



# Do You Love Me?

*A selection of Scripture texts  
on the theme of 'love'.*

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Contemporary English Version

The National Bible Society of Ireland  
Dublin

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# Do You Love Me?

(John 21:17)

*I love the pleasant task of putting together a symphony whose theme is LOVE by the chief composer, the Holy Spirit, who is LOVE. I humbly ask to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, which Christ promised us from the Father that He would send so that we may experience on Earth a civilisation of love. May He who is the way, the truth and the life lead us to the Father and that is enough. Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*This is my humble contribution towards world evangelisation as our Lord said*

*"I came to set fire to the earth, and I wish it were already on fire!"*

*(Luke 12:49)*

*We badly need a civilisation of love.*

Myles Joseph Gallagher, Hermit

Our Christian life in union  
with the pilgrim church on earth  
and our union with the New Jerusalem City  
in heaven, the whole church  
as well as the souls in purgatory,  
is summed up in a few words;

Through the Son Jesus Christ  
in the Spirit  
to the Father

‘Blessed be God in his angels and his saints.’  
Amen. Alleluia.

Saint John Newman, pray for us, that the English and Irish may be close friends as they are close neighbours.

This little book on love from the Bible first published 2002. Already 5,000 copies have been circulated free all over the world.

Republished 2020.

100 copies for the renewal of faith in the parishes of Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

St John of the Cross, mystic doctor of the church said;  
‘Where there is no love  
PUT LOVE.’

St Paul says that of faith, hope and love, the greatest is love. May the love in this bible collection remind us that there is more to life than power, wealth and sex. We need to rediscover the beauty of love.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
(*Gen 1:1*)

So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said:

Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

(*Gen 1:27,28*)

One hot summer afternoon Abraham was sitting by the entrance to his tent near the sacred trees of Mamre, when the Lord appeared to him. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He quickly ran to meet them, bowed with his face to the ground, and said, "Please come to my home where I can serve you. I'll have some water brought, so you can wash your feet, then you can rest under the tree. Let me get you some food to give you strength before you leave. I would be honoured to serve you."

"Thank you very much," they answered.

"We accept your offer."

(*Gen 18: 1-5*)

God said to Moses: I am the eternal God. So tell them that the Lord, whose name is "I Am," has sent you.

(*Exodus 3:14*)

...'I'm listening, Lord. What do you want me to do?'

(*1 Samuel 3:9*)

I love you, Lord God, and you make me strong.

*(Ps 18:1)*

Your love means more than life to me,  
and I praise you.

*(Psalm 63:3)*

In heaven I have only you,  
and on this earth you are all I want.  
My body and mind may fail,  
but you are my strength and my choice  
forever.

*(Psalm 73:25-26)*

His love for us is wonderful;  
his faithfulness never ends.  
Shout praises to the Lord!

*(Ps 117:2)*

Tell the Lord how thankful you are,  
because he is kind and always merciful.

*(Ps 118-1)*

Your love is better than wine

*(Song of Songs 1:2)*

& ...it is only right  
that you should adore him.

*(Song of Songs 1:5)*

While in bed at night, I reached for the one I love  
with heart and soul.

I looked for him, but he wasn't there.  
So I searched through the town for the one I love.

I looked on every street,  
but he wasn't there.  
I even asked the guards  
patrolling the town,  
"Have you seen the one  
I love so much?"  
Right after that, I found him.  
I held him  
and would not let go  
until I had taken him  
to the home of my mother.

*(Song of Songs 3:1-4)*

Let the north wind blow,  
the south wind too!  
Let them spread the aroma  
of my garden,  
so the one I love  
may enter and taste its  
delicious fruits.

*(Song of Songs 4:16)*

The one I love was at the door,  
knocking and saying,  
"My darling, my very own,  
my flawless dove,  
open the door for me!"

*(Song of Songs 5:2)*

His kisses are sweet.  
I desire him so much!

*(Song of Songs 5:16)*



Right at our doorstep  
I have stored up for you  
all kinds of tasty fruits.

*(Song of Songs 7:13)*

If you were my brother,  
I could kiss you  
whenever we happen to meet,  
and no one would say  
I did wrong.  
I could take you to the home  
of my mother,  
who taught me all I know.

*(Song of Songs 8:1-2)*

Who is this young woman  
coming in from the desert  
and leaning on the shoulder  
of the one she loves?

*(Song of Songs 8:5)*

Always keep me in your heart  
and wear this bracelet  
to remember me by.  
The passion of love  
bursting into flame  
is more powerful than death,  
stronger than the grave.  
Love cannot be drowned  
by oceans or floods;  
it cannot be bought,  
no matter what is offered.

*(Song of Songs 8:6-7)*

After this, I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?"

"I'll go," I answered. "Send me!"

*(Is 6:8)*

What a beautiful sight!

On the mountains a messenger  
announces to Jerusalem,

"Good news! You're saved. There will be peace.

Your God is now King."

*(Is 52:7)*

For a while, I turned away in furious anger.

Now I will have mercy and love you forever!

I, your protector and Lord, make this promise."

*(Isaiah 54:8)*

I sing praises to you, Lord.

*(Jeremiah 20:13)*

Israel, I will always love you;

that's why I've been so patient and kind.

*(Jeremiah 31:3)*

Israel, I, the Lord, will lure you into the desert

and speak gently to you.

*(Hosea 2:14)*

I will accept you as my wife forever, and instead of a bride price I will give you justice, fairness, love, kindness, and faithfulness. Then you will truly know who I am.

*(Hosea 2:19-20)*

I'd rather for you to be faithful and to know me  
than to offer sacrifices.

*(Hosea 6:6)*

The Lord God has told us what is right and what  
he demands:

"See that justice is done,  
let mercy be your first concern,  
and humbly obey your God."

*(Micah 6:8)*

You should pray like this:  
Our Father in heaven,  
help us to honour your name.  
Come and set up your kingdom,  
so that everyone on earth will obey you,  
as you are obeyed in heaven.  
Give us our food for today.  
Forgive us for doing wrong,  
as we forgive others.  
Keep us from being tempted  
and protect us from evil.

*(Matt 6:9-13)*

Don't worry about what you will say or how you will say  
it. At that time you will be given the words to say. But you  
will not really be the one speaking. The Spirit from your  
Father will tell you what to say.

*(Matt 10:19-20)*

If you tell others that you belong to me, I will tell  
my Father in heaven that you are my followers.

*(Matt 10:32)*

“Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom.”

*(Matt 13:52)*

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him. They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone. There in front of the disciples, Jesus was completely changed. His face was shining like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus. So Peter said to him, “Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

*(Matt 17:1-4)*

One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, “Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?”

Jesus answered:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, “Love others as much as you love yourself.” All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.

*(Matt 22:35-40)*

Jesus’ eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had told them to meet him. They saw him and worshiped him, but some of them doubted.

Jesus came to them and said:

I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the

name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
and teach them to do everything I have told you.  
I will be with you always, even until the end of  
the world.

*(Matt 28:16-20)*

Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and  
said, "There's one thing you still need to do. Go  
sell everything you own. Give the money to the  
poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then  
come with me."

*(Mark 10:21)*

....you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be  
great and will be called the Son of God Most High.

*(Luke 1:31-32)*

"The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and  
God's power will come over you. So your child  
will be called the holy Son of God.

Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it  
happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

*(Luke 1:35,37-38)*

Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering  
what it meant.

*(Luke 2:19)*

So I tell you that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why  
she has shown great love. But anyone who has been  
forgiven for only a little will show only a little love."

*(Luke 7:47)*

Jesus felt the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit, and he said:

My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who really knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too.

*(Luke 10:21-22)*

I came to set fire to the earth, and I wish it were already on fire!

*(Luke 12:49)*

Peter ran to the tomb. And when he stooped down and looked in, he saw only the burial clothes. Then he returned, wondering what had happened.

That same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there - these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered:

Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people.

Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened.

Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either.

Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?" Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. They begged him, "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down." So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some

bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?" So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles with him and the others gathered together. And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

While Jesus' disciples were talking about what had happened, Jesus appeared and greeted them. They were frightened and terrified because they thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus said, "Why are you so frightened? Why do you doubt? Look at my hands and my feet and see who I am! Touch me and find out for yourselves. Ghosts don't have flesh and bones as you see I have."

After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. The disciples were so glad and amazed that they could not believe it. Jesus then asked them, "Do you have something to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. He took it and ate it as they watched.

Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen."

Then he helped them understand the



Scriptures. He told them:

The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. I will send you the one my Father has promised, but you must stay in the city until you are given power from heaven.

Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this, he left and was taken up to heaven. After his disciples had worshiped him, they returned to Jerusalem and were very happy. They spent their time in the temple, praising God.

*(Luke 24:12-53)*

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.  
The Word was with God and was truly God.

*(John 1:1)*

The Word became a human being and lived here  
with us.

We saw his true glory,  
the glory of the only Son of the Father.  
From him all the kindness and all the truth of  
God have come down to us.

*(John 1:14)*

God loved the people of this world so much that  
he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has  
faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

*(John 3:16)*

At a wedding the groom is the one who gets married. The best man is glad just to be there and to hear the groom's voice. That's why I am so glad. Jesus must become more important, while I become less important.

*(John 3:29-30)*

But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.

The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

"I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now."

*(John 4:23-26)*

When the disciples had rowed for three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He kept coming closer to the boat, and they were terrified. But he said, "I am Jesus! Don't be afraid!"

*(John 6:19-20)*

Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God's Holy One."

*(John 6:67-68)*

I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. Just as the Father knows me, I know the Father, and I give up my life for my sheep. I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly. I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.

*(John 10:11-18)*

..."I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord!" she replied. "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world."

*(John 11:26-27)*

But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

*(John 13:34-35)*

"Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

*(John 14:8)*

Then you will know that I am one with the Father. You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you. If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you. I will also love you and show you what I am like.

The other Judas, not Judas Iscariot, then spoke up and asked, "Lord, what do you mean by saying that you will show us what you are like, but you will not show the people of this world?"

Jesus replied: If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them.

*(John 14:20-23)*

The Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you.

*(John 14:26)*

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him. I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am.

*(John 15:9-11)*

The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.

*(John 15:13)*

...the Father will be with me, and I won't be alone. I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.

*(John 16:33)*

I am not praying just for these followers. I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith because of what my followers will say about me. I want all of them to be one with each other, just as I am one with you and you are one with me. I also want them to be one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.

*(John 17:20-21)*

Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the tomb. She was still weeping, when she stooped down and saw two angels inside. They were dressed in white and were sitting where Jesus' body had been. One was at the head and the other was at the foot. The angels asked Mary, "Why are you crying?"

She answered, "They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him."

As soon as Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know who he was. Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him."

Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Rabboni." The

Aramaic word "Rabboni" means "Teacher."

Jesus told her, "Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Father. But tell my disciples that I am going to the one who is my Father and my God, as well as your Father and your God."

Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her.

*(John 20: 11-18)*

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

*(John 20: 24-29)*

When Jesus and his disciples had finished eating, he asked, "Simon son of John, do you love me

more than the others do?"

Simon Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I do!"

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus said.

Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you!"

"Then take care of my sheep," Jesus told him.

Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus had asked him three times if he loved him. So he told Jesus, "Lord, you know everything. You know I love you."

Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep.

*(John 21:15-17)*

And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.

*(Romans 5:4-5)*

What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? It is exactly as the Scriptures say,

“For you we face death  
all day long.  
We are like sheep  
on their way  
to be butchered.”

In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love - not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

*(Romans 8:31-39)*

All who are acceptable because of their faith simply say, “The message is as near as your mouth or your heart.” And this is the same message we preach about faith. So you will be saved, if you honestly say, “Jesus is Lord,” and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.

The Scriptures say that no one who has faith will be disappointed.

*(Romans 10:8-11)*

What if I could speak all languages  
of humans and of angels?

If I did not love others,  
I would be nothing more than a noisy gong  
or a clanging cymbal.

What if I could prophesy



and understand all secrets and all knowledge?  
And what if I had faith that moved mountains?  
I would be nothing, unless I loved others.  
What if I gave away all that I owned  
and let myself be burned alive?  
I would gain nothing, unless I loved others.  
Love is kind and patient,  
never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude.  
Love isn't selfish or quick tempered.  
It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.  
Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.  
Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.  
Love never fails!

Everyone who prophesies will stop,  
and unknown languages will no longer be spoken.  
All that we know will be forgotten.  
We don't know everything,  
and our prophecies are not complete.  
But what is perfect will someday appear,  
and what isn't perfect will then disappear.

When we were children,  
we thought and reasoned as children do.  
But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways.  
Now all we can see of God  
is like a cloudy picture in a mirror.  
Later we will see him face to face.  
We don't know everything, but then we will,  
just as God completely understands us.  
For now there are faith, hope, and love.  
But of these three, the greatest is love.

*(1 Cor 13)*

People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds. They worship idols, practice witchcraft, hate others, and are hard to get along with. People become jealous, angry, and selfish. They not only argue and cause trouble, but they are envious. They get drunk, carry on at wild parties, and do other evil things as well. I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom. God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires.

*(Gal 5:19-24)*

But I will never brag about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his cross, the world is dead as far as I am concerned, and I am dead as far as the world is concerned.

*(Gal 6:14)*

I kneel in prayer to the Father. All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from him. God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that his Spirit will make you become strong followers and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in his love. I pray that you and all of God's people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured.

Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

*(Ephesians 3:14-19)*

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

*(Col 3:12-17)*

You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved. That's why you have faith.

*(1 Peter 1:8-9)*

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.

*(1 Peter 3:15)*

Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.

*(1 John 4:10)*

We love because God loved us first. But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see? The commandment that God has given us is: "Love God and love each other!"

*(1 John 4:19-21)*

If we believe that Jesus is truly Christ, we are God's children. Everyone who loves the Father will also love his children. If we love and obey God, we know that we will love his children. We show our love for God by obeying his commandments, and they are not hard to follow.

Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory. No one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

*(1 John 5:1-5)*

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

I am the one called Amen! I am the faithful and true witness and the source of God's creation. Listen to what I say.

I know everything you have done, and you are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other. But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. You

claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need. But you don't know how bad off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Buy your gold from me. It has been refined in a fire, and it will make you rich. Buy white clothes from me. Wear them and you can cover up your shameful nakedness. Buy medicine for your eyes, so that you will be able to see.

I correct and punish everyone I love. So make up your minds to turn away from your sins. Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together. Everyone who wins the victory will sit with me on my throne, just as I won the victory and sat with my Father on his throne.

If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

*(Rev 3:14-22)*

I correct and punish everyone I love. So make up your minds to turn away from your sins. Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together.

*(Rev 3:19-20)*

"Praise the Lord!

*(Rev 19:1)*

The wedding day of the Lamb is here,  
and his bride is ready.

*(Rev 19:7)*

Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city,  
coming down from God in heaven. It was like a  
bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to  
meet her husband.

*(Rev 21:2)*

God will bless all who have washed their robes.  
They will each have the right to eat fruit from the tree that  
gives life, and they can enter the gates of the city.

*(Rev 22:14)*

I am Jesus! And I am the one who sent my angel  
to tell all of you these things for the churches. I  
am David's Great Descendant, and I am also the  
bright morning star.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"  
Everyone who hears this should say, "Come!"  
If you are thirsty, come! If you want life-giving  
water, come and take it. It's free!

*(Rev 22:16-17)*

The one who has spoken these things says, "I am  
coming soon!"  
So, Lord Jesus, please come soon!  
I pray that the Lord Jesus will be kind to all of you.

*(Rev 22:20-21)*

...do you love me? ...You know I love you.

*(John 21:17)*



# **The Holy Bible on “Love”**

## **The Greatest of Gods Gifts**

Readings Presented by  
The Bride of Crucified Love

More than anything else, "Let There be Love". I love the pleasant task of putting together a symphony. whose theme is love by the chief composer the Holy Spirit who is love. "God is Love".

I humbly ask to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit which Christ promised us from the Father that he would send so that we may experience on earth a civilisation of love. May Jesus who is the way the truth and the life lead us to the Father and that is enough. Glory be to the father to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is a poor mans contribution towards world evangelisation on love as our Lord said; "I came to set the world on fire and how I wish it were blazing already."  
*Luke 12.49*

'Listen, Israel: Yahweh our God is the one, the only Yahweh. You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart. Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart. You shall tell them to your children, and keep on telling them, when you are sitting at home, when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are standing up;  
*Deuteronomy 6.*

I love you, Yahweh, my strength (my Saviour, you have saved me from violence).  
*Psalms 18.1*

As a deer yearns for running streams, so I yearn for you, my God.

I thirst for God, the living God; when shall I go to see the face of God?  
*Psalms 42.*



God you are my God, I pine for you, my heart thirsts  
for you, my body longs for you, as a land parched,  
dreary and waterless. Thus I have gazed on you in  
the sanctuary, seeing your power and your glory.

Better your faithful love than life itself;  
my lips will praise you.  
Thus I will bless you all my life,  
in your name lift up my hands.  
All my longings fulfilled as with fat and rich foods,  
a song of joy on my lips and praise in my mouth.

On my bed when I think of you,  
I muse on you in the watches of the night,  
for you have always been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice;  
my heart clings to you,  
your right hand supports me. *Psalms 63.*

Who else is there for me in heaven?  
And, with you, I lack nothing on earth.  
My heart and my flesh are pining away:  
my heart's rock, my portion, God for ever! *Psalms 73.*

Solomon's Song of Songs  
Beloved: Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth,  
for your love-making is sweeter than wine;  
delicate is the fragrance of your perfume,  
your name is an oil poured out,  
and that is why girls love you.

Draw me in your footsteps, let us run.  
The king has brought me into his rooms;  
you will be our joy and our gladness.

We shall praise your love more than wine;  
how right it is to love you.

*Song of Songs*

On my bed at night I sought  
the man who is my sweetheart:  
I sought but could not find him!  
So I shall get up and go through the city;  
in the streets and in the squares,  
I shall seek my sweetheart.  
I sought but could not find him!

I came upon the watchmen -  
those who go on their rounds in the city:  
'Have you seen my sweetheart?'

Barely had I passed them  
when I found my sweetheart.  
I caught him, would not let him go,  
not till I had brought him  
to my mother's house,  
to the room where she conceived me!

*Song of Songs*

BELOVED: I sleep, but my heart is awake.  
I hear my love knocking.  
'Open to me, my sister, my beloved,  
my dove, my perfect one,  
for my head is wet with dew,  
my hair with the drops of night.'

'I have taken off my tunic,  
and I to put it on again?  
I have washed my feet,  
am I to dirty them again?  
My love thrust his hand

through the hole in the door;

I trembled to the core of my being.

Then I got up

to open to my love,

myrrh ran off my fingers,

on to the handle of the bolt.

I opened to my love,

but he had turned and gone.

My soul failed at his flight,

I sought but could not find him,

I called, but he did not answer.

The watchmen met me,

those who go on their rounds in the city.

They beat me, they wounded me,

they took my cloak away from me:

those guardians of the ramparts!

I charge you,

daughters of Jerusalem,

if you should find my love,

what are you to tell him?

That I am sick with love!

Chorus:

What makes your lover better than other lovers,

O loveliest of women?

What makes your lover better than other lovers,

to put us under such an oath?

BELOVED: My love is fresh and ruddy, to be known  
among ten thousand.

His head is golden, purest gold,  
his locks are palm fronds and black as the raven.  
His eyes are like doves beside the water-courses,  
bathing themselves in milk,  
perching on a fountain-rim.  
His cheeks are beds of spices,  
banks sweetly scented.  
His lips are lilies,  
distilling pure myrrh.  
His hands are golden, rounded, set with jewels of  
Tarshish.  
His belly a block of ivory covered with sapphires.  
His legs are alabaster columns  
set in sockets of pure gold.  
His appearance is that of Lebanon,  
unrivalled as the cedars.

His conversation is sweetness itself, he is altogether  
lovable.

Such is my love, such is my friend,  
O daughters of Jerusalem.

Chorus:

Where did your lover go,  
O loveliest of women?  
Which way did your lover turn  
so that we can help you seek him?

Beloved: My love went down to his garden,  
to the beds of spices,  
to pasture his flock on the grass and gather lilies.  
I belong to my love, and my love to me.      *Song of Songs*

Do not fear, you will not be put to shame again;

do not worry, you will not be disgraced again;  
for you will forget the shame of your youth  
and no longer remember the dishonour of your  
widowhood.

For your Creator is your husband,  
Yahweh Sabaoth is his name,  
the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer,  
he is called God of the whole world.  
Yes, Yahweh has called you back like a forsaken,  
grief-stricken wife,  
like the repudiated wife of his youth, says your God.  
I did forsake you for a brief moment,  
but in great compassion I shall take you back.  
In a flood of anger, for a moment I hid my face from you.  
But in everlasting love I have taken pity on you,  
says Yahweh, your redeemer.  
For me it will be as in the days of Noah  
when I swore that Noah's waters  
should never flood the world again.  
So now I swear never to be angry with you  
and never to rebuke you again.  
For the mountains may go away  
and the hills may totter,  
but my faithful love will never leave you,  
my covenant of peace will never totter,  
says Yahweh who takes pity on you.

*Isaiah 54*

I have loved you with an everlasting love and so I still  
maintain my faithful love for you.

*Jer. 37*

But look, I am going to seduce her  
and lead her into the desert  
and speak to her heart.

*Hosea 2*

But look, I am going to seduce her  
and lead her into the desert  
and speak to her heart.

*Hosea 2*

I shall betroth you to myself for ever,  
I shall betroth you in uprightness and justice,  
and faithful love and tenderness.

Yes, I shall betroth you to myself in loyalty and in the  
knowledge of Yahweh.

*Hosea 2*

'You have already been told what is right  
and what Yahweh wants of you.

Only this, to do what is right,  
to love tenderly  
and to walk humbly with your God.'

*Micah 6.8.*

## **The Beatitudes**

How blessed are the poor in spirit:  
the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are the gentle.  
they shall have the earth as inheritance.

Blessed are those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness:  
they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed are the peacemakers:  
they shall be recognised as children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of  
uprightness:  
the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute

you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven, this is how they persecuted the prophets before you. *Matt 5*

Salt for the earth and light for the world

‘You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled under people’s feet.

‘You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in people’s sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven.

*Matt 5.*

## **The Greatest Commandment of All**

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, put him to the test, one of them put a further question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?

Jesus said to him, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets too.’ *Matt 22.*

Appearance in Galilee; the mission to the world

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' *Matt 28*

### **The greatest commandment of all**

One of the scribes who had listened to them debating appreciated that Jesus had given a good answer and put a further question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one, only Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true, that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

*Mark 12.*

### **Love of Enemies**

'But I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those



who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To anyone who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek as well; to anyone who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from someone who takes it.

Treat others as you would like people to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

### **Compassion and generosity**

‘Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap; because the standard you use will be the standard used for you.’

*Luke 6.*

### **The Great Commandment**

And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What is your

reading of it?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right, do this and life is yours.' Luke 10

### **Martha and Mary**

'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.'

*Luke 10*

### **The Road to Emmaus**

Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognising him. He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' He asked, 'What things?' They answered, 'All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have now gone by since it all happened; and some women

from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they could not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory?'

Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road' and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and

how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

### **Jesus appears to the apostles**

They were still talking about all this when he himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts stirring in your hearts? See by my hands and my feet that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, as they were dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

### **Last instructions to the apostles**

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law or Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, was destined to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

And now I am sending upon you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city, then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.'

## **The Ascension**

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and raising his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

*Luke 24*

‘Look, there is the lamb of God takes away the sin of the world.’

*John 1.29*

For this is how God loved the world:  
he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life.

*John 3.16 I*

‘It is the bridegroom who has the bride;  
and yet the bridegroom’s friend,  
who stands there and listens to him,  
is filled with joy at the bridegroom’s voice.  
This is the joy I feel, and it is complete.

*John 3*

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another;  
you must love one another  
just as I have loved you.  
It is by your love for one another,  
that everyone will recognise you  
as my disciples.

*John 13*

Anyone who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him  
and make a home in him.

*John 14.23*

If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask for whatever you please  
and you will get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you  
should bear much fruit  
and be my disciples.  
I have loved you  
just as the Father has loved me.  
Remain in my love  
If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.

I have told you this  
so that my own joy maybe in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
No one can have greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.  
I shall no longer call you servants,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father  
You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
so that the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.  
My command to you  
is to love one another.

*John 15*

If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask for whatever you please  
and you will get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you  
should bear much fruit  
and be my disciples.  
I have loved you  
just as the Father has loved me.  
Remain in my love.  
If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's  
commandments  
and remain in his love.  
I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
No one can have greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.  
I shall no longer call you servants,  
because a servant does not know  
the master's business;  
I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.  
You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
so that the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.  
My command to you  
is to love one another.

*John 15*

I pray not only for these,  
but also for those  
who through their teaching will come to believe in me.  
May they all be one,  
just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you,  
so that they also may be in us,  
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.  
I have given them the glory you gave to me,  
that they may be one as we are one.  
With me in them and you in me,  
may they be so perfected in unity  
that the world will recognise that it was you who sent  
me and that you have loved them as you have loved me.

Father,  
I want those you have given me  
to be with me where I am,  
so that they may always see my glory  
which you have given me  
because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world.  
Father, Upright One,  
the world has not known you,



but I have known you,  
and these have known  
that you have sent me.  
I have made your name known to them  
and will continue to make it known,  
so that the love with which you loved  
me may be in them.  
and so that I may be in them.

*John 17*

### **Jesus and his mother**

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

### **The death of Jesus**

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed and, so that the scripture should be completely fulfilled, he said:

### **I am Thirsty**

A jar full of sour wine stood there; so, putting a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick, they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the wine he said, 'It is fulfilled'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

*John 19*

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second

time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

*John 21*

The early Christian community

These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

*Acts 2*

### **The early Christian community**

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul.

*Acts 4*

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

*Rom 5.5*

### **A Hymn to God's Love**

After saying this, what can we add? If God is for us, who can be against us? Since he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for the sake of all us, then can we not expect that with him he will freely give us all his gifts? Who can bring any accusation against those that God has chosen? When God grants saving justice who can condemn? Are we not sure that it is Christ Jesus, who died - yes and more, who was raised from the dead and is at God's right hand and who is adding his plea for us? Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ - can hardships or distress, or persecution, or lack of food and clothing, or threats or violence; as scripture says:

For your sake we are being massacred all day long, treated as sheep to be slaughtered?

No; we come through all these things triumphantly victorious, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in' Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Rom 8*

### **Love and Law**

The only thing you should owe to anyone is love for one another, for to love the other person is to fulfil the law. All these: You shall not committ adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and all the other commandments that there are, are summed up in this single phrase: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love can cause no harm to your neighbour, and so love is the fulfilment of the Law

*Rom 13*

### **The order of importance in spiritual gifts; hymn to Love**

Set your mind on the higher gifts. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all.

Though I command languages both human and angelic if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains if I am without love, I

am nothing? Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only imperfectly; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see things as a child does, and think like a child: but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways. Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known.

As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love the three of them: and the greatest of them is love. *1 Cor 13*

Recommendations, greetings, final good wishes  
To end then, brothers, we wish you joy; try to grow perfect; encourage one another, have a common mind and live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All God's holy

people send you their greetings. .

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Cor 13*

I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive; yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me. The life that I am now living, subject to the limitation of human nature, I am living in faith, faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

*Gal 2*

### **Liberty and Love**

After all, brothers, you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in the one commandment: You must love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care: you will be eaten up by one another.

Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit, and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence. The desires of self-indulgence are always in opposition to the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other; that is how you are prevented from doing things that you want to. But when you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: sexual vice, impurity and sensuality, the worship of false gods and sorcery, antagonisms and rivalry, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels, disagreements, faction such things. And about these, I tell you now as I have told you in the

past, that people who behave in these ways will not inherit the kingdom of God. On the other hand the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control; no law can touch such things at these. All who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with all its passions and its desires.

*Gal 5*

### **Postscript**

But as for me, it is out of the question that I should boast at all, except of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

*Gal 6*

### **Paul's Prayer**

This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built in love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

*Eph. 3: 14-19*

### **The spiritual letter**

Finally, grow strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. Put on the full armour of God so as to be able to resist the devil's tactics. For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the principalities and the ruling forces who are masters of the darkness in this world, the spirits of evil in the

heavens. That is why you must take up all God's armour, or you will not be able to put up any resistance on the evil day, or stand your ground even though you exert yourselves to the full.

So stand your ground, with truth a belt round your waist, and uprightness a breastplate, wearing for shoes on your feet the eagerness to spread the gospel of peace and always carrying the shield of faith so that you can use it to quench the burning arrows of the Evil One.

And then you must take salvation as your helmet and the sword of the Spirit, that is, the word of God.

In all your prayer and entreaty keep praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion. Never get tired of staying awake to pray for all God's holy people, and pray for me to be given an opportunity to open my mouth and fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel of which I am an ambassador in chains; pray that in proclaiming it I may speak as fearlessly as I ought to.

*Eph 6*

Make your own the mind of Jesus Christ.

Who, being in the form of God,  
did not count equality with God  
something to be grasped.

But he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
becoming as human beings are;  
and being in every way like a human being,  
he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death, death on a cross

And for this God raised him high,  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names;  
so that all things  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, .  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

and that every tongue should acknowledge  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Phil 2*

Repeat

Always be joyful, then, in the Lord; I repeat, be joyful.  
Let your good sense be obvious to everybody. The  
Lord is near. Never worry about anything; but tell God  
all your desires of every kind in prayer and petition  
shot through with gratitude, and the peace of God  
which is beyond our understanding will guard your  
hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally,  
brothers, let your minds be filled with everything that  
is true, everything that is honourable , everything that  
is upright and pure, everything that we love and  
admire with whatever is good and praiseworthy. Keep  
doing everything you learnt from me and were told by  
me and have heard or seen me doing. Then the God  
of peace will be with you.

*Phil 4*

### **Life-giving union with the glorified Christ**

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you  
must look for the things that are above, where Christ  
is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on



things above, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed and he is your life you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

*Col. 3*

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

*Col. 3*

### **Liturgical prayer**

I urge then, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving should be offered for everyone, for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live peaceful and quiet lives with all devotion and propriety. To do this is right, and acceptable to God our Saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator

between God and humanity, himself a human being, Christ Jesus, who offered himself as a ransom for all. This was the witness given at the appointed time, of which I was appointed herald and apostle and I am telling the truth and no lie a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

In everyplace, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

*Tim 1*

### **Paul in the evening of his life**

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which to the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

*2 Tim 4*

### **The greatness of the incarnate Son of God**

At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the ages. He is the reflection of God's glory and bears the impress of God's own being, sustaining all things by his powerful command; and now that he has purged sins away, he has taken his seat at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

*Heb 17*

## **The example of Jesus Christ**

With so many witnesses in a great cloud all around us, we too, then, should throw off everything that weights us down and the sin that clings so closely, and with perseverance keep running in the race which lies ahead of us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he persevered against such opposition from sinners and then you will not lose heart and come to grief. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of blood shed.

*Heb 12*

## **Faithfulnesss to Christ and love of Christ**

This is a great joy to you, even though for a short time yet you must bear all sorts of trials; so that the worth of your faith, more valuable than gold, which is perishable even if it has been tested by fire, may be proved to your praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him you believe in him and so are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described; and you are sure of the goal of your faith, that is, the salvation of your souls.

*1 Peter 1*

You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children which is what we are!

The reason why the world does not acknowledge us is that it did not acknowledge him.

My dear friends, we are already God's children,  
but what was shall be in the future has not yet been  
revealed.

We are well aware that when he appears we shall be  
like him,

because we shall see him as he really is.

*1 John 3*

The source of love

My dear friends,

let us love one another,

since love is from God

and everyone who loves is a child of God

and knows God.

Whoever fails to love does not know God,

because God is love.

This is the revelation of God's love for us,

that God sent his only Son into the world that we

might have life through him.

Love consists in this:

it is not we who loved God,

but God loved us and sent his Son

to expiate our sins

My dear friends,

if God loved us so much,

we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God,

but as long as we love one another

God remains in us and his love comes to its perfection  
in us.

This is the proof that we remain in him and he in us,

that he has given us a share in his Spirit.

We ourselves have seen and testify

that the Father sent his Son

as Saviour of the world.

Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

We have recognised for ourselves,  
and put our faith in, the love God has for us.

God is love,

and whoever remains in love remains in God, and  
God in him.

Love comes to its perfection in us  
when we can face the Day of Judgement fearlessly.  
because even in this world

we have become as he is,

In love there is no room for fear,

but perfect love drives out fear,

because fear implies punishment

and no one who is afraid has come to  
perfection in love.

Let us love, then,

because he first loved us.

Anyone who says 'I love God'

and hates his brother,

is a liar,

since no one who fails to love the brother

whom he can see

can love God whom he has not seen.

Indeed this is the commandment we have received  
from him,

that whoever loves God, must also love his brother.

*1 John 4*

Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of  
you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come  
in to share a meal at that person's side.

*Rev 3*

Let us be glad and joyful and give glory to God,  
because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb.  
His bride is ready.

*Rev 19*

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down  
out of heaven from God, Prepared as a bride dressed  
for her husband.

*Rev 27*

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to  
you for the sake of the churches. I am the sprig from  
the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'

*Rev 22*

The one who attests these things says: I am indeed  
coming soon.

Amen: come, Lord Jesus.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Amen.

"Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in  
her heart." Luke "And Mary said; my soul magnifies  
the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my saviour."

*Luke 6th January 2010 Epiphany*

"Were not our hearts burning within us when he spoke  
to us on the way and explained the scriptures?"

*Luke 24*

Love is flowing like a river  
flowing out of you and me  
flowing out into the desert  
setting all the captives free  
let it flow through you

let the mighty love of God  
flow out through me

*Hymn*

until it flows into the ocean of the holy trinity, our  
Heavenly home. Amen

**The source of all true love.**

"I come to set the world on fire and how I wish it was  
already blazing." *Luke*

"I love you." *Psalms 17*

"I love you." *John 21*

In response to your love O Lord make my life an act  
of "I love you in thought, word, and deed and silence."  
Amen, Alleluia.

Taken from N.J.B. with courtesy

Free to everyone

"Let there be love shared among us." *Hymn*

## **This is what the whole church at Vatican Council expects of a lay person.**

“Each individual lay person must stand before the world as a witness to the life and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and a sign of the living God.

Each individual lay person and altogether must to the best of their ability nourish the world with spiritual fruits; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control; Gal 5:22 and to shed abroad in the world, the spirit of the poor and meek and peace loving which the Lord in the Gospels proclaimed blessed. In a word let Christians be in the world what the soul is in the body.

Which in the Lord's presence was doing the greatest work Martha or Mary?

The active life is very necessary.

For the church and the world.

But the contemplative life is highest.

It makes its home in heaven.

Where Christ sits on his throne.

Jesus said in John's Gospel;

‘Just as the Father sent me into the world, so do I send you into the world.’

‘The world will make you suffer but fear not

I have overcome the world

and Jesus also,

overcame the flesh, and the devil.

For he was without sin

And the devil had no power over him.

With such a Saviour Son to lead us to the Father in the Holy Spirit, what are we afraid of?

Heaven can be our home even here on earth.



The home which the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit  
make in us. Jn 14:23

Jesus said on the night of his passion. 'You will all leave me  
alone but I am not really alone the Father is with me.'