



God's Perfect Love: Amazing, Available, and Applicable

God's love is one of the characteristics of His very Being (God is love . . . 1 John 4:8). His love is obviously perfect and beyond our full comprehension in this life. Only when believers are in the presence of Jesus in the life to come will we be able to fully understand and appreciate God's perfect love. As we now live by His grace in obedience to His Word, our comprehension of His love can grow proportionately.

GOD'S LOVE IS AMAZING

The amazing aspect of God's perfect love is revealed in His Word and in His Son.

John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:7-8, For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:9-10, In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

GOD'S LOVE IS AVAILABLE

There is absolutely nothing that can separate a child of God from His love. Due to this fact, God's love is continually available to all believers in every situation of life.

Romans 8:38-39, For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Believers grow in Christ by divine enablement and, in the process, are further assured of God's love as they confidently journey to their eternal destination.

Jude 1:20-21, But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

GOD'S LOVE IS APPLICABLE

The love of God is expressed by believers in various ways.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never fails...

Believers, assured of God's unfailing love, can be confident of divine assistance as they serve in ways that honor Him and bless others.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Believers respond to God's love by loving others and, in the process, God's love is perfected (matured) within them.

1 John 4:19, We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:11-12, Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Believers also have the love of God perfected within them as they obey His Word.

1 John 2:4-6, Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

God's love casts out fear of divine judgment to come, and believers perfected in love have no fear of future punishment.

1 John 4:17-18, By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Those who do not love demonstrate that they do not know God.

1 John 4:7-8, Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Those who confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God (who died to provide divine forgiveness of sins) know and believe in God's love and abide in Him.

1 John 4:15-16, Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God's love is the basis for you to live and love now, and God's love remains the basis for you to live and love in the life to come. God's love is truly amazing, available, and applicable to every aspect of life for now and forever.