

February 2018 Prayer Focus: Love

Theme: Agape' Love: Loving God, Loving Others and Loving Ourselves

February is typically the month that we celebrate and acknowledge romantic and brotherly love relationships. This is a time we usually show others we care; whether family or friends, that they are special to us. This month, we are also setting aside time in our monthly prayer focus to acknowledge love from a higher level, God's love...Agape.

Agape is the love of God for us and represents our love for Him. This same type of love is the love Christians are to have for others, including our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48), and for self. Agape love is the love that never fails.... Agape love is the love that lasts, it is the love that keeps marriages and families together; it keeps ministries, businesses, and communities unified and thriving. The Agape love we are to have for each other is sacrificial, unconditional, uncomplicated, and unselfish. Agape love is the love of, 1st Corinthians 13th Chapter, it is patient and kind; not jealous nor envious; not boastful nor proud; it is not arrogant or rude; it is not self-seeking, not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs; it does not delight in evil; but, rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and it always persevere.

Agape love can only be experienced through a personal relationship with God, through salvation in Jesus Christ. "... God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another," (1 John 4:9-11).

**Personal Declaration:**

Father, thank you for loving me unconditionally! I love you God, with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind! Your love has been poured out into my heart by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, with this same unconditional love that you bestowed upon me; I am able to love and accept myself, as well as others, (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 5:5b).

**Prayer of Salvation:**

Father, I am a lost sinner in need of a Savior, forgive me of my sins, Jesus Christ, I believe that you are the Son of God and believe that you died on the cross for my sins. I ask that you come into my heart and make me a "Born Again Believer," I confess You now as my Lord and Savior. Amen!

**Scriptural Prayer Points:**

1. Loving God
2. Loving Others

### 3. Loving Self

#### **LOVING GOD**

Joshua 22:5, "But be very careful...to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

John 14:15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

John 4:19, "We love because God first loved us."

#### **LOVING OTHERS**

Ephesians 5:2a, "And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us...."

1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

1 Thess. 3:12. "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other..."

1 Peter 1:22, "You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show

sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart."

Matthew 5:43-45, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven."

#### **LOVING SELF**

Psalms 139:14, "I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this."

Ephesians 5:29, "For no one has ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, as the Messiah does the church."

Proverbs 19:8, "He who gains wisdom and good sense loves (preserves) his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good and prosper."

Proverbs 3:3-4, "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."