

The love of God is power in 3 ways

God's love is the power to transform darkness into light, and bring sinners to glory.

God causes all things through Grace

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Rom 8:28-30

Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1 Cor 13:4-8

Love is the power of God to fulfill His plan of salvation and the summing up of all things in His Son. Love is the power of the gospel to save the unlovely.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

God displayed love for us when God gave His Son to suffer Holy judgment in our place so that we can be included in the family of God's love.

From Jonathan Edwards 'Love and its fruits' summarised by Daniel Chamberlin. Printed by Free Grace Press.

"Reason teaches us this truth. The very nature of love disposes a man to all proper acts of respect to both God and man. No other encouragement is needed. Love will dispose us to honour, worship, believe, and obey God. Love disposes us to act like a child toward our heavenly Father. A

soul that loves God will delight to see self abased and God exalted. Toward our fellow-man, love disposes us to every good behavior, such as honesty, meekness, gentleness, and mercy. Love will keep us from enmity, cruelty, and selfishness. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour" (Rom. 13:10). It disposes us to fulfill our God-given duties in all our earthly callings and relationships. If the principle of love be implanted in the heart, it alone is sufficient to produce all good practice, for it comprises every virtue."

God is love. His love is the chief of all His characteristics, qualities which He also gives to His children.

He gives those who He has chosen His seed. *No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin continually, because he has been born of God.* 1 John 3:9

They are born of God so that they can love as His children and fulfill the requirements of His moral law. *so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.* Rom 8:4

God's love never fails to be faithful even when adverse conditions predominant.

God's love is transforming power

Leon Morris: THE PERFECTING OF LOVE

God's love has its effects. We have just noticed that it means triumph, a triumph sometimes expressed in the life the beloved believer lives here and now.⁸⁶ "Truly the love of God is perfected in anyone who keeps his word" (I John 2:5). P160

Morris citing a footnote in reference to a statement by Ethelbert Stauffer: TDNT, I, 47. For "released" I would prefer "created"; this kind of love is never regarded as pent-up in man and simply awaiting an outlet. Cf. T. W. Manson: "A new power has come into human life from heaven, a new insight into life is ours, a new attitude to God and man has become part of our nature. And what effects this change is the love of God. Love is no longer a laborious business of doing the right thing by your neighbour:

it is a new spirit in which you approach him and it finds out its own way of treating him" (On Paul and John, London, 1963, p. 106).

Love is motivation for our growing in godliness. Love never fails because God is love without beginning or ending and He cannot fail.

Leon Morris also wrote:

“There are some relevant passages in the Pastorals. Paul the persecutor found mercy when *"the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus"* (1 Tim. 1:14). The God who saved Paul so strikingly brought good gifts to all Christians. He did not give them *"a spirit of cowardice, but of power and love and a sound mind"* (2 Tim. 1:7). This love is the principal goal of His purpose for them: *"Now the aim of the commandment is love, proceeding out of a pure heart and a good conscience and a genuine faith"* (I Tim. 1:5). This emphasis is made personal for Timothy in a number of places. Paul commends the young man for having followed Paul's teaching and other things, but specifically for "following" his love (2 Tim. 3:10). And more than once he exhorts Timothy to pursue desirable qualities, specifically mentioning love (I Tim. 6:11; II Tim. 1:13; 2:22). Timothy is also exhorted to be a model for the believers in a number of ways, specifically in his exercise of love (I Tim. 4:12). There is no substitute for love in a pastor.”

Again: “And when we pour out our love on others, our concern is for them, not for ourselves, and we are not afraid. Similarly, we read, *"God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and love and sobermindedness"* (2 Tim. 1:7). Because God's love helps us rise above our own petty concerns, we are freed from fear.”

Love for Christ is the power of our sanctification

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.

Phil 2:12-13

whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:5

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Pet 1:3-4

God's love is our eternal security

God's love never fails to be faithful even to the end.

Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:36-39

Again from Leon Morris:

"Sometimes the outcome of God's sovereign love is the main idea as the writer contemplates the impossibility of anyone resisting God's purposes. Perhaps the outstanding passage illustrating this idea is the one in which Paul assures the Romans that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." He goes on to maintain that there is no force that "will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:37, 39),⁸⁵ God's love triumphs.

Footnote 85 Charles Hodge exults in the security that this promises: "How wonderful, how glorious, how secure is the gospel! Those who are in Christ Jesus are as secure as the love of God, the merit, power, and intercession of Christ can make them. They are hedged around with mercy. They are enclosed in the arms of everlasting love" (The Epistle to the Romans, p. 293).

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers,

nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:37-39

God's love is will power

What we love is the power that exercises our will. Will power is nothing without love. If we love we will seek to please God. If what we say we love is not what the will desires, then our words cannot produce the goods we claim to want. We cannot love the world and God.

What the will loves it will work to possess. What it desires it will possess and will deny whatever gets in the way. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

Matt 7:7-8

Jonathan Edwards teaches us about Love in 'The experience that counts' "True religion consists mainly in emotions"

"Who can deny that true religion consists mainly in emotions in vigorous and energetic actions of the will? The religion which God requires does not consist in weak, dull and lifeless wishes, raising us only a little above apathy. In His word, God greatly insists that we be serious, spiritually energetic, and our hearts vigorously involved in Christianity.

We must be *'fervent in spirit, serving the Lord'* (Rom. 12:11). *"And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul?"* (Deut. 10:12). *'Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might'* (Deut. 6:4-5)"

Again: "True religion is powerful, and its power first appears in the heart. This is why Scripture calls true religion *'the power of godliness'*, as distinct from outward appearances which are only its form- *'having a form of godliness, but denying its power'* (2 Tim. 3:5). The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of powerful holy emotion in real Christians. This is why Scripture

says that God has given us a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind' (2 Tim. 1:7). When we receive the Holy Spirit, Scripture says that we are baptized '*with the Holy Spirit and fire*' (Matt. 3:11). This 'fire' represents the holy emotions which the Spirit produces in us, so that our hearts 'burn within us' (Luke 24:32)"

Again: "However, every true Christian's emotions towards God are stronger than his natural or sinful emotions. Every genuine disciple of Christ loves Him above '*father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also*' (Luke 14:26).

God who created us has not only given us emotions, but has made them very much the cause of our actions. We do not make decisions or act, unless love, hate, desire, hope, fear, or some other emotion, influences us. This applies in both secular and spiritual affairs. It is why many people hear God's Word telling them about infinitely important things - about God and Christ, sin and salvation, heaven and hell - and yet it makes no change in their attitude or behaviour. The reason is simple: what they hear does not affect them. It does not touch their emotions. Indeed, I boldly claim that no spiritual truth ever changed a person's attitude or conduct, unless it aroused his emotions. No sinner ever hungered for salvation, no Christian ever awoke from spiritual coldness, unless the truth affected his heart. The emotions are as important as that!"

Again: "the divine nature and essence does subsist in love." "*If we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us*" and God "*abides in us, by the Spirit that He has given us*" (1 John 3:24, also 4:13).

Jonathan Edwards. "True religion is summed up in love."

"Love is the chief of all the emotions. This is what Jesus taught when someone asked Him what the greatest commandment was, "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*" On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets' (Matt. 22:37-40).

The apostle Paul taught the same: '*love is the fulfilment of the law*' (Rom. 13:10). "The purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart' (1 Tim. 1:5). In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul speaks of love as the greatest thing

in Christianity, the essence and soul of it, without which the greatest knowledge and gifts and actions are all worthless.

This clearly proves that true religion lies mainly in our emotions. For love is not just one of the emotions, but the chief of them and (so to speak) the fountain of the others. It is from love that hatred arises - hatred of the things which are contrary to what we love. From a vigorous, affection-ate, and fervent love of God will arise the other spiritual emotions; a hatred of sin; a fear of displeasing God: gratitude to God for His goodness; joy in God when we experience His presence; sorrow when we feel His absence; hope for a future enjoyment of God; zeal for God's glory. In the same way, love for our fellow men will produce every other right feeling towards them."

Jonathan Edwards 'Love and its fruits'

But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor.13.13

"All Christian love is one as to its principle. About whatever object it is exercised, it is the same spring and fountain in the heart though it may flow out towards diverse objects. And therefore all is fitly comprehended under one name, even that of "charity," (*love*) as it is in the text. That Christian love is one in its principle, to whatever objects it flows out, appears by the following things."

1. "It is all from the same Spirit influencing the heart. It is from the breathings of the same Spirit that the Christian's love arises, both towards God and men. The Spirit of God is a spirit of love. And therefore when the Spirit of God enters into the soul, love enters. God is love, and he who has God dwelling in Him by His Spirit will have love dwelling in him. The nature of the Holy Spirit is love; and it is by communicating Himself, or His own nature, that the hearts of the saints are filled with love or charity. Hence the saints are said to be "*partakers of the divine nature*" (2 Pet. 1:4). And Christians love is called the love of the Spirit. "*Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit*" (Rom. 15:30). And having bowels of love and mercy seems to signify the same thing with having the fellowship of the Spirit in Philipians 2:1, "*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ,*

if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit. if any bowels and mercies." It is the Spirit which infuses' love to God. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 5:5). And it is by the indwelling of this Spirit that the soul dwells in love to men. "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit" (1 John 4:12-13). And, "And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us" (1 John 3:23-24).

2. "Christian love to both God and men is wrought in the heart by the same work of the Spirit. There are not two works of the Spirit of God, one to infuse a spirit of love to God and another a spirit of love to men. But in doing one He doth the other. The Spirit of God in the work of conversion renews the heart by giving it a divine temper. *"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind"* (Eph. 4:23). And it is the same divine temper which is wrought in the heart that flows out in love both to God and men."

Again: "True affections stem from the illuminating influence of God on the will and acknowledge the unparalleled merit of all things pertaining to God. True affections balance certainty of conviction with humble response to the awesome majesty of God. The result is that true affections will actually lead to change in one's nature. Because affections are grounded in God, it is natural that true affections will cause one to be more like God. Therefore, affections facilitate one's sanctification".... "The change in one's nature resulting from the affections leads to change in one's behavior."

God's Love gives sight to the blind

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me,

for He will take from Mine and will disclose to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose to you." John 16:13-15

'And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.' 1 Pet 1:8

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." Matt 7:7-8

"The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him."

God's love is forever personal. He who loves more sees more.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, Phil 1:9

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, Eph 4:15

The Holy Spirit brings us love for Christ.

His love shows us the beauty of Christ.

His love creates a hunger for Christ.

His love brings a passion to cherish Christ.

His love encourages obedience to Christ.

His love supports the putting on of Christ.

His love enables us to live for Christ.

His love empowers service to Christ.

His love reveals what is not like Christ in us so we can put it off.

His love desires we love one another as we are loved by God.

The more we cherish and desire Christ, the more we will be transformed into His image.

The more we love God the more God will give us the desire of our hearts.

In order to see more of the glory of Christ, are we willing to count all as loss that we love in the world in order to gain Him in the fullness of joyful fellowship?

The Love of God is the power to love as He loves

Therefore: We receive the power to love from the Spirit of Love. *because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* Rom 5:5-6

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Cor 13:4-8

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. 1 Thess 3:11-13

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, Phil 1:9

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, Eph 4:15

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater. 2 Thess 1:3

“But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he

abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

1 John 2:5-6

The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 2:10

God's love is community

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.”

John 14:21, 23

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Pet 1:22-23

To know God is to have communion with God. To have communion with God is to have communion with His children. *that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* (1 John 1:3) This is the love of God in transforming power able to get results.

“Righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

John.17:25-26

Christ is love, being in Him we can love with Him as He loves.

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” “This I command you, that you love one another.”

John 15:12, 15:17

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but

that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:7-14

God's love is our future in heaven

Heaven will be the perfection of love and good works.

Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know in part and prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with. 1 Cor 13:8-10

John Calvin. 'On the Christian life'

“The Psalmist confesses, “My feet were almost gone: my steps had well nigh slipt: for I was envious at the foolish when I saw the prosperity of the wicked,” (Psalm lxxiii. 3, 4;) and he found no resting-place until he entered the sanctuary, and considered the latter end of the righteous and the wicked. To conclude in one word, the cross of Christ then only triumphs in the breasts of believers over the devil and the flesh, sin and sinners, when their eyes are directed to the power of His resurrection.”

John Calvin 'A little book on the Christian life'

"THERE IS NO more certain or reliable path for us than contempt of this present life and meditation on heavenly immortality. Two principles follow from this, in order that those who use this world might not be affected by it. First, let those who have wives live as though they had none; let those who buy live as though they did not buy (1 Cor. 7:29, 31). Paul teaches this. Let believers learn to bear scarcity with no less calm and patience than they experience abundance-all with moderation. The one who seeks to hold on to the things of this world lightly puts to death his own immoderate appetite for food and drink. He puts to death cowardice, ambition, pride, haughtiness, and dissatisfaction with respect

to his table, his buildings, and his clothes. Indeed, he puts to death him every care and affection which might lead him astray or hinder his meditation on heavenly life and his zeal for the improvement of his soul."

"AS A SECOND principle, those who have few possessions must learn to endure patiently their humble circumstances, not becoming agitated with excessive longing after things. Those who keep this rule have made much progress in the school of our Lord, but those who haven't give little proof that they are disciples of Christ. Indeed, numerous vices accompany the longing for earthly possessions. Besides, the one who cannot bear poverty is most likely to exhibit the opposite vice in the midst of prosperity. For example, the one who blushes over his cheap clothes will take pride in his expensive ones. The one unsatisfied with his simple meal, fidgeting with desire for something more significant, will abuse better foods by his lack of self-restraint."

Jonathan Edwards: 'Heaven is a world of love' Under the heading: The excellent circumstances of love in heaven.

1. Love in heaven is always mutual. It is always met with answerable returns of love; with returns that are proportioned to its exercise. Such returns, love always seeks; and just in proportion as any person is beloved, in the same proportion is his love desired and prized. And in heaven, this desire of love, or this fondness for being loved, will never fail of being satisfied. No inhabitants of that blessed world will ever be grieved with the thought that they are slighted by those that they love or that their love is not fully and fondly returned.

As the saints will love God with an inconceivable ardency of heart and to the utmost of their capacity, so they will know that He has loved them from all eternity, still loves them, and will continue to love them forever. And God will then gloriously manifest Himself to them, and they shall know that all that happiness and glory that they are possessed of are the fruits of His love. And with the same ardor and fervency will the saints love the Lord Jesus Christ; and their love will be accepted, and they shall know that He has loved them with a faithful, yea, even with a dying love. They shall then be more sensible than they now are what great love it

manifested in Christ that He should lay down His life for them; and then will Christ open to their view that great fountain of love in His heart for them, beyond all that they ever saw before. Hereby the love of the saints to God and Christ is seen to be reciprocated and that declaration fulfilled, "*I love them that love Me*" (Prov. 8:17); and though the love of God to them cannot properly be called the return of love, because He loved them first, yet the sight of His love will, on that very account, the more fill them with joy, admiration, and love to Him.

The principle of love itself in heaven

Jonathan Edwards 'Love and its fruits'

First, the nature of this love is altogether holy and divine. Much of what we call love now is carnal and proceeds from corrupt principles and motives or is directed to corrupt ends. But the love of heaven is spiritual, directed by holy motives to holy ends. The love of heaven is a love for God's sake and for the sake of the relation that persons have to Him.

Second, the degree of this love is perfect. God's love is perfect, and the love of others in heaven is perfect as far as their capacity as creatures is concerned. There is no pride or selfishness to hinder love in heaven, no enmity, no envy, no contempt. The love of benevolence finds delight in beholding the happiness of another, and the love of complacency finds delight in beholding the beauty and perfection of another. It will not be a grief to any saint to see those that are higher than himself in holiness and that are most loved by others, for he will rejoice with them with a benevolent love. Every man shall be perfectly satisfied with God and with his own personal measure of glory. The most glorious shall be the most humble, so that pride can find no place to occupy. The least glorious will not be envious, due to the fact that those above them are more humble. With perfect love in every soul, there simply cannot be any spiritual class warfare in heaven."

Growing in the knowledge of God results in increased love

We should always be asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to us in the Holy Scripture the Beauty and the Majesty and the Glory of God; Father, Son

and Spirit. We can also benefit from reading some of the wisdom of the saints past and present who walked this path before us.

True love of God is outgoing, for love is first of all freely given. Love must be given without expecting to be loved in order to be received. In this way love is selfless, because its purpose is the cherishing of others. If the purpose we espouse isn't the greatest good of others, then it isn't God's love.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:10-12

Crying about not being loved only proves we don't know that love is sacrificially giving ourselves for the good of others. Only lovers know God. Love is compelling and overcomes inertia.

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

No one deserves God's love. Everyone deserves His judgment and condemnation. Love is the grace of God freely given to the undeserving. Therefore, we should love one another. But we cannot love unless we first know the love of God through His sacrifice of Christ His beloved Son on our behalf. Love is from God.

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Cor 5:14-15

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unscrupulous people and lose your own firm commitment, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Pet 3:17-18

Love never fails.

Since our salvation was determined before the creation of the world, through an eternal covenant between the Father and the Son; the

whole of scripture declares the glory of God through the progressive revelation of salvations history, as Christ' love was being worked out on behalf of sinners like we once were. We can learn to love more by growing in the knowledge of Christ Jesus and His love for us.

Pray: that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:16-19

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Eph 3.20-21

God IS in us who love Him

Christianity is about intimate fellowship with God. Jesus came to reconcile fallen man into intimate relationship with God.

John 17:3

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 14:16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 14:18

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 15:4

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

John 17:21

“that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

John 17:23

“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

John 17:26

“and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

2 Timothy 1:14

Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

Ephesians 2:22

in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:17

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

Colossians 1:27

to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Hebrews 3:6

but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

1 John 4:13

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:20

"And behold, I am always with you, to the end of the age"

1 Cor 6:19-20

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body"

Romans 8:9

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

1 John 4:4

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:12

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:13

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:16

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Romans 8:28-31

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:3

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:20

“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

God is with you. God rules over all things. God will not fail to bring us home.

Coram Deo

God's love is our Grace with Power

The Grace of God in the Bible

God's Grace is the basis for our Christian faith. We believe we are saved by faith through grace as a gift from God.

“Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon.”

John Piper

God's grace is usually defined as undeserved favour. Because grace cannot be earned; it is something that is freely given as God desires. We count on God's grace as the way of salvation. He made us to be one life in His Son in order to assure our relationship with Him. Grace continues to work in power in our sanctification in the same way it worked in our salvation. Conviction of sin, repentance to a new way of living, and living by faith in God who alone has the power to make the change in us that He desires.

Since God is love, all His graces are aspects of that love. God is mighty, and all His grace is power to do according to His will. The love of God in the hearts of His people is their power to live as His holy children according to His divine character.

Jonathan Edwards wrote:

“Without love to God there can be no true honour. A man is never hearty in the honour which he seems to give to another whom he does not love. So that all that seeming honour and worship which are paid without love are hypocritical. So reason teaches that there is no sincerity in that obedience which is performed without love. For if there be no love, nothing which is done can be free, but all must be forced. So without love there can be no hearty submission to the will of God. And there can be no real trust or confidence in God. He who does not love God will not trust Him. He never will with true acquiescence of soul cast himself into

the hands of God, or the arms of His mercy. And so whatever good carriage there may seem to be in men towards their neighbours, yet reason teaches that it is all in hypocrisy if at the same time there be no real respect in the heart towards his neighbour.

And from these two things considered together, viz. that love is of such a nature that it will produce all virtues and dispose to all duties to God and men, and that without it there can be no sincere virtue and no duty sincerely performed, the truth of the doctrine follows, that all sincere Christian virtue and grace may be summed up in love; which is the first argument for the truth of the doctrine.”

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. Titus 2:11-15

The Bible Dictionary puts it this way: “The main idea of the word [grace] is divine means of help or strength. ... Grace is an enabling power” (“Grace”). It enables the recipient to do and to be what he or she cannot do and cannot be if left to his or her own means. All of us need such an enabling power. Grace is the enabling gift and power of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon.

This is plain, for example, in 1 Corinthians 15:10. Paul describes grace as the enabling power of his work. It is not simply the pardon of his sins; it is the power to press on in obedience. “I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

Therefore, the effort we make to obey God is not an effort done in our own strength, but “by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified” (1 Peter 4:11). It is the obedience of faith. Faith in God’s ever-arriving gracious power to enable us to do what

we should. The power of God's grace that saves through faith (Ephesians 2:8) is the same power of God's grace that sanctifies through faith.

Grace empowers us to do what only we can do when He is living inside of us. He enables us to walk with Him, to accomplish what He has set before us and to live a Godly lifestyle. I believe His grace will propel us forward, moving us closer and closer to our destinies and Him. As we work with grace, we are working with the Lord. As with all of God's attributes and promises, grace is available in abundance, but we have to learn how to walk in it, how to receive it, and how to apply it to our life circumstances." What the Bible says about Grace as Power that Disciplines. (From Forerunner Commentary)

Jonathan Edwards 'Love and its Fruits'

"Grace in the soul is one fountain of water of life, (John 4:14,) and not various distinct fountains. So God, in the work of regeneration, implants one heavenly seed in the soul, and not various different seeds. 1 John 3:9--"*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him.*" ... The Day [that] has arisen on the soul is but one. The oil in the vessel is simple and pure, conferred by one holy anointing. All is "wrought" by one individual work of the Spirit of God. And thus it is there is a consentation (*a feeling of worry, shock, or confusion*) of graces. Not only is one grace in some way allied to another, and so tends to help and promote one another, but one is really implied in the other. The nature of one involves the nature of another. And the great reason of it is, that all graces have one common essence, the original principle of all, and is but one. Strip the various parts of the Christian soul of their circumstances, concomitants, appendages, means, and occasions, and consider that which is, as it were, their *soul* and essence, and all appears to be the same."

God's love is full of grace and truth. His presence in the believer is the guarantee His love always remains. His loving presence is their treasure that they seek to fulfil according to the image of Christ. His love works His grace in their hearts for the transformation of their minds with all power and joy.

John W. Ritenbaugh wrote:

“Grace penetrates a person's life in the same way that light penetrates darkness. It does not just appear to offset darkness, but rather it penetrates it and disperses it. That is what grace does for a human being. It enters into a person's life, penetrates it, and begins dynamically to produce things.

This is what John 1 is about. God came to the earth in the flesh, and He penetrated humanity. The grace of God appeared to man in the person of Jesus Christ. It can be translated that God's grace made its appearance bringing salvation.

Grace can rescue man from the greatest possible evil. What could that possibly be? The greatest possible evil that anybody can face is God's curse. Men can curse us, but if God curses us, we have had it. That curse is the penalty of sin. But God counterbalances that, and more, by giving us grace.

Here, grace is shown as the power that teaches, trains, disciplines, guides, and leads us. It does not force us. In other places, it is shown as counselling, comforting, encouraging, admonishing, guiding, convicting, rewarding, even restraining. It teaches us that we must deny immorality, exhorting us to give ourselves over to self-mastery, that is, to controlling ourselves. We must devote ourselves to integrity and loyalty to God right here and now, while expectantly and patiently looking forward to the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection from the dead to glory.” John W. Ritenbaugh Grace Upon Grace

From the New Dictionary of Biblical Theology.

“The vocabulary of 'grace' thus connotes spontaneous kindness and acts of generosity grounded in dispositions of compassion toward those in need. 'Grace' as a characteristic of God grounds divine-human relations in God's generous initiative and sustaining *faithfulness culminating in the powerful, restorative activity of God on behalf of humanity.”

J.B. Green

And Mounce's complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament words.

“There is only one way to walk in the freedom and joy Christ has won for us: by accepting his gift of righteousness. Doing this means embracing grace, not works. It doesn’t mean shirking our responsibilities; on the contrary, it’s the only way to take on real responsibility — by coming under the covering of his grace. We can’t accomplish anything in his name otherwise! The only true responsibility of the Christian is that which is born of God’s grace.

Grace is a new domain in which and by which Christians live (Rom. 15:15; 16:20). In this realm sin no longer rules (6:14). By His grace, God affects Christians' personal lives, giving them the ability to obey the gospel from the heart (Rom. 6:17), the ability to work hard (1 Cor. 15:10), and an increase of joy in severe trials (2 Cor. 8:1- 2).

God graciously affects Christians' interpersonal relations, giving them care in their hearts for others (2 Cor. 8:16) and different spiritual gifts that cause the body to function together (Rom. 12:6). The believer is motivated to show practical grace to others.....The Christian knows that no matter the level of suffering or weakness in life, Christ's grace toward them is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9), allowing them to "approach the throne of grace with confidence in order that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:16). Dependence on Christ's power and grace causes an over- flow of thanksgiving (2 Cor. 4:15)”

God’s word is all Grace, and His Bible has many verses about grace so we are well informed. From the Old Testament, we know that grace is a part of God’s character. He is a loving and gracious God.

“Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.”
Joel 2:13

In the New Testament, we learn about the role of grace in our faith and salvation. As we experience God’s grace in our lives and seek to be more like Jesus, we can have more grace with others. Having grace-filled hearts and lives prompt us to share God’s love. Because we are not fully graced to be like Christ, we need the brethren to rely on God’s grace so

they can assist our spiritual development in the art of Grace. To Wit... namely:

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Cor 13:4-7

Everything we have received pertaining to life and godliness is by grace. Everything we need to follow Christ comes from our God of Grace and not ourselves. We are to be imitators of God, and that means we are to be gracious since we have received all we need in His abiding presence through Grace.

Grace in God's Character is manifest in the world for His glory

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Heb 4:16

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace."

Num 6:24-26

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Psa 103:8

And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Pet 5:10

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore He will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!

Isa 30:18

For the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.

2 Chron 30:9b

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Psa 8:4

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. 2 Cor 8:9

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

But in your great mercy You did not put an end to them or abandon them, for You are a gracious and merciful God. Neh 9:31

Saving Grace is our power for godliness

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. Eph 2:4-5

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. Titus 2:11-12

He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. 2 Tim 1:9

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Rom 3:23-24

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph 2:8-9

For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. Rom 5:15

So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:21

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Acts 20:24

No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

Acts 15:11

And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Rom 11:6

So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7

Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:8

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Heb 8:12

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Gal 2:21

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring — not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Rom 4:16

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Rom 6:1-2

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live

self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. Eph 1:7

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him. Col 2:13-15

God's Grace and Power works in our lives to glorify Christ

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all. Acts 4:33

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Cor 15:10

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Rev 22:21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Phil 25

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 1:7b

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thess 2:16-17

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Cor 12:9

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. Rom 6:14

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. Acts 14:3

But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." James 4:6

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Pet 4:10

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding His Son, who as to His earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for His name's sake. Rom 1:1-5

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Acts 6:8

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. Eph 4:7

Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. John 1:16

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Pet 3:18

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 2:1

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor 13:14

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. Rom 16:20

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Pet 1:2

We are to live as children of the God of all grace

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” Matt 6:14

But since you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Cor 8:7

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matt 18:21-22

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 2 Cor 12:9

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Rom 6:14-15

May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us — yes, establish the work of our hands. Psa 90:17

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psa 23:6

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming. 1 Pet 1:13

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Prov 28:13

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so.

Heb 13:9

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Cor 9:8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Rom 12:3

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