

Experiencing Love

“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

What do you know about love? Have you experienced the greatest love?

1. **Husband and Wife:** Man and woman look to each other with Eros love to satisfy their instinct and body desire, with reciprocal love to satisfy each other’s needs and dreams. In their youth, each one of them searches for partner. The man searches for a suitable wife to be his true helper to stand with him in building the family and to bear and care for their children. He looks to qualities and criteria that fits his desire and satisfies his plan to have a successful home and family. And the woman does the same. She waits patiently for the best one who knocks at her door to ask her for marriage. Actually, there is a perfect partner for every man or woman to build a family. Although they try to search and reach for someone, they watch and see for the best quality and they may apply their principles like when purchasing valuable things, regarding marriage we cannot say better than this: **“Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.” (Proverbs 19:14)** As God brought the woman for Adam, He is doing the same for every man. As God join Adam and Eve as perfect partners, He is doing the same to these days. The husband and wife would live together as love and faithfulness binds them. Yet, they need to work and struggle to bring success in building their family and raising their children.
2. **Parents and Children:** After a baby is born to her mother, he grows as an infant on the mother’s lap. She feeds him from her breast; she gives him from her warmth and comforts him with her touch. She carries him with her arms like a precious thing near to her heart. She loves him and nothing is equal to her love for her child. And the child grows between his mother’s and father’s arms. They play with him and when he sits they support him. As he crawls they watch over him, they follow and run after him. As he stands and walks they take him by the hand. They embrace him with great joy, and the child delights in his parents’ caring and loving arms. He hangs on them and appeals to carry him. When he is hungry, he cries and they respond to him. Everything he needs he asks from them. When one of his parents is not there, he starts to ask about them. He misses them if they are not there; he feels lonely, deserted, and even cries for them. Equally, the parents have the same feeling toward their child. They always think about him and his future. They have great love to him because he is part of their life. The child captivates every aspect of the parents’ mind and heart, and what a great emotion they have for him? Likewise, the child has the same love to his parents. He feels he belong to them and he totally depends on them in every aspect of his life. This love is due to the belongingness and dependency, and it continues even after the child has reached the adult life.

We presented the above two relationships because we cannot illustrate to you any better than these examples that speak about love. We spoke briefly about some details of these relations and honestly we did not mention many details because our aim is to bring your attention to the most affectionate and loving area of human life; to experience the greatest love.

We may describe love with many values but the question is, “Is this love perfect?” Perfect love must be continuous. It is to the maximum all the time, from the beginning to the end. It is unconditional; it is always the greatest and does not depend on circumstances. Whether the other part is bad or good, it remains the same; faithful, enduring, priceless, without waiting for a return.

But how can we experience such a perfect love? The greatest love come from God alone. **“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” (1 John 5:16)** The only source to know this love is the Bible. The love of God is the wisdom that gives guidance and direction. The love of God is the safeguard to maintain good relation and peace between men. There is no perfect human relation with out knowing and experiencing the greatest love of God that completely binds and upholds them. Even husband and wife, or parents and children relationship is liable at any moment to break down with out the perfect love of God that joins them. The love of God is the true inspiration for the perfect plan to every man’s life. **“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)**

The love of God to us is constant, unconditional, and whoever or whatever we are, His love to us remains the same. **“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed”, says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)** To help us to experience that love, God has sent His son Jesus. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)**

Jesus came to save us. In spite of man’s sin and being unworthy, He accepted to die instead of us on the cross in order that we who are sinners will be made innocent and righteous in God’s sight by the blood of Jesus. God brought us to life again when He offered His son for us as the Bible declares. **“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)** The Lord Jesus is inviting everyone to experience that love as He says, **“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for his friends.” (John 15:13)** Man is reaching God through Jesus Christ. He is calling you a ‘friend’. His love changes our lives. **“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in Him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.” (1 John 4:15,16a)**

With this true love of God, we have no fear from difficulties or worries but have the peace and joy; no fear from death or judgment but instead we have the assurance of eternal life. **“In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4: 17,18)**

My dear and beloved: Every day of our life we must live as sustained by God’s love. And this is our prayer and wish that it will be yours as well. **“Father God in heaven, thank You for Your love to me. I thank You, my friend Jesus, for You gave Your life on the cross for me. O Lord God, captivate me with Your love; filled with Your Spirit and be always with me. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name,” Amen.**