

LOVE'S MANY FACES



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A Get Activated! Book

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Introduction

Love is life's sweetest mystery. It can be ethereal or down-to-earth, thunderous and passionate or tender and hushed. At once priceless and free, it's the universal experience that is wonderfully personal. Like a scintillating jewel that reflects beauty off its many facets—each unique yet each part of the whole—is that mystical, magical, marvelous thing called love.

It's in the faces of mother and child—mutual adoration that is beyond words. It is in the faces of parents as they embrace a returning prodigal. It is in the faces of a couple in love, who are lost in each other's eyes and dreams. It is in the faces of volunteers who care for the afflicted, the homeless, the destitute. It is in the faces of strangers and friends—anyone who takes time to be thoughtful and kind. It is in the face of the dying believer as he looks heavenward to new life and joy unspeakable.

And it's through love's many faces that we see God's own image, for God *is* love!¹ Every time we see love manifest, we get a glimpse of God. These few pages don't pretend do the subject justice. Instead, they point to the *source* of love, God Himself, who gives freely, without partiality and without end.

¹ 1John 4:8

Love Is...

Love is believing, trusting, helping, encouraging, confiding, sharing, understanding, feeling, touching, caring, praying, giving. Love is communication. Love is an emotion. Love is passionate, alive, vibrant, and warm. Love is something that gets better all the time!

Love is the greatest need of man, so love is the greatest service to man. Love is spiritual, but is manifested in the physical. Love is seen as it is put into action. Love is thoughtfulness. Love is always. Love knows no hours or days. Love is always finding a way. Love is giving all. Love is rare—the unselfish kind. Love is priceless. Love is its own reward.

Love is not hurting anybody. Love is preferring the happiness of others to our own. Love is choosing to suffer, if necessary, in order to help someone else. Love is courage. Love is total sacrifice. Love is never lost.—It always has an effect sooner or later. Love is forever.

—D.B.B.

Love has no age. It is always being born.

—*Blaise Pascal*



Love is a game two can play and both win.

—*Eva Gabor*



Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand.

—*Mother Teresa*



Love is an image of God, and not a lifeless image, but the living essence of the divine nature that beams full of all goodness.

—*Martin Luther*

Loving Words

Wine—even the finest—can't be appreciated as long as it's bottled up. Neither can love. Pop the cork. Put your love into words.

The most important words that any of us can learn to say are “I love you.” Don't take it for granted that others know you love them. Tell them how special they are. Tell them how much you need them. Tell them how much you enjoy their company. Tell them how happy they make you.—And say it so often they can't forget it.

—S.S.



Love is like fire: If it's not communicated, it goes out.

—*Giovanni Papini*

Starter kit

If you have a hard time putting your love for others into words, try these short and simple starters. Say them and mean them, and they'll ring in the receiver's heart like a choir of angels.

I love you.

I need you.

You're wonderful!

Where would I be without you?

You make my day.

I believe in you.

I trust you.

I admire you.

I'm proud of you.

I'm with you all the way.

You're fun.

You're wonderful to be with.

You're a great friend.

You're always there for me.

I thank God for you.

I love your love.

Thank you for being you.

Thank you for caring.

You're important to me.

You make me feel loved.

You give so much.

You make me so happy.

You make everything special.

I wish I could be more like you.

—S.S.

The U.S. lawyer and diplomat Joseph Choate (1832–1917) once paid his wife the ultimate compliment. When someone asked him who he would like to be in his next incarnation, if such a thing were possible, Choate's answer was immediate: "Mrs. Choate's second husband."

—*Retold by K.P.*



A Raindrop

One little unshed raindrop
May think itself too small;
Yet, somewhere, a thirsty flower
Awaits its fall.
One little word, unspoken,
May seem too small to say;
But, somewhere, for that one word,
A heart may pray.

—*Helen T. Allison*

Loving Actions

Love can seldom be conveyed without some tangible manifestation, without being put into action. The need for real love is a spiritual need, but it must be manifested physically.

People not only need to hear about true love, they need to see it. They need to see love put into action. It's like that poem by Edgar A. Guest, which says:

I'd rather see a sermon, than to hear one any
day.

I'd rather one would walk with me than merely
tell the way.

It's just human nature to sometimes confuse the words you say, but there's no confusion when others see love put into practice.

—D.B.B.

Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

—James Russell Lowell



Wherever there is another human being, there is an opportunity to show love.

—Author unknown



The Kindness Catalyst

The man had just been released from prison after serving a three-year sentence for embezzlement. Back in his hometown of Darlington, England, for the first time, he braced himself for the ostracism he expected to receive.

On his first morning out, he and Darlington's mayor, John Morel, happened to pass on the street. "Hello," said the mayor in a cheerful tone. "I'm glad to see you! How are you?" The other man appeared ill at ease, and the conversation ended in an awkward silence.

Years later, Mr. Morel and the other man—by this time an upstanding and productive citizen—met in another town. "I want to thank you for what you did for me when I came out of prison," the man said.

"What did I do?" asked the mayor.

"You spoke a kind word to me that changed my life," replied the grateful man.

—Retold by K.P.

A Little Boost

A little push when the road is steep
May take one up the hill.
A little prayer when the clouds hang low
May bring the soul a thrill.
A little lift when the load bears down
May help one to succeed.
A little pull when the will slows down
May help one gain his speed.
A little clasp from a hand that's kind
May lift from crushing care.
A little word from a voice that's sweet
May save one from despair.
A little smile when the heart is sad
May bring a sunbeam in.
A loving word when the spirit droops
May help one rise and win.
A little love for a soul that's lost
May help him seek God's grace.
A little tear and a "God bless you"
May brighten someone's face.
A little deed from a Christian's heart
May bless a weary soul.
A little boost when the battle's hard
May take one to his goal.

—Walter E. Isenhour



I expect to pass through this world but once.
Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

—Stephen Grellet

There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometime lose sight of this force when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.

—*Mother Teresa*

Loving Praise

Everyone has good qualities. Find specific things about others that you can sincerely compliment them on, and be generous with your praise. If you can't find anything right off, look deeper. Ask God to show you the positive qualities that must be there, because He sees things worth loving and praising in everyone. The harder it is to find that special something, the greater the reward is likely to be for both of you when you do. If you can find even a threadlike vein and shine a little love on it in the form of praise, it will lead you straight to the mother lode. They'll open up to you, and you'll discover lots of wonderful things about them.

—S.S.



The applause of a single human being is of great consequence.

—*Samuel Johnson*

In the days before computer typesetting, lines of type were usually set by hand, one character at a time. It was a slow, laborious job. One day an editor noticed a particularly well-done piece of type composition and sent a word of commendation to the man who had done it. The typesetter nearly burst into tears. He had been working at his trade for ten years and had put much care into his work, but this was the first time anyone had gone to the trouble of thanking him for his good work.

—*Retold by K.P.*



Motivators, therapists, and child psychologists have discovered what God has known all along, and what is, in fact, part of His basic design for humankind: Praise makes us stretch ourselves. In the warm glow of knowing we have pleased another, we try harder to please. Hearing that we have done well, we want to do better.

—S.S.



Praise is to people what water is to flowers. Pour it on and watch them grow.

—S.S.



To love others just as they are is the ultimate compliment.

—S.S.

Everyone is hungry for praise and starving for honest appreciation. We all need the encouragement of others, and yet most of us fail all too often to express appreciation or comfort to those around us. “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”¹ We need to learn to apply that to those around us and try to remind ourselves constantly to think about and praise them for their good qualities, the good things.

—*Maria Fontaine*



The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved—loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

—*Victor Hugo*

¹ Philippians 4:8

Hands-On Love

Who would have thought, even a generation ago, that natural displays of affection like a hug, a kiss on the cheek, a pat on the back, a reassuring hand on the shoulder, or a squeeze of the hand would run so contrary to social norms? In some places, particularly the West where cries of sexual harassment and abuse reached a fever pitch a few years ago, such simple and innocent demonstrations of love are now practically taboo. How sad!

Meanwhile, doctors, psychologists, and sociologists have proven through scientific research that affection is beneficial to our health and overall well-being. When people know they're loved, they're happier and feel more secure.

"Four hugs a day will help you survive the blues," says social scientist Dr. Virginia Satir, "but a dozen are better. Our pores are places for messages of love. Being able to have physical contact is very important."

“In the four minutes when friends or strangers exchange greetings, the power of touching is dynamic,” says Leonard Zunin, M.D., in *From Contact*.¹ “Every time you pat someone on the arm or shoulder, you are sending a psychic message such as ‘I like you,’ ‘I agree with what you’re saying,’ ‘You have done well,’ or ‘All is well—don’t worry.’ If you back off from someone’s touch, the hands-off gesture is as strong as any words.

“Touch will bring you closer (physically and emotionally), so loosen up, warm up, touch more, try *not* to shrink back. The power of touch lies in its being generously proffered. Be the first to offer contact and you’ll not often be rejected,” Zunin concludes.

And you don’t have to be a doctor or social scientist to recognize affection’s positive effects. A hairdresser shares this beauty secret: “Some of my customers come mostly for a little love. Sometimes when I arrive at work in the morning, a few elderly women are lined up outside my door looking as if they’d just come *from* a beauty parlor. Some of them come twice a week for shampoos and sets they don’t need. I know they are there more for physical and human contact than for the hairdo.” The hairdresser listens sympathetically and shows the women affection by taking time to massage their scalps as she applies the shampoo. Frequent squeezes on the shoulders and neck also tell the women someone cares. The women look radiant and somehow younger as they leave. Love has left its beauty mark.

—S.S.

¹ New York: Ballantine Books, 1972

Why God Made Hugs

Everyone was meant to share
God's all-abiding love and care;
He saw that we would need to know
A way to let these feelings show.

So God made hugs—a special sign,
And symbol of His love divine,
A circle of our open arms
To hold in love and keep out harm.

One simple hug can do its part
To warm and cheer another's heart.
A hug's a bit of heaven above
That signifies His perfect love.

—*Jill Wolf*



Greet one another with a kiss of love.

—*Apostle Peter*¹

¹ 1 Peter 5:14

The Greek word for “affection” is often translated in the New Testament as “love,” and it is used in several ways in the New Testament as a term for complete caring, and also as a term for deep love.

It is used in the Gospels when Jesus was “moved with compassion” to heal a leper¹ and when He saw that the people were like weary, scattered sheep that had no shepherd.² It’s used where Paul expresses his love to friends, “God is my record how greatly I long after you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.”³ It’s used in the passage where, shortly before His death and resurrection, Jesus told His followers, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”⁴

—*Joseph Reader*

¹ Mark 1:41

² Matthew 9:36

³ Philippians 1:8

⁴ John 13:34–35

Face Value

You can always drop a little love into the hearts of those you pass by, even if only with a smile or a look of sympathy, and they will know that God has loved them that day.

—D.B.B.



The Difference Is Clear

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, was riding horseback with some companions when they came to a swollen stream. A foot traveler was already there, waiting to ask someone on horseback to give him a ride across the rushing water. The President responded to the man's request, pulled him up onto his horse, and later set him down on the opposite bank.

“Tell me,” asked one of the men with Jefferson, “why did you ask the President to help you across, and not one of us?”

The traveler answered, "I didn't know he was the President. All I know is that on some faces is written the answer no and on some is written the answer yes. He had a yes face."

—*Retold by K.P.*



The shortest distance between two people is a smile.

—*Author unknown*



When love gets in your system, it is bound to break out on your face.

—*Author unknown*



The Value of a Smile

The thing that goes the farthest toward
Making life worthwhile,
That costs the least and does the most,
Is just a pleasant smile.
The smile that bubbles from a heart
That loves its fellow men,
Will drive away the clouds of gloom,
And coax the sun again;
It's full of worth and goodness, too,
With manly kindness blent,
It's worth a million dollars, and
It doesn't cost a cent.

—*Walter D. Nesbit*

It's the Little Things

If you're as fortunate as most of us, you can probably look forward to some extra attention on your birthday and certain other special occasions. But doesn't it make you feel especially loved when, out of the blue, someone does some loving thing for you for no other reason than because he or she loves you?

Why not do the same for others? If you stop to think about it, you'd probably be surprised at how many thoughtful little things you could find to do for others that would cost almost nothing and take almost no time. Want to transform your relationships with family, friends, and workmates? Become a master of the five-minute favor.

—S.S.



Familiar acts are beautiful through love.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Little Things

Oh, it's just the little, homely things,
The unobtrusive, friendly things,
The "Won't-you-let-me-help-you" things
That make the pathway light.
And it's just the jolly, joking things,
The "Laugh-with-me-it's-funny" things,
The "Never-mind-the-trouble" things
That make our world seem bright.

For all the countless, famous things,
The wondrous, record-breaking things,
Those never-can-be-equaled things
That all the papers cite,
Can't match the little, human things,
The "Just-because-I-like-you" things,
Those "Oh-it's-simply-nothing" things,
That make us happy, quite.

So here's to all the little things,
The everyday encountered things,
The "Smile-and-face-your-trouble" things,
"Trust God to put it right,"
The done-and-then-forgotten things,
The "Can't-you-see-I-love-you!" things,
The hearty "I-am-with-you!" things
That make life worth the fight.

—Grace Haines

Love Buzz

A city bus stopped to pick up two frail old ladies. The driver helped the first one on, then jumped down and, with a grin, picked up the frailer of the two and carried her onto the bus.

When the conductor went to take their fares, he found that the women actually wanted to go in the opposite direction. Nothing daunted, the driver stopped the bus and helped them off. Then he held up the traffic, saw them across the road, and waited for a bus to come in the right direction. Everybody in the first bus had to wait. When a bus came along, the first bus driver flagged it down and again helped the two old ladies board.

When he returned to his own bus, he was greeted by a spontaneous burst of applause. As he pulled away from the bus stop, the other passengers all seemed happier. Instead of the previous silence and standoffishness, there was a cheery buzz of conversation as strangers smiled to each other and chatted.

—Retold by K.P.



Take Time for Love

They say that children spell love T-I-M-E—but aren't we *all* like that? Special activities and scheduled times to do things together are great, but so are those little moments when we put down the newspaper, look up from our work, turn off the TV, or stop whatever else we may be doing in order to give someone else our undivided attention. Don't you just love it when others do that for you? Such

simple gestures make us feel loved because they convey that we're important to them.

—S.S.



No Shortcuts

A team of songwriters, musicians, and singers had worked well together on various projects over the space of several years. They were a rather motley crew and had had their share of ups and downs, but had always managed to hang together somehow. So when nearly everyone's inspiration level hit an unprecedented and unexplainable low at the same time, the couple leading the team was naturally concerned. They were Christians who depended a lot on prayer, so they asked God to show them what had gone wrong and how to turn things around.

The answer they received was short and simple: "You've been cutting corners on love." Everyone had gotten so wrapped up in their work that they'd all stopped taking time to show each other love and appreciation—the very things that had made them such a good team in the first place.

The couple explained that to the rest of the team, and together they drew up a list of all the little things they'd stopped saying or doing for each other. Then at the end of the meeting they all prayed that Jesus would help them take more time to show love. Everyone's spirit was immediately boosted and kept there over the months to come by little daily deeds of kindness and caring. It wasn't long before they produced their best music ever.

—K.P.

Being Neighborly

A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him for dead.

Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite [temple assistant], when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan [a man of mixed race, despised and shunned by orthodox religious Jews], as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you."

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?

—*Jesus*¹



With the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help, regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, condition, or location. If we have love, we can't just pass by someone in need; we'll take action, like the Samaritan did. That's the difference between pity and compassion. Pity just feels sorry; compassion does something about it. The compassionate put feet to their prayers and kind deeds to their kind words. Love is making a connection between God and somebody who needs His love, and we do that by showing others His real love and manifesting it by genuine proving action. "The love of Christ compels us."²

—*D.B.B.*



What does love look like? It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. It has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to help the poor and needy. That is what love looks like.

—*Saint Augustine*

¹ Luke 10:29–37 ² 2 Corinthians 5:14

Sympathy and Empathy

To love is to weep with them that weep, to suffer with them that suffer, and to feel the agony of heart with them whose hearts are broken.

—D.B.B.



Everyone has some habit or mannerism that others find annoying. Instead of letting such quirks cause you to be critical and drive a wedge between you and others, try to think about why they're that way. If you put yourself in their place and try to understand them and their background better, you'll almost certainly become more tolerant and understanding of them and find it easier to love them. "If I were in their position now, what would I need or want? What would make me happy or encourage me? What would hurt?" Seek to understand their struggles and fears, and you won't have a hard time connecting with them or loving them. If you find it hard to relate to people this way, ask the Lord for

the gift of empathy—the ability to identify with and understand another person's feelings or difficulties.

—S.S.



What Really Matters

Carl was driving to work one morning when he bumped fenders with another motorist.

Both cars stopped, and the woman driving the other car got out to survey the damage.

She was distraught. It was her fault, she admitted, and hers was a new car—less than two days from the showroom. She dreaded facing her husband.

Carl was sympathetic, but he had to pursue the exchange of license and registration data.

She reached into her glove compartment to retrieve the documents in an envelope.

On the first paper to tumble out, written in her husband's distinctive hand, were these words:

“In case of accident, remember, Honey, it's you I love, not the car.”

—Adapted from Paul Harvey



Cultivating Love and Respect

Charles Schwab was passing through one of his steel mills one day at noon, when he came across some of his employees smoking. Immediately above their heads was a sign that said, “No Smoking.” Did Schwab point to the sign and say, “Can't you read?” Oh, no, not Schwab. He walked over to the men, handed each one a cigar, and said, “I'll appreciate

it, men, if you will smoke these on the outside.” They knew that he knew that they had broken a rule, and they admired him because he said nothing about it and gave them a little present and made them feel important. Couldn’t keep from loving a man like that, could you?

—Dale Carnegie



Walk a Mile in His Shoes

Sometimes good, sometimes bad,
Sometimes happy, sometimes sad,
Everybody sometimes falls and needs a friend.
Sometimes weak, sometimes strong,
Sometimes right, sometimes wrong,
Everybody sometimes falls and needs a friend.

Walk a mile in his shoes.
Don't put down, criticize or accuse.
Take the time to feel the things he's going
through.
See just how it feels to walk a mile in his shoes.

Words can bless, words can curse,
Make things better, make things worse.
Every time you throw some dirt you lose some
ground.
Words can damn, words can save,
Take a weak one, make him brave.
Every time you help someone you gain some
ground.

—Michael Fogarty

Creative Power

Love is not blind; it has an extra spiritual eye that sees the good and possibilities that others cannot see. Love has creative power, because God is love and He is the Creator—and with His help, our faith can also create.

—D.B.B.



Second Chances

Love and trust go hand in hand. When we feel trusted, we feel loved. We all appreciate being on the receiving end, but it's often hard to be the one to trust, especially when we're really not sure the other person will come through. Love tells us to take the gamble. Take, for example, the following true story:

Thomas Edison had his share of disappointments and setbacks on his way to inventing the light bulb but he refused to look at them as failures. "I haven't failed," he told someone midway

in his experiments. “Those were steps on the way. In each attempt, I was successful in finding a way *not* to create a light bulb. I have discovered more than 200 things that will not work. I will soon find one that will.”

Edison also understood that others needed to be trusted and given the same chance to keep trying, in order that they also might someday succeed.

At one point in his experiments, Edison had at last produced a working bulb—the final result of hundreds of trials. It was the first electric light bulb that had ever been made, and Edison was full of pride and delight. He had dreamed of this moment for years.

“Take it upstairs, Jimmy,” he said, handing it to his assistant, Jimmy Price.

Suddenly there was a crash, and Edison turned to see the precious bulb lying in fragments on the floor. Jimmy had let it slip through his fingers.

Edison said nothing. He simply went back to his workbench and began the painstaking, days-long process of making another bulb. At last the second bulb was finished.

Then Edison did a very big thing. With a smile, he handed the new bulb to Jimmy. “Careful now,” he said. He was giving the young man another chance.

—*Retold by K.P.*



Love is a great beautifier.

—*Louisa May Alcott*

Treat a man as if he already were what he potentially could be, and you make him what he should be.

—*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*



You Build Me Up

No one has as much influence on me
Or lifts my thoughts and moods as much
As you do.
How much you build me up!

You praise, you encourage,
You cheer, you applaud,
You smile, you appreciate,
You hug, you exalt,
You compliment, you admire.

No one has as much influence on me
Or lifts my thoughts and moods as much
As you do.
How much you build me up!

You honor, you commend,
You approve, you affirm,
You congratulate, you love,
You sympathize, you attest,
You shout for joy.

No one has as much influence on me
Or lifts my thoughts and moods as much
As you do.
How much you build me up!

—*Author unknown*

Tell him he's wonderful, and he'll be wonderful. Tell her she's beautiful and she'll be beautiful.

—*D.B.B.*

Love Never Fails

Love cannot fail! It makes no difference where it is bestowed, it always brings in big returns. You can't give without getting, you can't reward without receiving in return—and the more you give, the more you get. It multiplies, like the five loaves of bread and two small fish that fed thousands, or the last bit of oil and handful of meal that saw three people through three years of famine.¹

—D.B.B.



There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer, no disease that enough love will not heal. No door that enough love will not open, no gulf that enough love will not bridge. No wall that enough love will not throw down, no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the out-

¹ Matthew 14:15–21; 1 Kings 17:10–16

look, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. Sufficient love will dissolve it all.

—Emmett Fox



Do you want the key to every heart? Try love! It never fails, because God *is* love, and it's impossible for Him to fail!

—D.B.B.



The Love Chapter

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become [like] sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
But when that which is perfect has come, then
that which is in part will be done away.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

—*Apostle Paul*¹

¹ 1 Corinthians 13

Love Begets Love

Love is the one treasure that multiplies by division. It is the one gift that grows bigger the more you take from it. It is the one business in which it pays to be an absolute spendthrift. Give it away! Throw it away! Splash it over! Empty your pockets! Shake the basket! Turn the glass upside down!—And tomorrow you will have more than ever.

—*Author unknown*



Everybody has influence. One person walking in love will encourage others to do likewise. If you'll only show love, someone else will catch the same spirit. It's such a catching thing—love in action—and it spreads from heart to heart. If we shine forth with enough love, others will reflect it.

—*D.B.B.*

Love can cause marvelous chain reactions. As one person reaches out to love another, it sets in motion a chain reaction of love that continues and continues and continues. A single loving deed, a loving word, or even a loving thought, is all it takes. Love begets love.

—S.S.



Loving-kindness is twice blessed; it blesses him who gives and him who receives.

—*Author unknown*



Pretense?—Or Reality?

While on a hunting trip with his father, twenty-year-old Henry Fawcett was blinded in both eyes when his father accidentally fired his shotgun. Before the accident, Henry had been a bright, ambitious young man with a promising future. No one would have blamed him if he'd become depressed and bitter after the accident—and he almost did. But one thing saved him: Henry deeply loved his father, who was nearly out of his mind with grief at what he had done to his son.

The only way Henry could save his father's sanity was to choose hope over despair, and that's just what he did. He pretended to be cheerful, even though he was miserable. He pretended to take an interest in life that he did not feel. He pretended to have hope that he could still lead a successful and useful life, even when he felt no such hope.

Then an odd thing happened. The pretense turned into reality. It was as if, by an act of will, he had exorcised an evil spirit. The “new” Henry Fawcett was later elected to the British Parliament. Later, at the request of the Prime Minister, William Gladstone, he became postmaster general and greatly improved the English postal and telegraph systems.

—Retold by K.P.



Sure Cure

One morning as a nurse was walking to work, she noticed a frail, stooped, elderly man hurrying in the same direction. She wondered where he was going in such a hurry at such an hour, and whether it was safe for him to be out alone considering his obviously declining physical state.

Later that day, the nurse was surprised to see the same old man walking down a corridor in the large hospital where she worked. It turned out that he was not there for treatment, as she first supposed, but had come to cheer and help others.

The two talked, and the old man told her that several months earlier, while sitting home alone with only his aches and pains for company, he had had an unexpected and unusual thought: How much better it would be to get out and *do* something. Surely there were others worse off than him, whom he could help.

He had acted on that thought, gone to the hospital, and offered to work as a volunteer. By the time this nurse met him, he had already been coming

two mornings each week to help in whatever way he could. He enjoyed interacting with the staff, the patients and their families, and had a lot to give them in the way of colorful stories and wizened advice from a lifetime of ups and downs. By helping others, he had been able to forget his own health problems; and in giving of himself, he had found a new lease on life.

—*Retold by K.P.*



The person who sows seeds of love and kindness enjoys a perpetual harvest.

—*Author unknown*



There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

—*King Solomon*¹

¹ Proverbs 11:24–25

Outgoing Love

Show genuine love and concern for people, and you won't have a hard time winning friends. People can't help but be drawn to a person with a loving demeanor. People who like others are the people others like. When you follow the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you," people will be drawn to you like bees to honey. Sooner or later, they'll respond in kind. That's one of the perks of knowing and loving Jesus, and of following His Golden Rule.

—S.S.



True happiness comes not in your personal pursuit of selfish pleasure and satisfaction, but in finding God and giving His life to others and bringing them happiness. Then happiness pursues and overtakes and overwhelms you personally without even seeking it for yourself. Look for someone to

make happy, and then happiness will find you. Get so busy trying to make somebody else happy you can't help but be happy. Show others unselfish love and concern and they'll love you more than they ever loved anybody.

—D.B.B.



Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people.
2. Smile at people.
3. Call people by name.
4. Be friendly and helpful.
5. Be cordial.
6. Be interested in people.
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of others' feelings.
9. Be thoughtful of others' opinions.
10. Be predisposed to serve.

—Author unknown



Let's love one another more. Let's do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Let's let the Lord's love shine through us more, and be manifested in more forgiveness, understanding, communication, sharing, support, sympathy, affection, and practical, loving, caring action!

Let's give of our time, be a listening ear, and open our hearts and lives to others. Let's be swift to forgive and forget. Let's do our best to be our

brother's keeper. Let's not hold back the simple affection that so wonderfully communicates the Lord's love. Let's try with all our hearts to set a good example. Let's be a strong shoulder to lean on or cry on. Let's not jump to conclusions or judge unfairly, but instead give the benefit of the doubt to those who are struggling. Let's bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill God's supreme law: love. Let's be examples of the Lord's unconditional love.

—*Maria David*

Selfless Love

Love prefers the happiness of others to your own.

—D.B.B.



“He Expected It of Me”

There is a story about two brothers who enlisted in the Army during World War I, and asked to be assigned to the same unit. They were soon sent to the frontline, to the trenches. In trench warfare, each side digs a network of trenches along the front-line of their territory, then lays siege to the other side’s trenches. From time to time, one side or the other launches an offensive to try to break through the enemy’s lines. During one such attack, the younger brother was mortally wounded in no man’s land—that exposed, deadly area between the opposing forces.

The older brother, still safe in the trench, saw it happen and knew instinctively what he must do. He worked his way through the trench, around other soldiers, until he came to his field commander. "I've got to go get him!" the older brother called out over the din of battle.

"That's impossible!" his commander fired back. "You'll be killed the minute you stick your head out of this trench!"

But the older brother tore himself loose from the officer's grip, scrambled out of the trench and plunged into no man's land to find his brother, amid withering fire from the enemy.

When he did, the younger brother could only manage a whisper. "I knew you'd come!"

By this time, the older brother had also been seriously wounded. He barely managed to drag his brother back to their lines, where they both fell into the trench, dying.

"Why did you do it?!" asked the commander, himself at the point of tears. "I told you you'd get yourself killed too!"

"I *had* to do it!" the older brother replied with a final smile. "He expected it of me. I couldn't let him down!"

—Retold by D.B.B.



Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

—Jesus¹

¹ John 15:13

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us.”¹ And the real test of any love is what it is prepared to “lay down.” How much is it ready to spend? [Real] love is always laying down its life for others.

—*J.H. Jowett*



Noble Disagreement

In the city of Weimar, Germany, there is a statue that was set up in 1857. It is of two of Germany's great writers, who were friends—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) and Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759–1805).

While both men were still living, critics and the public often raised the question of which was the greater writer. If Goethe heard people say, “Sir, you are the master poet of the Germans,” he was quick to rejoin, “You must not forget Schiller!” And when they praised Schiller as the finest German poet, Schiller would say, “But there is my friend Goethe.”

The sculptor of the statue of Weimar expressed their mutual love and admiration beautifully. Goethe has a wreath of laurel leaves in his hand, which he is raising to place on Schiller's head. But Schiller does not want the crown. He thinks Goethe deserves it more, and is thrusting it back, as if to say, “No, it is more fitting for you to wear it than me.” Thus the two friends nobly disagree, each refusing to be crowned, for in their hearts they loved each other and appreciated each other's talent.

—*Retold by K.P.*

¹ | John 3:16 KJV

Love's Prerogative

Love ever gives—
Forgives—outlives—
And ever stands
With open hands.
And while it lives,
It gives.
For this is Love's prerogative—
To give—and give—and give.

—*John Oxenham*



Love never reasons, but profusely gives; gives,
like a thoughtless prodigal, its all, and trembles then
lest it has done too little.

—*Hannah More*

God's Simple Request: Love

When someone asked Jesus what was God's greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "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 neighbor as yourself'."¹ As far as God is concerned, love is the supreme virtue. Love is the most important thing.

God doesn't ask us to be perfect; He doesn't ask us to be free from mistakes; He doesn't ask us to do great things that the world will hear of. He just asks us to love others. If we're filled with His love, we'll naturally say and do the right things, which will, of course, make God and others and ourselves happy. But if we *don't* have love, we won't be able to please

¹ Matthew 22:37-39

God no matter how hard we try or how many good deeds we do, and we'll probably not be able to make anyone else happy either, including ourselves.

If you feel you don't have that kind of love, just ask God to give it to you. There's no prayer He would rather answer.

—S.S.



Let all that you do be done with love.

—*Apostle Paul*¹



Where love reigns, there is no need for laws.

—*Plato*

¹ 1 Corinthians 16:14

Barriers to Love

By Shannon Shayler

If we can do so much good by showing love to others, and if we ourselves can gain so much in the process, why don't we do it more? Why do we often fail to say and do the loving things we know we should? What stands in our way?

Pride

A main obstacle is our *pride*—you know, that sensitive little nerve somewhere deep inside that most of us will do almost anything to keep from getting hurt. All too often, it seems, we don't show love because we're afraid it will backfire. We fear rejection, and that makes us overly concerned about what others may think. Perhaps they'll think we're being too forward. Perhaps they'll think we're being insincere. Perhaps they'll think we have selfish motives. Perhaps they'll feel put on the spot—that they have to reciprocate, even if they'd rather not.

So how do we overcome our pride?—The same way we overcome our fear of diving boards: by taking the plunge!



Love is stronger than pride, because love doesn't care what people think. It just loves anyway.
—D.B.B.



The truly loving are truly humble, and the truly humble are truly loving, because humility and love are inseparable. You cannot have real love and not be humble, and you cannot have genuine humility without a lot of love. It takes humility to be affectionate, and it takes humility to receive affection.

This is true even of our relationship with God. Once we have been told that God loves us and that Jesus died for us out of love, we have to humble ourselves to receive His love. Love is a humbling thing!

—D.B.B.

Shyness

Here's another roadblock—and it really comes down to pride, once again. So many people live without love because they're too shy to make the first move—like the could-have-been couple in this sad tale:

Once upon a time there was a little girl who spent her days sitting beside a pond watching a frog on a lily pad. Now the little girl knew that the frog

was probably a prince. And the frog, who was indeed a prince, knew that the little girl could kiss his nose and break the magic spell that had been cast upon him by a wicked witch. But the little girl on the bank of the pond was too shy to begin a conversation with a frog, and the frog could simply not bring himself to tell her how badly he wanted her to kiss his nose. So the little girl went on sitting there watching the frog, and that is the end of the story.

Take the plunge!

Busyness

If you could observe people from all walks of life for one day and make note of every missed opportunity to give a little love, and then ask them later where they think they went wrong, most would probably say that they were simply too busy. The world has speeded up tremendously in the last few generations, and nearly everyone is under terrific pressure to get ahead, stay ahead, or try to catch up—often at the cost of the things that really matter most in life. Survey after survey has found that people value the love, support, purpose, and the sense of fulfillment they derive from family and friends more than material success, but the same surveys find the same people complaining they never have enough time to spend with family and friends.

The solution is simple, but not always easy: If it's a priority, treat it like a priority. Remind yourself each morning and throughout the day that you're going to put people ahead of material gain or getting things done. Try to make every encounter with

everyone you come in contact with a positive one. That usually doesn't take more than a smile, a compliment, or a word of sympathy—and it usually doesn't interfere with what you're doing or cause you to get less done. In fact, your work will probably go smoother and seem far less stressful. Before long, you'll see people light up when you enter the room, and those smiles, compliments, and kind words will come back to you. What's more, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you made someone's day or job or life better—and that's a real accomplishment!



If you're too busy to show love to those around you, you're busier than God Himself.

—D.B.B.

Selfishness

If we could learn to look at people and situations the way God does and then act accordingly, how differently we would do things! Just about everyone has heard the biblical maxim, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." Most of us agree in principle, but it's often another case of easier said than done.

What we need to remember is that God never expects us to do anything He knows we can't, without His help. He wouldn't tell us to love unselfishly if He weren't right there with us to help us do just that. This is where faith comes in. If we really *believe* what He tells us, we *act* on it—even if it's con-

trary to our natural reasoning or the way the world around us operates. And when we do, we reap the innumerable and incomparable rewards God has reserved for those who love unselfishly. It may not pay off immediately or in dollars and cents, but you won't be sorry. Sooner or later God will more than make it up to you! Even the seeming sacrifices aren't sacrifices. They're investments that will someday pay big dividends.



One morning, I called on two women who were in the same Miami, Florida, hospital. In Marie Smith's room there were flowers in abundance and all sorts of cards and beautiful little gifts. Marie was just surrounded by those thoughtful little offers of kindness. But that had been her life, for through the years she had sown love and thoughtfulness in the lives of others. Now it was coming back to her in her hour of need.

In the other room a woman was lying alone, bitterness and suspicion written on every feature of her face. Selfishness and criticalness had ruined her life. There she was, lying with her face turned to the wall. She had built around herself a wall of friendlessness, coldness, hardness of heart, and selfishness, and now she was shut in alone as she faced death.

Oh, what a difference in those two rooms!

—*Virginia Brandt Berg*

Familiarity

When most couples vow “for better or worse,” in the starry-eyed magic of the moment they can only imagine their lives together getting better and better. New parents take one long, deep look into the eyes of their baby and vow to never hurt or disappoint the child. Children promise to stay best friends forever. Doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, missionaries, and others dedicate their lives to serving others. It’s love—that superglue of families, friendships, and every other good thing—that inspires such commitment. Why, then, do married couples squabble? Why do parents nag, belittle, and get impatient? Why do friends drift apart? Why does the inspiration to selflessly serve wane?

Familiarity is often to blame. As time passes, we become familiar with the people we are closest to, and we stop valuing and treating them like we should. The wear and tear of daily living takes its toll, and the bright newness of once-treasured relationships begins to fade. Up close and personal, everyone’s flaws and wrinkles begin to show. Routines become ruts. Our once-prized blessings begin to weigh on us.

Sound familiar? Then it’s time to reverse the trend. That will take a conscious effort and may not be easy, especially if the problem has been going on for some time, but it *can* be done. Count your blessings. Remind yourself of all the things about the other person that drew you to them in the first place. Then put yourself in their position and ask the same question. The quickest and surest way to return the shine to any tarnished relationship is to polish your half. Get busy being the person you set

out to be at the start, and the other party will almost certainly follow suit without direct prompting.

And remember, God specializes in fresh starts. “If anyone is in Christ,” the Bible tells us, “he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”¹ That’s a promise about salvation, but it’s also a promise for everyday living. God will revitalize and renew any relationship if we ask Him to start with us.



The elderly couple had been married for many years—so many years, in fact, that they knew each other’s thoughts. At least that’s how they each rationalized why they’d stopped talking to each other. One night as they sat on their porch taking in a beautiful sunset, both were touched by the scene, but neither said a word. The husband thought to himself later, *What a soul-stirring sight that was! It was all I could do to keep from telling Marge how much I love her!* Let’s not let familiarity rob us of opportunities to tell those closest to us how much they mean to us.

—Retold by K.P.

Resentment

Bitterness and resentment can build walls between people faster than almost anything, and it often starts with relatively small matters. Another person does something to hurt or wrong us, and we hold it against them. That’s the first brick. They do

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:17

it again, and we add a second brick. Now that we know what to look for, the offenses—and bricks—mount quickly. Soon just thinking about that person seems to justify another brick. Before long, we can't even see the other person. All we can see is the wall.

One of the worst things about resentment is that it's self-justifying. "Okay, so I'm not perfect either and share some of the blame, but what he did to me was much worse!" But when we harbor resentment, we're the real losers. It not only cuts us off from the person we resent, but resentment's destructive nature is such that it can't be contained to one relationship. Those negative feelings spill over into other relationships. Walls go up on other sides, and we become isolated in our unhappiness.

Bring in the wrecking ball: Forgive.

If you can't find it in yourself to do that, follow these steps:

1. Make a list of the other person's good qualities and strong points.

2. Go back to the beginning and try to understand why the person acted in the way you resent. Were they deliberately trying to hurt you? If your positions were reversed, would you have acted differently under the circumstances?

3. Acknowledge that your resentment is just as serious a problem as whatever the other person did wrong, then ask God to forgive you, take away the resentment, and renew your positive feelings about that person. You can't rid yourself of resentment by an act of your will, and you can't work up love—you need God's help.

Now bring in the wrecking ball.



A woman once enumerated her husband's faults to a divorce court judge. She simply couldn't live with "that man" one day more, she said. On and on she went.

Finally she paused to catch her breath, and the judge asked, "Well, why did you marry him in the first place? You must have liked *something* about him then. What was it?"

"Well," the wife said, "he was a good man, a hard worker, and a faithful provider. He was also kind to children, and he was loyal."

"Isn't he still all those things?" asked the judge.

"Well, yes," the wife replied in a huff, "but..." And then she started to repeat her grievances. "He's terrible! He throws his clothes on the floor. He never puts anything away. He's always late for dinner. He's hard to get up in the morning. He picks his nose in public. He fusses if I burn the toast. ..."—All were relatively insignificant offenses.

"Very well then," said the judge. "Here's my preliminary ruling: Go home and think about those good qualities for which you first loved him, and try not to think about the things he does that peeve you. If after 30 days you still want the divorce, come back."

The judge never saw the woman again.

—Adapted from D.B.B.

Loneliness Goodbye!

Everything was perfect for Adam in the Garden of Eden, *except...* What it was, he couldn't quite find words to describe. He had no complaints. God had lovingly provided everything for him in this heavenly paradise. Everything was beautiful and wonderful, *except...* Adam had a strange empty, achy feeling deep inside.

God had put that feeling there to show Adam that he was never going to be truly happy, even with all those beautiful things, until he had someone like himself with whom he could *share* them. So God decreed, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a companion."¹ And not long after that, Adam got his Eve.

There are now billions of Adams and Eves, but the world can still be a lonely place. Someone wryly described city life as "millions of people being lonesome together." That's humorous, but true. Just having a lot of people around won't necessarily relieve

¹ Genesis 2:18 TLB

loneliness, because loneliness comes from being *insulated* from others, not only *isolated*. And it's often self-inflicted. People build walls around themselves, and then complain of loneliness. They build walls instead of bridges.

So what's the "cure" for loneliness? It's summed up in the adage, "To love others makes us happy; to love ourselves makes us lonely." Consider this true story:

There was once a very lonely woman who was always seeking a new lover, but never finding one that satisfied or lasted or that relieved her loneliness. Why? Because she was always seeking to *get* love, to receive love, to be loved. Then one day someone suggested that perhaps she was going about it all wrong: She needed to learn to *give* love and to love unselfishly for the benefit and happiness of another. In all of her years of searching, this thought had never occurred to her. She tried it, and soon found what she had been looking for all the time—true love!

—Adapted from D.B.B.



Anybody can find love if he or she has love. If you show people real love, you won't have a hard time winning friends. If you're sincerely concerned about others and show them love, they'll be concerned about you and show you love. Love begets love. If you sow love, you're going to reap love. If you sow friendship, you're going to reap friendship.¹ It's a two-way street.

¹ Galatians 6:7

There are many others around you who are just as lonely and longing for love as you are. They're probably just waiting for you to make the first move. Step out and try to make someone else happy, and you'll find a whole new world of love you've only dreamed of.

If you *give* love you'll *get* love! That's God's system; that's God's rule. God will make you happy if you make others happy. It's that simple!

—D.B.B.

Love That's Bigger Than Ours

Jesus tells us: “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.”¹

Easier said than done, you may say. You're not even sure you *want* to love those who have hurt or wronged you. After all, they don't deserve it. You'd just as soon distance yourself from that cranky boss, that former friend who hurt you, that co-worker who talked about you behind your back.

¹ Matthew 5:44–48

One of the most wonderful things about God's love is that it can override our sometimes all-too-human reactions and prejudices. He may not be happy about some of the things some people do or the way they do them, but He still loves *them*. Isn't that the way He is with us? He never stops loving us no matter what our faults and flaws, and in spite of what we do. He never rejects us or withdraws His love. He always has hope for us, no matter how far we've strayed.

That's the sort of love He wants us to have for others, and it's ours for the asking. "Love will cover a multitude of sins."¹ God will give you as much grace and love to forgive others as you ask Him for.
—S.S.



He that cannot forgive others breaks down the bridge over which he must pass himself, for every man has need of forgiveness.

—*Author unknown*



Where shall we get the love wherewith to make our enemy lovely? From the great Lover Himself. "We love, because He first loved us."² The great Lover will love love into us, and we, too, shall become fountains of love.

—*J.H. Jowett*

¹ 1 Peter 4:8

² 1 John 4:19 NIV

Love On, O Heart, Love On!

If wounded by some critic's word,
 Or hurt by tongues that utter lies;
 If false reports on you are heard
 By those who watch with faithless eyes,
 Don't seek revenge and rise to strike
 And think your foes will soon be gone,
 Or hope that God your pluck will like,
 But love, O heart, love on, love on!

Love on in spite of wounding darts,
 In spite of what the critics say;
 Love men through grace that God imparts
 When at the feet of Christ you pray.
 The way of love will bring you out,
 Though dark the night before the dawn;
 Then keep in faith and shun the doubt,
 And love, O heart, love on, love on!

—Walter E. Isenhour



Love covers over all wrongs.

—King Solomon¹



Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiv-
 ing one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

—Apostle Paul²



Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender
 look which becomes a habit.

—Peter Ustinov

¹ Proverbs 10:12 NIV

² Ephesians 4:32

The Source of True Love

God created us with the need to love and be loved, and He alone can satisfy the deepest yearning of every human soul for total love and complete understanding. The things of this earth can satisfy the body, but only God and His eternal love can ever fill that aching spiritual void in our hearts that He created for Himself alone. The human spirit can never be completely satisfied with anything less than utter union with the great and loving Spirit that created it.

“God is love.”¹ He is the very Spirit of love itself, true love, everlasting love, real love, genuine love that never ends from a Lover who never leaves, the Lover of all lovers, God Himself. He’s pictured in His Son, Jesus, who came for love and lived in love and died for love that we might live and love forever. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only be-

¹ 1 John 4:8

gotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”¹

—D.B.B.



When we find Jesus and receive Him as our Savior, we make direct, personal contact with the Creator and Source of love—God Himself. New worlds of love open to us. Our perception of love in its many human forms deepens and gets better. But there's even more than that in store for us: We can experience the supernatural love of God that far surpasses any earthly loves.

To receive God's love in Jesus, all you have to do is open your heart and ask Him to come in. Jesus promised, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."² He waits lovingly and meekly at your heart's door, not forcing Himself upon you, not pushing the door open, but waiting for you to simply ask Him in. If you haven't yet done so, you can right now by praying a simple prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I need Your love to cleanse me from past wrongs. I now open my heart and I ask You to come into my life. Please fill me to overflowing with Your love. Amen.

¹ John 3:16

² Revelation 3:20

When you have done this, your life will be changed. Like a newborn baby, you'll be born into a whole new world of love you have only dreamed of. He can give you a whole lifetime of love—all the love you'll ever need to live your days to the full and come through any situation victoriously—but He can't give it to you all at once. Jesus and His love are always there for you, but you need to keep coming back for more. You need to let Him fill you up daily—sometimes even hour by hour or moment by moment.

As you spend time praying to Jesus, reading His Word, and listening to His voice in your heart, He will impart His love to you, and it will become part of you. Little by little you will become more like Him. You'll become more loving; His love will spill out of you on others. As you grow and mature in His love, His Spirit within you will enable you to do the humanly impossible: love God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself.¹

—S.S.



His love for you is unconditional. No matter how weak or disheartened you may feel right now, or disappointed in yourself or others, He still loves you. His great, perfect, marvelous, unconditional love is not lessened, no matter *what* the circumstances or conditions. He keeps pouring it on and pouring it on without measure and without limit. His love is so beautiful!

¹ Matthew 22:37–39

His love is always there for us, pouring forth in full measure, gushing forth in such abundance! And we can experience that love; we can have it manifested in our lives as much as we desire, according to our obedience and yieldedness to Him. He's always looking for ways to show His love, if we'll just let Him. He's just waiting for us to make a way, an avenue for His love to pour forth, and we do that by staying close to Him, by loving Him and doing the things that He wants us to do.

—*Maria David*



If people could just understand the magnitude of the Lord's love—how truly unconditional it is, how vast and deep and wide and unending it is—it would solve so many of their problems. They would find freedom from so many of their fears and worries and condemnation. If they could just understand that, then they'd know that everything is going to work out, that He is going to cause everything to work together for good, because He is in control of every detail and His hand on their lives is so perfectly loving.

—*D.B.B.*



Living in the Lord's Love

Love is like a stream. Some days it flows and rushes, for there is plenty. On other days it trickles and you can see it bouncing against the rocks. But even when love is dry and has lost its flow and lies nearly empty on the muddy bottom, there is more love to come.

We remember how Jesus loved, how He forgave, and how He reached out to show He cared. By using Jesus as the Source of love, we can fill up the stream again. Life has the extra dimension found in Jesus Christ. He is the Authority on love. Jesus loves when love is hard. He loves when love is rejected. He loves when love makes little sense. Jesus loves when others would quit. Jesus loves when others are ugly. Jesus loves when others are cold. Jesus loves when others are unworthy.

And when we feel that love has dried up, we reach out to Him, and learn to love again.

—*Author unknown*

Ambassadors of Love

Through His children, God is trying to show the world what He is like. Jesus said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”¹ Jesus came to love the world, and He calls us to do likewise in every facet of life, in every way—to give God’s love to others. The only way that others will ever find His joy and peace and love and happiness and Heaven is through us. No matter where we are from, if we have Jesus, we are now His ambassadors and represent the King of kings, the One who runs the universe.

What was Jesus’ last message to His disciples at the Last Supper, just before He was arrested, taken to jail, beaten, and killed? “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”² He talked about *love*, that love was the most important thing!

Wouldn’t it have been enough for them to simply *tell* others about the love of Jesus? Couldn’t the

¹ John 20:21

² John 13:35

Lord just as well have said, “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you preach My message”? Evidently not. It’s not good enough to just *talk* about love. Jesus said His disciples had to *have* love; they had to *live* love. He knew that there would be no denying that sample.

And those first Christians turned the world upside down with the love of God. The way they lived convinced others that their faith was real. “Look at how these Christians love one another!” Even their Roman persecutors marveled and asked, “Who is this Christ, and how does He make you so happy? Even though you have nothing, you’ve got everything! How can I find this kind of happiness too?” And within 200 years, one out of five people in the Western world were professing Christians.

May we also be known by our love!

—D.B.B.



Our main purpose in life ought to be, as Martin Luther said, “to love God and enjoy Him forever”—and I might add, to help others enjoy life by helping them find and experience God’s love too.

—D.B.B.



Just a little love can go a long way—much further than you would have ever dreamed.

—D.B.B.

Love is the Christian's ID card.

—*Author unknown*



I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God.

—*Mother Teresa*



Ambassador to One

In *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo tells of Jean Valjean, whose only crime was the theft of a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving children. After nineteen years of imprisonment, he was released. Unable to find work because he had been a convict, he came to the home of an old bishop who kindly fed Jean supper and gave him a bed for the night.

In deep despair over what seemed an impossibly bleak future, Jean yielded to temptation, stole the bishop's silver plates, and slipped away in the night. He was soon caught, however, and hauled back to the bishop's house. The kind bishop knew very well what would happen to Jean if he was convicted again of stealing, so he said without hesitation, "Why, I *gave* the plates to him. And Jean, you forgot to take the candlesticks." Jean was astounded at such kindness. From that moment on, Jean was a different man.

—*Retold by K.P.*

So many people are always searching for love, but seldom, if ever, finding it. People everywhere are looking around for some little ray of hope, some salvation, some bright spot somewhere, a little love, a little mercy, someplace where they can find some relief. We who have found God and His love have what others have been searching for all their lives and need desperately, and if we can show them that *love* exists, then they can believe that God exists, because “God is love.”¹

Even the little things you do can mean a lot. The light of your smile, the kindness of your face, the influence of your life can shed light on many and have an amazing effect among some of the people you sometimes think might be the least likely to be impressed. When they feel your love and you tell them it’s God’s love, they think, *Maybe Somebody up there does love me!* It can change their whole outlook on life and give them a new start!

—D.B.B.

¹ 1 John 4:8

About Those Quoted

The following descriptions are given mainly for the purpose of clear identification of those quoted in this booklet. Where no information is listed after a certain name, no information about that person could be ascertained.

Alcott, Louisa May (1832–1888), U.S. author

Augustine, Saint (354–430), early Christian church father and philosopher

Berg, David Brandt (1919–1994), American pastor and writer, founder of The Family, a worldwide missionary movement

Berg, Virginia Brandt (1886–1968), American evangelist and pastor

Carnegie, Dale (1888–1955), American educator and writer

Fogarty, Michael (b. 1952), American songwriter and musician

Fontaine, Maria (b. 1946), co-founder and current head of the worldwide missionary movement, The Family.

Fox, Emmett (1886–1951), scientist, philosopher, author

Gabor, Eva (1919–1995), Hungarian-born U.S. actress

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von (1749–1832), German writer and scientist

Grellet, Stephen (1773–1855), French-born American Quaker

Guest, Edgar A. (1881–1959), British-born poet

Harvey, Paul (b. 1918), American radio commentator

Hugo, Victor (1802–1885), French writer

Isenhour, Walter E. (1889–19??), Christian Author

Johnson, Samuel (1709–1784), English writer

Jowett, J.H. (1864–1923), British preacher and author

Lowell, James Russell (1819–1891), American editor, poet, and diplomat

Luther, Martin (1483–1546), German theologian and leader of the Reformation

More, Hannah (1745–1843), British writer

Oxenham, John (1852–1941), British poet

Papini, Giovanni (1881–1956), Italian philosopher

Pascal, Blaise (1623–1662), French philosopher and mathematician

Phillips, Keith (b. 1948), American-born missionary

Plato (c. 427–347 B.C.), Greek philosopher

Reader, Joseph (b. 1951), American-born missionary

Shannon Shayler (b. 1975), American-born missionary

Shelley, Percy Bysshe (1792–1822), English poet

Teresa, Mother (1910–1997), Albanian-born Roman Catholic missionary

Ustinov, Sir Peter (b. 1921), British actor, writer, director

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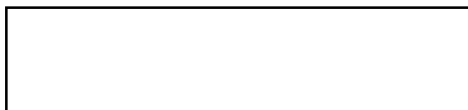
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