

THE GREATNESS OF LOVE February 15, 2026

God is love. Jesus is God and love in its fullness, walked this earth 2000 years ago. No one ever did such wondrous deeds as did Jesus, for His faith was awesome, but faith works(energized) through love - Galatians 5:6. Before Jesus even came to earth, **he knew the Father's love** - John 17:23-24. The apostle James revealed that '**Love is the royal law**' of the kingdom of God - James 2:8. It all came from the heavenly realm where the Royal family of Father, Son and Holy Spirit lived it from all eternity. Jesus was affirmed in the Father's love just before He began His public ministry - Matthew 3:17. Perfect love drives out all fear. Jesus was secure, fearless and protected through God's love - John 14:30, 1 John 4:18, 5:18. Jesus was not afraid of man, satan, accusation, demonic forces, disease etc. Jesus lived and walked as we should to '**know and rely on God's love**' - 1 John 4:19 NIV.

Jesus walked in compassion. Jesus was more a love healer than a faith healer.

Compassion: Greek = bowels moved within (physical agony) because of emotional and spiritual concern. Miracles often followed: Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34. Mark 1:41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, 9:22,25; Luke 7:13-15. Believers should be rooted, grounded with the same love as Jesus was.

God's Love in 4 Dimensions - Ephesians 3:14-21

- **Reaches Deep**to earth's lowest and worst - Ephesians 2:1-4, Romans 5:6-8, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Philippians 2:6-8, 1 Timothy 1:15, Revelation 5:9-11, 7:9 (+wide)
(why Mary Magdalene loved Jesus so much...she was forgiven much - Luke 7:46-48)
 - **Reaches High**believers seated with Christ - Ephesians 1:3, 2:6, Romans 5:17, 8:17, 1 Corinthians 3:21 believers have kingly authority - Mark 16:17-20, Luke 10:19, Revelation 2:5
 - **Reaches the Eternal Past** believers chosen in Christ - Ephesians 1:4,5; Romans 8:38, Revelation 13:8, 17:8
 - **Reaches the Eternal Future** believers future is amazing! - Ephesians 1:18, 2:6-7, 5:25-27, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 1:10, Revelation 19:6-8
 - To be born of God is to be born of love, for God is love - John 1:12-13
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- God has lavished his love on us as dearly loved children - 1 John 3:1
 - God's love poured (gushed) into our hearts - Romans 5:5 / think Niagara Falls
 - God's love releases revelation and power Ephesians 3:20-21
 - Be imitators of God, live a life of love as God's dearly loved children - Ephesians 5:1-2
 - Love covers a multitude of sins - 1 Peter 4:7-8
 - Love grows - 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 John 4:12
 - Love always wins - 1 Corinthians 13:8
 - Love increases discernment - Philippians 1:9-11

John wrote about Jesus in John 17, how just before Jesus' hour had come (his death), He poured out his heart of love towards the Father and his followers. His final act of love on earth was purchasing a family for the Father to enjoy forever and dying for the sins of mankind on the cross. True love seeks to benefit others at one's own expense. Jesus paid the ultimate pricean excruciating death.

John is known as the disciple Jesus loved. He was the only disciple to stick around at the crucifixion and why Jesus entrusted him to care for his mother Mary. John was the last apostle to die and was the only one not to be martyred, although he was boiled in oil, but survived it! On the island of Patmos, God gave John the revelation of Jesus and the glories of the throne and future events which culminate with the final victory over evil, the grand wedding of the Bridegroom with His radiant bride and the earth once again becoming a paradise with God and mankind together forever.

The apostle John spent in last years in Ephesus at an old age. He was carried into church by disciples of Jesus as he had no strength for long exhortation. He could only say '**little children, love one another**'. The disciples asked him if he had any more to say. He replied: 'It is enough, for it is the Lord's command.' - Jerome. John had recalled the words he had already written in the letter we call 1 John chapters 3- 5 speak much of God's love. He knew that without love, our actions do not mean much. God wants obedience based on our love for Him. Knowing God's love is the first need of any believer before they seek to serve Him. A heart of love gives God the greatest of pleasure.

