

in His grace

BIBLE READING PLAN / FEBRUARY 2021

GOD IS LOVE



February

God is love

01

1 John 4:16

02

Ephesians 3:17-19

03

Proverbs 8:17

04

Psalm 136:26

05

1 John 4:19

06

Psalm 63:3

07

John 14:15

08

John 13:34-35

09

1 Peter 4:8

10

John 3:16

11

1 John 4:12

12

Romans 5:8

13

Psalm 143:8

14

1 John 4:10

15

Lamentations 3:22

16

Ephesians 4:2

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John 15:13

18

Psalm 86:15

19

Isaiah 54:10

20

Mark 12:30

21

Galatians 2:20

22

1 John 3:1

23

2 Thessalonians 3:5

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1 John 3:18

25

1 John 3:16

26

Colossians 3:14

27

Philippians 2:2

28

1 Corinthians 16:14



God is love

His love endures forever. The love that God has for us is far greater than we could ever imagine. His love is like no other that we have ever experienced. His love is unshakable, immovable, fixed, and unchangeable. There is nothing we can do that will ever change the love that God has for us.

As we read through the Scriptures, we witness what God has done and will do for each one of us. He loved us so much that He gave us His one and only Son. To die on the cross for our sins. Have you ever heard someone say “I just want someone who would die for me”? The thing is, someone already has and His name is Jesus. Don’t look to the world for love. Look up to our Heavenly Father for what true love is and how true love feels. We can get so wrapped up in the “feels” of earthly love that we forget that true love is action. God put into motion His Son, not just for those of His time over 2000 years ago. But for you and me, and everyone else who would accept Him as their Lord and Savior. He sent His Son so that we may live.

In this life, you might get disappointed, hurt, or even heartbroken. You might be made to feel less than or less than loved. But don’t forget you are fiercely loved by God. He will never leave you. He is always with you. If you press into Him, He will press right back into you. God is the one you should turn to in all things. He is your source of strength, courage, peace, and love. Now don’t get me wrong. Having someone that you can turn to, that you can lean on, that you

God is love

can say I love you to is absolutely wonderful. For example, a spouse, a child, a mother or father, a sister or brother, and even your best friend. Just remember that they are an added bonus. A gift from the Lord Himself. So cherish them, pray for them and love them as fiercely as you can. God teaches you how to love. You just need to follow His example in just how to do that.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV) *"so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

Paul hopes that Jesus' followers could grasp and understand the depth and breadth of Christ's love for them. That when Christ dwells in your hearts, in turn, you would be rooted and established in love. Let's take a moment to look at how a plant is rooted in the ground. Being rooted serves two major functions. One, as the plant grows its roots grow downward, they grab hold and anchor themselves to one spot. However, there might be objects such as rocks, or clumps of clay that the roots have to move around to find the right spot to anchor to. Second, the roots of the plant are used to nourish and sustain the plant as it grows. Once these have occurred the plant is rooted and then grounded, as some translations say, or established. How might this translate over to you and Christ's love for you? Let me explain. Your faith is like the roots of the plant. Once you accept Christ into your heart and life, the seed begins to grow. As the seed grows, the roots start to extend throughout you. Deep into your soul, into your minds, and into your hearts. The objects that you might have to move around are sin, earthly desires, and perhaps certain people. But once you find your anchor, Jesus, you hold firmly to Him. He is your lifeline, your nourishment. *"but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."*

God is love

Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14 (NIV). He is what sustains you. And as your roots grow, your faith grows. As your faith grows, it becomes established and grounded in who God is. In His love for you. Jesus says, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener"* John 15:1 (NIV). So beautiful, God carefully tends to your needs. He cuts off that which is not bearing any fruit to produce more fruit in you. *"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me"* John 15:4 (NIV) Our roots cannot grow unless we remain in Him. "Remain in My love," says Jesus.

Jesus goes on to say *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"* John 15:11 (NIV). I have read this verse many times over however today I saw it. Our joy is not our own. Jesus' joy is what lives inside of us. Without Jesus, our joy is not complete. Jesus' joy enters in and compliments our own. It intensifies our joy in knowing who He is and having the knowledge that we are walking right alongside Him. You cannot experience this type of sweet joy aside from Christ. All you have to do is to abide in His love.

"Jesus replies, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" John 14:23 (NIV)

"We will come to them and make our home with them". God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit reside in you. They have taken up residence within you. Within your homes, your lives, in each and every moment of each and every day. The love that they have for you to purposefully and intentionally make their home with you is huge. A response to your obedience to them. God loves you so very much, but He will never force His love on you. You get to decide if you are going to allow Him to move in. God is ready, He is willing, and He is able. His love for you is never-ending. His love for you is unconditional. God's love for you is perfect and complete.

Love
Michele Arnold



Digging deeper

What it means to dig deeper.

Read: Read the Bible verse of the day. Don't forget that when you read a Bible verse, you also need to look at the context surrounding it.

Cross-reference: Reference another text or part of a text, typically given in order to elaborate on a point.

Research: Look further into what the Bible verse means. Is there an overarching theme throughout the Scriptures? Is it a timeless teaching, meaning does it transcend time? Or is it a cultural concession, meaning was it meant specifically for the time it was written. Then identify how you are to apply this to your own life.

Meditate: Filling your mind with God's Word. Thinking about what you just read and learned.

Write: Write out questions or thoughts about what you just read and learned. Any prayer requests or praise reports that you have.

Pray: Speak with God. Communicate with Him, don't just talk to Him. Praying is communication with the Lord. Prayer is not only asking God for things, but praising Him for what He has done, for what He will do, and what He chooses to do. And don't forget to pray the Scriptures.

Listen: Take time to sit and listen to the Lord's response to your prayers.

Love
Michele Arnold

Digging Deeper

AND SO WE KNOW AND RELY ON THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US. GOD IS LOVE. WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD IN THEM.

1 JOHN 4:16 NIV

Digging Deeper

SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH. AND I PRAY THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN LOVE, MAY HAVE POWER, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE LORD'S HOLY PEOPLE, TO GRASP HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST, AND TO KNOW THIS LOVE THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE— THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED TO THE MEASURE OF ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

EPHESIANS 3:17-19 NIV

Digging Deeper

I LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE ME, AND THOSE WHO
SEEK ME FIND ME.
PROVERBS 8:17 NIV

Digging Deeper

GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN. HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.
PSALM 136:26 NIV

Digging Deeper

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US
1 JOHN 4:19 NIV

Digging Deeper

BECAUSE YOUR LOVE IS BETTER THAN LIFE,
MY LIPS WILL GLORIFY YOU.
PSALM 63:3 NIV

Digging Deeper

IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDS.
JOHN 14:15 NIV

Digging Deeper

"A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

JOHN 13:34-35 NIV

Digging Deeper

ABOVE ALL, LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY, BECAUSE LOVE COVERS
OVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

1 PETER 4:8 NIV

Digging Deeper

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 NIV

Digging Deeper

NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD; BUT IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD
LIVES IN US AND HIS LOVE IS MADE COMPLETE IN US.

1 JOHN 4:12 NIV

Digging Deeper

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE
WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

1 ROMANS 5:8 NIV

Digging Deeper

LET THE MORNING BRING ME WORD OF YOUR UNFAILING LOVE, FOR I
HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. SHOW ME THE WAY I SHOULD GO, FOR TO
YOU I ENTRUST MY LIFE.

PSALM 143:8 NIV

Digging Deeper

THIS IS LOVE: NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND
SENT HIS SON AS AN ATONING SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS.

1 JOHN 4:10 NIV

Digging Deeper

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE WE ARE NOT CONSUMED,
FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL.
LAMENTATIONS 3:22 NIV

Digging Deeper

BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT, BEARING
WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.
EPHESIANS 4:2 NIV

Digging Deeper

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS: TO LAY DOWN
ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS.

JOHN 15:13 NIV

Digging Deeper

BUT YOU, LORD, ARE A COMPASSIONATE AND
GRACIOUS GOD, SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN
LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS
PSALM 86:15 NIV

Digging Deeper

THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS BE SHAKEN AND THE HILLS BE REMOVED,
YET MY UNFAILING 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 NIV

Digging Deeper

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
MARK 12:30 NIV

Digging Deeper

I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND I NO LONGER LIVE,
BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME. THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE BODY,
I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME
AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.
GALATIANS 2:20 NIV

Digging Deeper

SEE WHAT GREAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! AND THAT IS
WHAT WE ARE! THE REASON THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW US IS
THAT IT DID NOT KNOW HIM.

1 JOHN 3:1 NIV

Digging Deeper

MAY THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS INTO GOD'S LOVE
AND CHRIST'S PERSEVERANCE.
2 THESSALONIANS 3:5 NIV

Digging Deeper

DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR
SPEECH, BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.

1 JOHN 3:18 NIV

Digging Deeper

THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS: JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR US. AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

1 JOHN 3:16 NIV

Digging Deeper

AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES PUT ON LOVE, WHICH BINDS
THEM ALL TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY.
COLOSSIANS 3:14 NIV

Digging Deeper

THEN MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE BY BEING
LIKE-MINDED, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING
ONE IN SPIRIT AND OF ONE MIND.
PHILIPPIANS 2:2 NIV

Digging Deeper

DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NIV

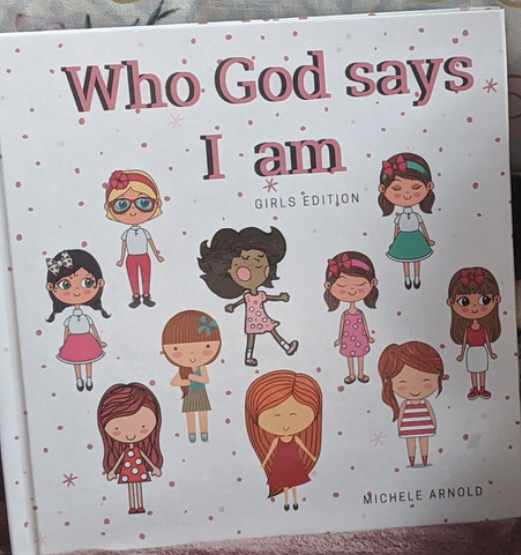


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