your ways, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Isaiah 55:8)**
- **O the depth of God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments are and past tracing out his ways are! (Romans 11:33)**
- **His greatest manifestation of love, the most loving thing that a parent can do, he did for mankind. That was the giving of the life of his own faithful, only-begotten Son.**
- **For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be**

destroyed but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**)

- **As the apostle John writes.**
- **As for us, we love, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)**
- **He is, accordingly, the Source of love. John's fellow apostle, Paul, writes;**
- **For hardly will anyone die for a righteous man, indeed, for the good man, perhaps, someone even dares to die. (Romans 5:7)**
- **But God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**
- **The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)**

·· **God's Everlasting Love**

- **Yehowah's love for his faithful servants is everlasting, it does not fail or diminish, no matter in what circumstances, high or low, his servants may be, or what things, great or small, may come against them. The apostle Paul exclaimed;**
- **For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers (Romans 8:38)**
- **Nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)**

·· **God's Sovereignty Based On Love**

- **Yehowah glories in the fact that his sovereignty and the support of it by his creatures is based primarily on love. He desires only those who love his sovereignty because of his fine qualities and because it is righteous, who prefer his sovereignty to any other.**
- **But just as it is written: Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither have there been conceived in the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians**

2:9)

- **They choose to serve under his sovereignty rather than try to be independent this because of their knowledge of him and of his **love**, justice, and wisdom, which they realize far surpasses their own.**
- **For a day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere. I have chosen to stand at the threshold in the house of my God rather than to move around in the tents of wickedness. (Psalms 84:10)**
- **For Yehowah God is a sun and a shield, favor and glory are what he gives. Yehowah himself will not hold back anything good from those walking in faultlessness. (Psalms 84:11)**
- **The Devil failed in this respect, egotistically seeking independence for himself, as did Adam and Eve. In fact, the Devil challenged God's way of ruling, saying, in effect, that it was **unloving**, unrighteous.**
- **Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Yehowah God had made. So it began to say to the woman; Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)**
- **At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. (Genesis 3:2)**
- **But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. (Genesis 3:3)**
- **At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. (Genesis 3:4)**
- **For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. (Genesis 3:5)**
- **And that God's creatures served Him not because of **love**, but through selfishness.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a**

man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? (**Job 1:8**)

- At that Satan answered Yehowah and said; Is it for nothing that Job has feared God? (**Job 1:9**)
- Have not you yourself put up a hedge about him and about his house and about everything that he has all around? The work of his hands you have blessed, and his livestock itself has spread abroad in the earth. (**Job 1:10**)
- But, for a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch everything he has and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (**Job 1:11**)
- Accordingly Yehowah said to Satan; Look! Everything that he has is in your hand. Only against him himself do not thrust out your hand! So Satan went out away from the person of Yehowah. (**Job 1:12**)
- And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? Even yet he is holding fast his integrity, although you incite me against him to swallow him up without cause. (**Job 2:3**)
- But Satan answered Yehowah and said; Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. (**Job 2:4**)
- For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (**Job 2:5**)
- Yehowah God allowed the Devil to live and to put his servants, even his only-begotten Son, to the test, to the point of death. God foretold the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. (**Isaiah Chapter 53**)
- How could he do this, staking his word on his Son? Because of **love**. Yehowah knew his Son and knew the love his Son had for Him and for righteousness.
- You **loved** righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than

- your partners. ([Hebrews 1:9](#))
- **He knew his Son most intimately and thoroughly.**
 - **All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him. ([Matthew 11:27](#))**
 - **He had full trust and confidence in the Sons faithfulness. More than that, **love** is a perfect bond of union.**
 - **But, besides all these things, clothe yourselves with **love**, for it is a perfect bond of union. ([Colossians 3:14](#))**
 - **It is the most powerful bond in the universe, perfect **love** bonding the Son and the Father together unbreakably.**
 - **For like reasons, God could trust his organization of servants, knowing that love would hold most of them immovably to him under test and that his organization of creatures would never secede in to.**
 - **Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force. In the splendors of holiness, from the womb of the dawn, you have your company of young men just like dewdrops. ([Psalms 110:3](#))**

•• **Jesus Christ**

- **Because for untold ages Jesus associated most closely with his Father, the Source of **love**, and knew Him most intimately and thoroughly, he could say; He that has seen me has seen the Father also.**
- **Jesus said to him; Have I been with you men so long a time, and yet, Philip, you have not come to know me? He that has seen me has seen the Father also. How is it you say; Show us the Father? ([John 14:9](#))**
- **All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him. ([Matthew 11:27](#))**

- Therefore Jesus **love** is complete, perfect.
- And to know the **love** of the Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness that God gives. (**Ephesians 3:19**)
- He told his disciples.
- No one has **love** greater than this, that someone should surrender his soul in behalf of his friends. (**John 15:13**)
- He had told them;
- I am giving you a new commandment, that you **love** one another, just as I have **loved** you, that you also **love** one another. (**John 13:34**)
- This commandment was new, in that the Law, under which Jesus and his disciples were at that time, commanded a person.
- You must not take vengeance nor have a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must **love** your fellow as yourself. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:18**)
- The second, like it, is this: You must **love** your neighbor as yourself. (**Matthew 22:39**)
- It called for **love** of others as of oneself but not for a self-sacrificing love that went even to the point of giving one's own life in behalf of another. Jesus life and death exemplified the **love** this new commandment called for.
- In addition to doing good when the occasion arises, the follower of Christ is to take the initiative, under Christ's direction, to help others spiritually and otherwise.
- He is to work actively for their good. The preaching and teaching of the Good News to others, some of whom may be enemies, is one of the greatest expressions of **love**, for it can result in everlasting life to them.
- The Christian must impart not only the Good News of God but also his own soul in helping and working with those who accept the Good News.

- So, having a tender affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the Good News of God, but also our own souls, because you became **beloved** to us. (**1 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- And he should be ready to surrender his soul, life, in behalf of them.
- By this we have come to know **love**, because that one surrendered his soul for us, and we are under obligation to surrender our souls for our brothers. (**1 John 3:16**)

•• How One Acquires Love

- Through Holy Spirit, the first man and woman were created with a measure of this dominant attribute of God, namely **love**, and with the capacity to extend, enlarge, and enrich that love. **Love** is a fruit of God's spirit.
- On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is **love**, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith. (**Galatians 5:22**)
- Godly **love** is not a quality that one has without knowing why, as may be the case with certain physical or mental abilities, such as physical beauty, talent in music, or similar inherited qualities.
- Godly **love** cannot exist in the person apart from knowledge and service of God or apart from meditation and appreciation. Only by cultivating **love** can one become an imitator of God, the Source of **love**.
- I shall remember the practices of Yah, for I will remember your marvelous doing of long ago. (**Psalms 77:11**)
- Therefore, become imitators of God, as **beloved** children. (**Ephesians 5:1**)
- And go on walking in **love**, just as the Christ also loved you and delivered himself up for you as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling odor. (**Ephesians 5:2**)
- And quit being fashioned after this system of things, but be transformed by making your mind over, that you may prove to yourselves the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (**Romans 12:2**)

- Adam failed to cultivate **love** of God, he did not progress toward perfection of love. This is shown by his not being in union with God, bound to God by that perfect bond of union.
- Adam, nevertheless, even though imperfect and sinful, passed on to his offspring, in his image, the ability and capacity to **love**.
- And Adam lived on for a hundred and thirty years. Then he became father to a son in his likeness, in his image, and called his name Seth. (**Genesis 5:3**)
- Humankind in general expresses **love**, but it is often a misguided, deteriorated, twisted love.

· Love Can Be Misguided

- For these reasons, it is evident that a person can have real, properly directed **love** only by seeking and following God's spirit and the knowledge that comes from His Word. For example, a parent may have affection for his child.
- But he may let that **love** deteriorate or he may be misguided because of sentimentality, giving the child everything and denying him nothing. He may not exercise his parental authority in giving discipline and at times actual chastisement.
- Foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy, the rod of discipline is what will remove it far from him. (**Proverbs 22:15**)
- Such supposed **love** may actually be family pride, which is selfishness. The Bible says such a person is exercising, not **love**, but hate, because he is not taking the course that will save his child's life.
- The one holding back his rod is hating his son, but the one loving him is he that does look for him with discipline. (**Proverbs 13:24**)
- Do not hold back discipline from the mere boy. In case you beat him with the rod, he will not die. (**Proverbs 23:13**)
- With the rod you yourself should beat him, that you may deliver his very soul from Sheol itself. (**Proverbs 23:14**)

- This is not the **love** that comes from God. Godly **love** causes one to do what is good and beneficial for the other person. **Love builds up.**
- Now concerning foods offered to idols, we know we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but **love builds up.** (1 **Corinthians 8:1**)
- **Love** is not sentimentality. It is firm, strong, directed by godly wisdom, adhering first of all to that which is chaste, right.
- But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (**James 3:17**)
- God demonstrated this with Israel, whom he punished severely for disobedience, for their own everlasting welfare.
- And you well know with your own heart that just as a man corrects his son, Yehowah your God was correcting you. (**Deuteronomy 8:5**)
- Because the one whom Yehowah **loves** he reprove, even as a father does a son in whom he finds pleasure. (**Proverbs 3:12**)
- For whom Yehowah **loves** he disciplines, in fact, he **scourges every one whom he receives as a son.** (**Hebrews 12:6**)
- The apostle Paul says to Christians;
- It is for discipline you are enduring. God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is he that a father does not discipline? (**Hebrews 12:7**)
- But if you are without the discipline of which all have become partakers, you are really illegitimate children, and not sons. (**Hebrews 12:8**)
- Furthermore, we used to have fathers who were of our flesh to discipline us, and we used to give them respect. Shall we not much more subject ourselves to the Father of our spiritual life and live? (**Hebrews 12:9**)
- For they for a few days used to discipline us according to what seemed good to them, but he does so for our profit that we may

partake of his holiness. ([Hebrews 12:10](#))

- True, no discipline seems for the present to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterward to those who have been trained by it, it yields peaceable fruit, namely, righteousness. ([Hebrews 12:11](#))

• Knowledge Gives Love Right Direction

- **Love** must be directed **first** to God, above all others. Otherwise it will become misdirected and even lead into the worship of a creature or thing.

- Knowing God's purposes is essential, because a person knows then what is best for his own welfare and that of others and will know how to express **love** in the proper way. Our **love** for God is to be with our **whole heart, mind, soul, and strength**.

- Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? ([Matthew 22:36](#))
- He said to him; You must **love** Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. ([Matthew 22:37](#))
- This is the greatest and first commandment. ([Matthew 22:38](#))
- Jesus answered; The first is, Hear, O Israel, Yehowah our God is one Yehowah. ([Mark 12:29](#))
- And you must **love** Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength. ([Mark 12:30](#))
- It is to be, not merely an outward expression, but a **love** that reflects the total inner person. Love involves the emotions.
- Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth with unhypocritical brotherly affection as the result, **love** one another intensely from the heart. ([1 Peter 1:22](#))
- But if the mind is not equipped with knowledge of what true **love** is and how it acts, **love** can be expressed in the wrong direction.
- I well know, O Yehowah, that to earthling man his way does not

belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step. (**Jeremiah 10:23**)

- The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
- And this is what I continue praying, that your **love** may abound yet more and more with accurate knowledge and full discernment. (**Philippians 1:9**)
- The mind must know God and his qualities, his purposes, and how he expresses **love**.
- Beloved ones, let us continue **loving** one another, because **love** is from God, and everyone who **loves** has been born from God and gains the knowledge of God. (**1 John 4:7**)
- In harmony with this, and since **love** is the most important quality, dedication to God is to the **person** of Yehowah himself, in whom love is the dominant quality, and is not to a work or a cause. Then, **love** must be carried out with the soul, every fiber of one's organism, and all ones strength must be put behind that effort.

•• Love Is Expansive

- The true **love** that is a fruit of God's spirit is expansive.
- Our mouth has been opened to you, Corinthians, our heart has widened out. (**2 Corinthians 6:11**)
- You are not cramped for room within us, but you are cramped for room in your own tender affections. (**2 Corinthians 6:12**)
- So, as a recompense in return, I speak as to children, you, too, widen out. (**2 Corinthians 6:13**)
- It is not stingy, confined, or circumscribed. It must be shared to be complete. A person must first **love** God
- And you must **love** Yehowah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force. (**Deuteronomy 6:5**)
- His Son.

- May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptness. (**Ephesians 6:24**)
- **And then the whole association of his Christian brothers throughout the world.**
- Honor men of all sorts, have **love** for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, have honor for the king. (**1 Peter 2:17**)
- He that **loves** his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in his case. (**1 John 2:10**)
- If anyone makes the statement; I **love** God, and yet is hating his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot be loving God, whom he has not seen. (**1 John 4:20**)
- And this commandment we have from him, that the one who **loves** God should be loving his brother also. (**1 John 4:21**)
- He must **love** his wife, and she, her husband.
- Let your water source prove to be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. (**Proverbs 5:18**)
- A lovable hind and a charming mountain goat. Let her own breasts intoxicate you at all times. With her **love** may you be in an ecstasy constantly. (**Proverbs 5:19**)
- See life with the wife whom you **love** all the days of your vain life that He has given you under the sun, all the days of your vanity, for that is your portion in life and in your hard work with which you are working hard under the sun. (**Ecclesiastes 9:9**)
- Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also **loved** the congregation and delivered up himself for it. (**Ephesians 5:25**)
- In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who **loves** his wife loves himself. (**Ephesians 5:28**)
- Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so **love** his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have

deep respect for her husband. (**Ephesians 5:33**)

- **Love** is to be extended to one's children.
- That they may recall the young women to their senses to **love** their husbands, to love their children. (**Titus 2:4**)
- **All mankind, even a person's own enemies, are to be loved, and Christian works are to be exercised toward them.**
- However, I say to you; Continue to **love** your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you. (**Matthew 5:44**)
- And if you **love** those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. (**Luke 6:32**)
- And if you do good to those doing good to you, really of what credit is it to you? Even the sinners do the same. (**Luke 6:33**)
- Also, if you lend without interest to those from whom you hope to receive, of what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend without interest to sinners that they may get back as much. (**Luke 6:34**)
- To the contrary, continue to **love** your enemies and to do good and to lend without interest, not hoping for anything back, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind toward the unthankful and wicked. (**Luke 6:35**)
- Continue becoming merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (**Luke 6:36**)
- **The Bible, commenting on the fruits of the spirit, of which love is first, says; Against such things there is no Law.**
- On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is **love**, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith. (**Galatians 5:22**)
- Mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no Law. (**Galatians 5:23**)
- **This love has no Law that can limit it. It may be practiced at any time or place, to any extent, toward those to whom it is due. In fact, the only debt Christians should be owing one another is love.**

- Do not you people be owing anybody a single thing, except to **love** one another, for he that **loves** his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (**Romans 13:8**)
- This **love** for one another is an identifying mark of true Christians.
- By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** among yourselves. (**John 13:35**)

•• How Godly Love Acts

- **Love**, such as God is, is so wonderful that it is hard to define. It is easier to tell how it acts. In the following discussion of this fine quality, its application to Christians will be considered.
- The apostle Paul, in writing on the subject, first emphasizes how essential it is for a Christian believer and then details how it acts unselfishly:
 - **Love** is long-suffering and kind. **Love** is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up. (**1 Corinthians 13:4**)
 - Does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. (**1 Corinthians 13:5**)
 - It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. (**1 Corinthians 13:6**)
 - It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (**1 Corinthians 13:7**)

•• Love Is Long-Suffering And Kind

- It puts up with unfavorable conditions and wrong actions of others, doing so with a purpose, namely, to work out the eventual salvation of those doing wrong or of others involved in the circumstances, as well as to bring honor and vindication, finally, to God's name.
- Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our **beloved** brother Paul according to the wisdom given him

also wrote you. (**2 Peter 3:15**)

- **Love** is kind, no matter what the provocation may be. Roughness or harshness on the part of a Christian toward others would not accomplish any good.
- Nonetheless, **love** can be firm and act in justice in behalf of righteousness. Those having authority may discipline wrongdoers, but even then, they are to employ kindness.
- Unkindness would bring benefit neither to the unkind counselor nor to the one doing unrighteousness, but it could separate that one even farther from repentance and right works.
- Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, because you do not know that the kindly quality of God is trying to lead you to repentance? (**Romans 2:4**)
- But become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you. (**Ephesians 4:32**)
- However, when the kindness and the **love** for man on the part of our Savior, God, was manifested. (**Titus 3:4**)
- Owing to no works in righteousness that we had performed, but according to his mercy he saved us through the bath that brought us to life and through the making of us new by Holy Spirit. (**Titus 3:5**)

•• **Love Is Not Jealous**

- It is not envious of good things coming to others. It rejoices in seeing a fellowman receive a position of greater responsibility. It does not begrudge even ones enemies receiving good things. It is generous. God makes his rain fall on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- That you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous. (**Matthew 5:45**)
- God's servants who have **love** are content with their lot.

- To be sure, it is a means of great gain, this godly devotion along with self-sufficiency. (**1 Timothy 6:6**)
- For we have brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out. (**1 Timothy 6:7**)
- So, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things. (**1 Timothy 6:8**)
- **And their place, not getting out of place or selfishly seeking the position occupied by another. Satan the Devil selfishly and enviously did get out of place, even desiring worship to be given to him by Jesus Christ.**
- So he brought him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in an instant of time. (**Luke 4:5**)
- And the Devil said to him; I will give you all this authority and the glory of them, because it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it. (**Luke 4:6**)
- You, therefore, if you do an act of worship before me, it will all be yours. (**Luke 4:7**)
- In reply Jesus said to him; It is written: It is Yehowah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. (**Luke 4:8**)

·· **Love Does Not Brag, Does Not Get Puffed Up**

- **It does not seek the applause and admiration of creatures.**
- I said to the foolish ones; Do not be foolish, and to the wicked ones; Do not exalt the horn. (**Psalms 75:4**)
- Do not exalt your horn on high. Do not speak with an arrogant neck. (**Psalms 75:5**)
- For neither from the east nor from the west, nor from the south is there an exalting. (**Psalms 75:6**)
- For God is the judge. This one he abases, and that one he exalts. (**Psalms 75:7**)

- These men are murmurers, complainers about their lot in life, proceeding according to their own desires, and their mouths speak swelling things, while they are admiring personalities for the sake of their own benefit. (**Jude 1:16**)
- The person having **love** will not push another person down to make himself appear greater. Rather, he will exalt God and will sincerely encourage and build up other persons.
- First of all, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ concerning all of you, because your faith is talked about throughout the whole world. (**Romans 1:8**)
- We thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ always when we pray for you. (**Colossians 1:3**)
- Since we heard of your faith in connection with Christ Jesus and the **love** you have for all the holy ones (**Colossians 1:4**)
- Because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the heavens. This hope you heard of before by the telling of the truth of that Good News (**Colossians 1:5**)
- We always thank God when we make mention concerning all of you in our prayers. (**1 Thessalonians 1:2**)
- For we bear incessantly in mind your faithful work and your loving labor and your endurance due to your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father. (**1 Thessalonians 1:3**)
- He will be happy to see another Christian make advancement. And he will not boast of what he is going to do.
- Do not make your boast about the next day, for you do not know what a day will give birth to. (**Proverbs 27:1**)
- And I will say to my soul; Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years, take your ease, eat, drink, enjoy yourself. (**Luke 12:19**)
- But God said to him; Unreasonable one, this night they are demanding your soul from you. Who, then, is to have the things you stored up? (**Luke 12:20**)

- **Come, now, you who say; Today or tomorrow we will journey to this city and will spend a year there, and we will engage in business and make profits. (James 4:13)**
- **Whereas you do not know what your life will be tomorrow. For you are a mist appearing for a little while and then disappearing. (James 4:14)**
- **Instead, you ought to say; If Yehowah wills, we shall live and also do this or that. (James 4:15)**
- **But now you take pride in your self-assuming brags. All such taking of pride is wicked. (James 4:16)**
- **He will realize that all he does is due to the strength coming from Yehowah.**
- **In Yehowah my soul will make its boast, the meek ones will hear and will rejoice. (Psalms 34:2)**
- **In God we will offer praise all day long, and to time indefinite your name we shall laud. (Psalms 44:8)**
- **Yehowah told Israel;**
- **But let the one bragging about himself brag about himself because of this very thing, the having of insight and the having of knowledge of me, that I am Yehowah, the One exercising loving-kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I do take delight, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 9:24)**
- **That it may be just as it is written: He that boasts, let him boast in Yehowah. (1 Corinthians 1:31)**

·· **Love Does Not Behave Indecently**

- **It is not ill-mannered. It does not engage in indecent behavior, such as sexual abuses or shocking conduct. It is not rude, vulgar, discourteous, insolent, coarse, or disrespectful to anyone.**
- **A person who has love will avoid doing things that, in appearance or actions, disturb his Christian brothers. Paul instructed the congregation at Corinth:**

- But let all things take place decently and by arrangement. (**1 Corinthians 14:40**)
- **Love** will also prompt one to walk honorably in the view of others who are not Christian believers.
- As in the daytime let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy. (**Romans 13:13**)
- So that you may be walking decently as regards people outside and not be needing anything. (**1 Thessalonians 4:12**)
- Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from people on the outside, in order, that he might not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil. (**1 Timothy 3:7**)

•• Love Does Not Look For Its Own Interests

- It follows the principle.
- Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person. (**1 Corinthians 10:24**)
- Here is where concern for the everlasting welfare of others shows itself. This sincere concern for others is one of the strongest motivating forces in **love** as well as one of the most effective and beneficial in its results.
- The possessor of love does not demand that everything be done **his** way. Paul said;
- To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some. (**1 Corinthians 9:22**)
- But I do all things for the sake of the Good News, that I may become a sharer of it with others. (**1 Corinthians 9:23**)
- Neither does **love** demand its rights, it is more concerned with the spiritual welfare of the other person.
- Therefore let us not be judging one another any longer, but

rather make this your decision, not to put before a brother a stumbling block or a cause for tripping. (**Romans 14:13**)

- For if because of food your brother is being grieved, you are no longer walking in accord with **love**. Do not by your food ruin that one for whom Christ died. (**Romans 14:15**)

· Love Does Not Become Provoked

· It does not look for an occasion or an excuse for provocation. It is not moved to outbursts of anger, which is a work of the flesh.

- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)
- Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- One having **love** is not easily offended by what others say or do. He is not afraid that his personal dignity may be injured.

· Love Does Not Keep Account Of The Injury

· Literally, **it is not reckoning the bad thing, Int.** It does not consider itself to be injured and so lay up that injury as something on the books of account, to be settled, or paid off, in due time, in the meantime permitting no relations between the injured and the injurer. That would be a vengeful spirit, condemned in the Bible.

- You must not take vengeance nor have a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must **love** your fellow as yourself. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:18**)
- Do not avenge yourselves, **beloved**, but yield place to the wrath, for it is written: Vengeance is mine. I will repay, says Yehowah. (**Romans 12:19**)
- **Love** will not impute evil motives to another but will be inclined to make allowances and give others the benefit of the doubt.
- Welcome the man having weaknesses in his faith, but not to make decisions on inward questionings. (**Romans 14:1**)
- One man judges one day as above another, another man judges

one day as all others, let each man be fully convinced in his own mind. (**Romans 14:5**)

· Love Does Not Rejoice Over Unrighteousness But With The Truth

· Love rejoices with the truth even though it upsets previous beliefs held or statements made. It sticks with God's Word of truth. It always sides with the right, finding no pleasure in wrong, in lies, or in any form of injustice, no matter who the victim is, even if he is an enemy. However, if a thing is wrong or misleading, love does not fear to speak out in the interests of truth and of others.

· However, when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him face to face, because he stood condemned. (**Galatians 2:11**)

· For before the arrival of certain men from James, he used to eat with people of the nations, but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear of those of the circumcised class. (**Galatians 2:12**)

· The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even Barnabas was led along with them in their pretense. (**Galatians 2:13**)

· But when I saw they were not walking straight according to the truth of the Good News, I said to Cephas before them all. If you, though you are a Jew, live as the nations do, and not as Jews do, how is it that you are compelling people of the nations to live according to Jewish practice? (**Galatians 2:14**)

· Also, it prefers to suffer wrong rather than commit another wrong in an attempt to straighten out the matter.

· Return evil for evil to no one. Provide fine things in the sight of all men. (**Romans 12:17**)

· But, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink, for by doing this you will heap fiery coals upon his head. (**Romans 12:20**)

· But if another person is properly corrected by one having authority, the loving person will not sentimentally side with the chastised one and find fault with the correction or the authorized one who did the correcting.

- Such an action would not be an expression of **love** for the individual. It might gain the favor of the corrected one, but it would harm rather than help him.

· Love Bears All Things

- It is willing to endure, to suffer for righteousness sake. A literal rendering is, **all things it is covering**. **Int** A person having **love** will be slow to expose to others the one who wrongs him. If the offense is not too serious, he will overlook it. Otherwise, when the course recommended by Jesus at;

- Moreover, if your brother commits a sin, go lay bare his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (**Matthew 18:15**)

- But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two more, in order, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every matter may be established. (**Matthew 18:16**)

- If he does not listen to them, speak to the congregation. If he does not listen even to the congregation, let him be to you just as a man of the nations and as a tax collector. (**Matthew 18:17**)

- Is applicable, he will follow it. In such cases, if the other person asks forgiveness after the wrong is privately pointed out to him, and repairs the damage, the one having **love** will show that his forgiveness is real, that it has completely covered the matter, as God has.

- Hatred is what stirs up contentions, but **love** covers over even all transgressions. (**Proverbs 10:12**)

- The one covering over transgression is seeking **love**, and he that keeps talking about a matter is separating those familiar with one another. (**Proverbs 17:9**)

- But the end of all things has drawn close. Be sound in mind, therefore, and be vigilant with a view to prayers. (**1 Peter 4:7**)

- Above all things, have intense **love** for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. (**1 Peter 4:8**)

· Love Believes All Things

- **Love** has faith in the things God has said in his Word of truth, even if outward appearances are against it and the unbelieving world scoffs.
- This **love**, especially toward God, is a recognition of his truthfulness, based on his record of faithfulness and reliability, just as we know and love a true, faithful friend and do not doubt when he tells us something for which we may not have proof.
- Now, look! I am going today in the way of all the earth, and you well know with all your hearts and with all your souls that not one word out of all the good words that Yehowah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed. (**Joshua 23:14**)
- **Love** believes all God says, though it may not be able to grasp it thoroughly, and it is willing to wait patiently until the matter is more fully explained or until getting a clear understanding.
- For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially. (**1 Corinthians 13:9**)
- But when that which is complete arrives, that which is partial will be done away with. (**1 Corinthians 13:10**)
- When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe, to reason as a babe, but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a babe. (**1 Corinthians 13:11**)
- For at present we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face to face. At present I know partially, but then I shall know accurately even as I am accurately known. (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)
- Concerning this very salvation a diligent inquiry and a careful search were made by the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you. (**1 Peter 1:10**)
- They kept on investigating what particular season or what sort of season the spirit in them was indicating concerning Christ when it was bearing witness beforehand about the sufferings for Christ and about the glories to follow these. (**1 Peter 1:11**)

- It was revealed to them that, not to themselves, but to you, they were ministering the things that have now been announced to you through those who have declared the Good News to you with Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven. Into these very things angels are desiring to peer. (**1 Peter 1:12**)
- Hence brace up your minds for activity, keep your senses completely, set your hope upon the undeserved kindness that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (**1 Peter 1:13**)
- **Love** also trusts in God's direction of the Christian congregation and his appointed servants and backs up their decisions based on God's Word.
- Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (**1 Timothy 5:17**)
- Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you. (**Hebrews 13:17**)
- However, **love** is not gullible, for it follows the counsel of God's Word to test the inspired expressions to see whether they originate with God, and it tests everything by the measuring rule of the Bible.
- **Beloved** ones, do not believe every inspired expression, but test the inspired expressions to see whether they originate with God, because many false prophets have gone forth into the world. (**1 John 4:1**)
- Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so. (**Acts of Apostles 17:11**)
- Therefore many of them became believers, and so did not a few of the reputable Greek women and of the men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:12**)

- **Love** produces confidence in ones faithful Christian brothers, a Christian would not suspect them or disbelieve them unless there was absolute proof that they were wrong.
- And so I wrote this very thing, that, when I come, I may not get sad because of those over whom I ought to rejoice, because I have confidence in all of you that the joy I have is that of all of you. (**2 Corinthians 2:3**)
- I am confident about you who are in union with the Lord that you will not come to think otherwise, but the one who is causing you trouble will bear his judgment, no matter who he may be. (**Galatians 5:10**)
- Trusting in your compliance, I am writing you, knowing you will even do more than the things I say. (**Philemon 1:21**)

•• **Love Hopes All Things**

- **It has hope in all the things Yehowah has promised.**
- Rejoice in the hope. Endure under tribulation. Persevere in prayer. (**Romans 12:12**)
- But Christ was faithful as a Son over the house of that One. We are the house of that One, if we make fast our hold on our freeness of speech and our boasting over the hope firm to the end. (**Hebrews 3:6**)
- **It continues to work, waiting patiently for Yehowah to bring fruitage, to make things grow.**
- So that neither is he that plants anything nor is he that waters, but God who makes it grow. (**1 Corinthians 3:7**)
- A person having **love** will hope the best for his Christian brothers through any circumstances in which they might be, even though some may be weak in faith. He will realize that if Yehowah is patient with such weak ones, he should certainly adopt the same attitude.
- Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our **beloved** brother Paul according to the wisdom given him also wrote you. (**2 Peter 3:15**)

- And he continues to assist those he is helping to learn the truth, hoping and waiting for them to be moved by God's spirit to serve him.

· Love Endures All Things

- **Love** is required for the Christian to keep his integrity toward Yehowah God. Despite whatever the Devil may do to test the soundness of the Christians devotion and faithfulness to God, **love** will endure in a way that holds the Christian true to God.

- And not only that, but let us exult while in tribulations, since we know that tribulation produces endurance. (**Romans 5:3**)
- Endurance, in turn, an approved condition, the approved condition, in turn, hope. (**Romans 5:4**)
- And the hope does not lead to disappointment, because the **love** of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which was given us. (**Romans 5:5**)
- And you will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name, but he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved. (**Matthew 10:22**)

· Love Never Fails

- It will never come to an end or cease to exist. New knowledge and understanding may correct things we once believed, hope changes as the hoped-for things are realized and new things are hoped for, but **love** always remains in its fullness and continues to be built up stronger and stronger.
- **Love** never fails. But whether there are gifts of prophesying, they will be done away with, whether there are tongues, they will cease, whether there is knowledge, it will be done away with. (**1 Corinthians 13:8**)
- For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially. (**1 Corinthians 13:9**)
- But when that which is complete arrives, that which is partial will be done away with. (**1 Corinthians 13:10**)
- When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe,

to reason as a babe, but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a babe. (1 Corinthians 13:11)

- For at present we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face to face. At present I know partially, but then I shall know accurately even as I am accurately known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- Now, however, there remain faith, hope, **love**, these three, but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

· A Time To Love

- **Love** is held back only from those whom Yehowah shows are unworthy of it, or from those set in a course of badness. **Love** is extended to all persons until they show they are haters of God. Then the time comes for **love's** expression toward them to end. Both Yehowah God and Jesus Christ love righteousness and hate lawlessness.
- You have **loved** righteousness and you hate wickedness. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (Psalms 45:7)
- You **loved** righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (Hebrews 1:9)
- Those who intensely hate the true God are not persons toward whom **love** is to be expressed. Indeed, it would accomplish no good to continue exercising love toward such ones, for those who hate God will not respond to God's **love**.
- Do I not hate those who are intensely hating you, O Yehowah, and do I not feel a loathing for those revolting against you? (Psalms 139:21)
- With a complete hatred I do hate them. They have become to me real enemies. (Psalms 139:22)
- Though the wicked one should be shown favor, he simply will not learn righteousness. In the land of straightforwardness he will act unjustly and will not see the eminence of Yehowah. (Isaiah 26:10)

- **Therefore God properly hates them and has a time to act against them.**
- **Your hand will find all your enemies, your own right hand will find those hating you. (Psalms 21:8)**
- **You will constitute them as a fiery furnace at the appointed time for your attention. Yehowah in his anger will swallow them up, and the fire will devour them. (Psalms 21:9)**
- **For everything there is an appointed time, even a time for every affair under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)**
- **A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:8)**

·· **Things Not To Be Loved**

- **The apostle John writes.**
- **Do not be loving either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)**
- **Because everything in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life, does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. (1 John 2:16)**
- **He says, later on, the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.**
- **We know we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one. (1 John 5:19)**
- **Accordingly, those who love God hate every wicked way.**
- **I shall not set in front of my eyes any good-for-nothing thing. The doing of those who fall away I have hated, it does not cling to me. (Psalms 101:3)**
- **Owing to your orders I behave with understanding. That is why I have hated every false path. (Psalms 119:104)**

- **That is why I have considered all orders regarding all things to be right, every false path I have hated. (Psalms 119:128)**
- **The fear of Yehowah means the hating of bad. Self-exaltation and pride and the bad way and the perverse mouth I have hated. (Proverbs 8:13)**
- **A false word is what the righteous hates, but the wicked ones act shamefully and cause disgrace for themselves. (Proverbs 13:5)**
- **While the Bible shows that a husband and wife should love each other and that this love includes the conjugal relationship.**
- **Let your water source prove to be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. (Proverbs 5:18)**
- **A lovable hind and a charming mountain goat. Let her own breasts intoxicate you at all times. With her love may you be in an ecstasy constantly. (Proverbs 5:19)**
- **Let the husband render to his wife her due, but let the wife also do likewise to her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:3)**
- **The wife does not exercise authority over her own body, but her husband does, likewise, also, the husband does not exercise authority over his own body, but his wife does. (1 Corinthians 7:4)**
- **Do not be depriving each other of it, except by mutual consent for an appointed time, that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, that Satan may not keep tempting you for your lack of self-regulation. (1 Corinthians 7:5)**
- **It points out the wrongness of the fleshly, worldly practice of sexual love toward another not one's spouse.**
- **Do come, let us drink our fill of love until the morning, do let us enjoy each other with love expressions. (Proverbs 7:18)**
- **For the husband is not in his house, he has gone traveling on a way of some distance. (Proverbs 7:19)**
- **She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By**

- the smoothness of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- All of a sudden he is going after her, like a bull that comes even to the slaughter, and just as if fettered for the discipline of a foolish man. (**Proverbs 7:22**)
 - Until an arrow cleaves open his liver, just as a bird hastens into the trap, and he has not known that it involves his very soul. (**Proverbs 7:23**)
 - Another worldly thing is materialism, **love of money** *phi-lar-gy-ri'a*, literally, **fondness of silver**, **Int**, which is a root of all sorts of injurious things.
 - For the **love of money** is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains. (**1 Timothy 6:10**)
 - Let your manner of life be free of the **love of money**, while you are content with the present things. For he has said; I will by no means leave you nor by any means forsake you. (**Hebrews 13:5**)
 - Jesus Christ warned against seeking glory from men. He scathingly denounced the hypocritical religious leaders of the Jews who liked to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the broad ways to be visible to men and who **loved** the prominent places at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues.
 - He pointed out that they had already received in full their reward, that which they **loved** and desired, namely, honor and glory from men, therefore no reward at all was due them from God.
 - Also, when you pray, you must not be as the hypocrites, because they like to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the broad ways to be visible to men. Truly I say to you, they are having their reward in full. (**Matthew 6:5**)
 - The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. (**Matthew 23:2**)
 - All the works they do they do to be viewed by men, for they broaden the scripture-containing cases that they wear as safeguards, and enlarge the fringes of their garments. (**Matthew**

23:5)

- They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues. (**Matthew 23:6**)
- And the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by men. (**Matthew 23:7**)
- Woe to you Pharisees, because you **love** the front seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces! (**Luke 11:43**)
- The record reads;
- All the same, many even of the rulers actually put faith in him, but because of the Pharisees they would not confess him, in order not to be expelled from the synagogue. (**John 12:42**)
- For they **loved** the glory of men more than even the glory of God. (**John 12:43**)
- How can you believe, when you are accepting glory from one another and you are not seeking the glory that is from the only God? (**John 5:44**)
- In speaking to his disciples, Jesus said; He that is fond of *phi-lon'* his soul destroys it, but he that hates his soul in this world will safeguard it for everlasting life.
- But Jesus answered them, saying; The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. (**John 12:23**)
- Most truly I say to you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just one grain, but if it dies, it then bears much fruit. (**John 12:24**)
- He that is fond of his soul destroys it, but he that hates his soul in this world will safeguard it for everlasting life. (**John 12:25**)
- A person who prefers to protect his life now rather than to be willing to lay down his life as a follower of Christ will lose out on everlasting life, but one who considers life in this world as secondary, and who **loves** Yehowah and Christ and their righteousness above everything else, will receive everlasting life.

- **God hates liars, for they have no **love** of the truth. He declared to the apostle John in vision.**

- **Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie. (**Revelation 22:15**)**

- **And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the **love** of the truth that they might be saved. (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**)**

- **So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (**2 Thessalonians 2:11**)**

- **In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (**2 Thessalonians 2:12**)**

•• ones Love Can Cool Off

- **Jesus Christ, in telling his disciples of the things ahead, indicated that the **love, a-ga'pe**, of many who professed belief in God would cool off.**

- **While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things? (**Matthew 24:3**)**

- **And because of the increasing of lawlessness the **love** of the greater number will cool off. (**Matthew 24:12**)**

- **The apostle Paul said that, as a feature of the critical times to come, men would become **lovers of money**.**

- **But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (**2 Timothy 3:1**)**

- **For men will be **lovers** of themselves, **lovers of money**, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal. (**2 Timothy 3:2**)**

- **It is evident, therefore, that a person can lose sight of right principles and that the proper **love** he once had can fade away. This**

emphasizes the importance of constant exercise and development of love by meditation on God's Word and by molding one's life according to His principles.

- **But speaking the truth, let us by **love** grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)**
- **That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. (Ephesians 4:22)**
- **But that you should be made new in the force actuating your mind. (Ephesians 4:23)**
- **And should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty. (Ephesians 4:24)**