

## Fearless Love

Loving God has much to do with growing to trust that God will care for and provide for our deepest needs every day of our lives and in every situation. Loving God and trusting Him with our lives means giving God a chance, on a regular basis, to demonstrate His love by surrendering to His principles for living whether we understand them or not. God is the creator, the giver, and the sustainer of life. God knows what works in this life. He will demonstrate His good way of living and loving to anyone who sets aside their own agenda and ideas in favour of His revealed way of doing things.

Our best hope for a successful life is to open ourselves to more and more of the love we so desperately long for. God reveals the way to do that in the Bible. He also reveals blocks and obstacles that keep that love from flowing gently and freely in our thoughts and our emotions. Jesus always obeyed God's way of doing things. It didn't always make sense and it wasn't always convenient. However, Jesus moved forward fearlessly and obediently because He knew the loving heart of His Heavenly Father.

***Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave .... Because of this God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name.*** (Philippians 2)

We've always feared to love and act because as humans we live with less than perfect people. We expect to be disappointed. God will always love us. We are afraid God will not be there for us when He doesn't respond in the way, or at the time we want Him to. God invites us to respond to His love without fear, and with faith. He invites us to let Him be free to love us in a way that is truly good for us.

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and love your neighbour as you love yourself.***

What does it mean to love someone? For some of us it means knowing a person so well and liking what we see so much that we love to be with them and choose to do so as often as possible. Loving someone includes respecting them for who they are and for their way of life. Loving someone produces a longing in us to do things that will please them because they've done so many kind and good things for us and for others.

Loving God is no different. Do we love God? Do we believe God really loves us more than we love ourselves? Do we want to please the God who loves us by doing what He says He likes? We are invited to demonstrate that we really believe God is good by changing our ways to the ways of living that God says are good for us.

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek God's will in all you do, and God will direct your paths.*** (Proverbs 3)

### Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What does it mean to love God with my heart? Soul? Strength? Mind?
2. Why do so many people balk at obeying the ways of God described in the Bible (such as the Ten Commandments) and write them off as being "too difficult" or "for another time?"
3. What evidence is there in my life that God loves me?
4. What evidence is there in my life that God has a better plan for me than those I make up for myself as I go along?
5. Have I given the principles of God a real chance to see if what God says really works?