

# Love

*Lord, help me to live out the love you have poured out upon me.  
Amen.*

# Love

JULY 27, 2017

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another.

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John 13:34

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To love somebody means to love that person's real self. The real self involves both the beautiful side and the not-so-beautiful side. To love the person means to love that person's whole self. It is not love when we accept the beautiful side but reject the not-so-beautiful side.

When we love a person's whole self, that person experiences the freedom and the empowerment to find his/her real self. That is the most beautiful thing you can do for the person you love.

*Lord, help me love the way you love us. Amen.*

# What You See is What You Get

JULY 28, 2017

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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Matthew 5:8

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To be pure does not mean to be flawless. To be pure is to be transparent just as clear water is so transparent that you can see its depth. As we pursue the genuine spirituality, what people will see in us is not our piety but our true self.

Then, our relationship with others will be based on truth not on the falsity. In our relationships, we will cover each other's faults; we will understand and accept each other's weaknesses. Our relationships will no longer be based on power but on love.

*Lord, thank you for accepting me just as I am. Guide me so that I can also accept others just as they are. Amen.*

# Dignity, Respect and Love

AUGUST 17, 2017

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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1 John 4:7-8

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No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

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Nelson Mandela

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Every single person we meet, we should treat him/her with dignity, respect, and love. That is how a human being should interact with another human being. When we do that, we can restore our humanity.

Hatred, bigotry, and violence destroy our humanity.

*Lord, strengthen me to treat others with dignity, respect, and love.*

*Amen.*

# God Is Love

AUGUST 18, 2017

Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

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1 John 4:20

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Terrorists will never defeat a united people who love freedom in the face of barbarism.

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Mariano Rajoy,  
Spanish Prime Minister

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The religion that separates the love of God and the love of neighbors is dangerous. That is not a true religion anymore. Religious extremism is a perversion, and it brings hatred, bigotry, and violence.

Hatred, bigotry, and violence destroy our humanity.

*Lord, we ask you to restore love in this world. Amen.*

# Inseparable Love

AUGUST 19, 2017

38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor 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.

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Romans 8:38-39

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There is nothing greater in this world than love. There is no life that is greater than the life of love. There is no ideology that is greater than the thoughts that are originated from love.

Love is to be learned. We can learn to love by first receiving love. We can learn to love by loving others.

Let us open our hearts and receive love. Let us make a room within us so that we can accept others with love.

*Lord, teach me to love. Amen.*

# Debt of Love

AUGUST 25, 2017

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

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Romans 13:8

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Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

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Muhammad Ali

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We are all loved by someone. We are indebted to those who have loved us. We are indebted to our parents and to everyone who has prayed for us, cared for us, and sacrificed for us.

The true ethics is the ethics of love. People who love others have fulfilled the law. The principle that summarizes the law in one phrase is to love others.

That is the path to happiness and a blessed life.

*Lord, I am thankful for all the people who have loved me, and I lift them up in prayer. Help me to live my life, paying back all the love I have received. Amen.*

# The Powerful and the Weak

AUGUST 29, 2017

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour.

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Romans 15:1-2

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In this world, we have those with the power and those without it. The existence of this power imbalance is the inevitable reality. The problem is not that we have the weak and the powerful, but that the powerful oppresses, controls and exploits the weak.

Those with power must take care of the weak. The Apostle Paul teaches us not to please ourselves but our neighbors. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors, especially the weak neighbors.

Sharing the power is what the humanity is all about.

*Lord, steer us away from the ways of the world that operate by the power but help us to follow your teachings that are governed by love.*  
*Amen.*



# Forgiveness

AUGUST 30, 2017

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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Colossians 3:12-14

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Forgiveness is the hardest spiritual discipline of all the disciplines. Forgiving someone (or some people) is to embrace them with their faults. The forgiveness that Jesus showed on the cross is the most beautiful act of human nature.

For us as Christians, forgiveness is not an option. We must forgive, whether we want to or not.

Apostle Paul says that if we can love them as well as forgive them, then we are bound in perfect harmony. This is what Jesus meant when he said love your enemies.

Let us practice the discipline of forgiveness!

*Lord, renew a spirit of forgiveness in this world. Grant me a merciful heart so that I may forgive others. Amen.*

# Interests of Others

SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

‘All things are lawful’, but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful’, but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of others.

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1 Corinthians 10:23-24

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It is beautiful when one looks to the interests of others before one’s own. This is what Jesus taught us. Through his life, Jesus taught us that this is how we human beings ought to live.

Unfortunately, such thinking is rare these days. Hurricane Irma swept through Southern US. Many people had no choice but to evacuate. The highways and the roads were jam-packed with cars. It was hot and people were stuck in the traffic, not knowing what their uncertain future holds for them when someone started to hand out cold ice cream, going from one car to another. It’s a small gesture but to those on the receiving end, they felt warmth and love.

When we think of others first, we can restore the true humanity that Jesus taught us.

Let us look around us today with the interests of others in mind!

*Lord, help me to make room in my heart so that I can look to the interests of others before my own. Amen.*

# Compassion

SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

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Ephesians 5:1-2

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Compassion is the desire that moves the individual self to widen the scope of its self-concern to embrace the whole of the universal self.

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Arnold Toynbee

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Compassion is a beautiful word. It is a compound word of “Com” and “Passion”. “Com” means together and “Passion” means suffering. So, com-passion means “suffering with”. In other words, to have compassion for someone means to suffer with the person.

We sometimes use the word compassion to express the meaning of love. Yes, that is what love is. When you love somebody, you suffer the pain the person goes through. When you rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, you are practicing your love for them.

*Lord, there are many people who are hurting around me. Grant me your compassion to weep with those who weep. Amen.*

# For a Better World

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

For the love of Christ urges us on...

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2 Corinthians 5:13-14

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The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

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George Bernard Shaw

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Jesus didn't come to adapt to this world; He came to overcome it.

Our ultimate purpose is not to adapt well to this world but overcome it. Overcoming this world doesn't mean to be successful, but to make this world a beautiful world according to God's will.

People may call us foolish or crazy.

*Lord, I pray that I may love this world. Help me not to blindly follow the ways of the world but with prayer, do my best to make this world a better world. Amen.*



# The End Is Near

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

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1 Peter 4:7-8

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Recently there have been massive earthquakes and hurricanes that took many lives. Countries are threatening each other with nuclear weapons. Some may think that these are signs that the end is near.

However, the end is always near. We should always keep that in mind as we live day by day. That is a life that is awakened. It's important to live as if today is our last day.

Knowing that the end is near, what we need to do every day is to pray and love each other. When the signs that the end is near become evident, more urgently and more diligently we need to pray and love.

*Lord, we live in a chaotic world. Help me to be awake and pray constantly, and most importantly to love each other. Amen.*

# Fragrance of Love

OCTOBER 10, 2017

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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Ephesians 5:1-2

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We can learn to love only by being loved. We are able to love because Jesus Christ first loved us. Jesus came to earth to show us that love and by doing that, he wanted to enable us to live in love.

What God wants from us is not sacrifice but an offering of love. If we can live in love, then that becomes the most beautiful offering to God, the most fragrant offering. When there is love, everything becomes fragrant.

Let us live a fragrant life.

*Lord, in this world full of conflict, hatred, war and violence, may my love be a beautiful fragrance. Amen.*

# We Are of More Value Than Many Sparrows

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

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Luke 12:6-7

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We have to remember that we are of more value than many sparrows. God knows us so well. Even the hairs of your heads are all counted and that means God knows our deepest needs.

God who knows us so well will take care of us according to our needs. When we leave our life in God's hands, our life can go forward.

*Lord who knows me so well and still loves me, thank you. I leave my life totally in your hands. Amen*



# Serving Others

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known...

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Colossians 1:24-25

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St. Paul truly loved the church. He said he was rejoicing in his sufferings for the people at Colossae. To St. Paul, the church was the body of Christ. The church is not an institution or a system; church is the people of God. "The people of God" is the body of Christ.

How beautiful it is for one to take care of the people and pray for them! It is our call to suffer with those who suffer, comfort them, visit them and serve them. That is what the spiritual community looks like.

*Lord, I thank you for the people who took care of me when I was weak, hurting and in darkness. Amen*

# Life of Fullness

DECEMBER 1, 2017

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

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Colossians 2:9-10

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We need fullness in life. Having fullness is having strength in life.

When there is fullness, our life becomes bigger. The secret to overcoming challenges in life is to have fullness.

When we have fullness, we have a room to look around and get a better perspective in life.

When we have fullness, we can accept others, be generous, and be forgiving. Where there is love, there is fullness.

*Lord, allow me to have fullness. Amen*

# The Face of Holiness

DECEMBER 4, 2017

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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Colossians 3:12-14

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Holiness isn't a personal quality you have for yourself. Holiness manifests itself in our attitude towards others. Compassion, kindness, humility meekness, and patience are all manifestation of our holiness.

Let us be holy.

*Lord, I meditate upon your holiness that was manifested in your sacrifice on the cross because of your love for me. Help me to be holy like you are holy. Amen*

# Love and Understanding

DECEMBER 12, 2017

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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1 Corinthians 13:12-13

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1 Corinthians 13 is a famous chapter of love. Paul describes love beautifully in the whole chapter. But at the end, he talks about knowing and understanding. Paul is saying that true love leads us to full understanding of life.

The true understanding of God comes only when we truly love God. Love is the only way to get to the full understanding of God. There is no other way.

*Lord, forgive me for my lack of love. Help me to know you more deeply, and to love you more deeply. Amen*

# Dangerous Birth

DECEMBER 25, 2017

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’

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John 1:1-18

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Jesus’ birth was a dangerous birth. To those who love power, Jesus’ birth was a threat.

Power cannot overcome love. That is why power fears love. People who rejoiced and welcomed the birth of Jesus were powerless people like the shepherds. Powerful people like king Herod could not celebrate and welcome Jesus’ birth.

Let us rejoice and give praise to God! Our Lord Jesus is born.

*Lord, I accept you in my heart. Please come into my heart and be my King. Amen.*

# The Word Became Flesh

DECEMBER 25, 2017

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."' ) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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John 1:1-18

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God's love was confirmed through the birth of Jesus. Jesus came to this world with God's love. Jesus taught us the truth about life. Jesus showed us the light when we were in darkness. Jesus gave us hope when we lived in despair. Jesus gave us life when we lived with no vitality. That is God's love for us.

*Lord, may your love bring forth new life within me. Amen.*

# Let Us Love What Is Everlasting

DECEMBER 30, 2017

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

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1 John 2:15-17

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**Memory Verse: “The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full.”**

We have to learn to love what is everlasting. If we love what will soon pass away, we will never know love that is everlasting. We will be left with an unfulfilled desire.

As we learn to love what is everlasting, we experience the eternal love. We will experience love that does not change, does not disappear, and gets deeper as time goes on.

Let us love the eternity.

*Lord, please give me a heart desires what is eternal. Amen.*

# Pride

JANUARY 4, 2018

Love the Lord, all his faithful people! The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

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Psalm 31:23-24

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**Memory Verse: “The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full.”**

Being proud causes many problems. Proud people hurt others and make God sad. God deals with the proud harshly because that is the only way to deal with the human pride. Pride and happiness cannot go together. Pride makes us unhappy and others miserable.

Let us deal with our pride seriously this year!

*Lord, help me not to be rude, because being rude comes from our pride. Help me to be kind because being kind comes from love. Amen.*



# God's Mercy

JANUARY 5, 2018

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

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Lamentations 3:22-26

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**Memory Verse: "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him." (Lamentations 3:25)**

We can live today because of God's mercies. The moment we forget God's mercies, we fall into darkness. God's mercies cover a multitude of our sins; God's mercies complete our shortcomings; God's mercies mend our wrongs.

Let us seek the Lord and quietly wait for God's mercies this year.

*Lord, forgive my arrogance. Help me to meditate on your mercies and let Your mercies work within me. Amen.*

# Quiet Love

JANUARY 8, 2018

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing...

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Zephaniah 3:17

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**Memory Verse: “he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing...” (Zephaniah 3:17)**

God rejoices over us with gladness. God rejoices because of us. And God loves us quietly. Sometimes we don't know God's love, understand the depth of his love, and don't feel his love, but there was not a time when God didn't love us. As God sees us, his heart is aching, anxious, and even frustrated, but his love is always there quietly.

*Lord, how can I ever understand the depth of your love? I just want to thank you and I love you. Amen.*

# Keep Your Heart

JANUARY 18, 2018

My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

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Proverbs 4:20-23

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**Memory Verse: “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)**

Everything comes from our heart. From our heart, comes hatred and also love. If our heart is crooked, then our thinking will be crooked and our life will become crooked.

Let us guard our hearts with all vigilance. Let us have God’s words in our hearts. They will give us life and bring healing to our bodies.

*Lord, help me to keep your words in my heart. Amen.*

# Love Makes Everything Perfect

JANUARY 29, 2018

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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1 Corinthians 13:1-7

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**Memory Verse: “It (Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7)**

Love is power to bear all things. Without love, we cannot bear life’s difficult circumstances. With love, we can bear all things. Love makes us strong. Without love, our existence becomes feeble. Love makes all things perfect.

Let us learn to love.

*Lord, help me to experience your love and learn to love. Amen.*

# Love Makes Everything Perfect – Part 2

JANUARY 30, 2018

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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1 Corinthians 13:8-13

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**Memory Verse: “Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.” (1 Corinthians 13:8)**

Love makes everything perfect. When there is love, everything becomes perfect. On the contrary, if there is no love, nothing is perfect. Prophecies will not be perfect. Tongues will not be perfect. Knowledge will not be perfect. Love makes everything in life perfect.

God rules this world by God’s love. Jesus is the incarnation of God’s love.

*Lord, thank you for Your love. Help me to reflect on your love and live out Your love in my life. Amen.*

# Compassionate Heart

FEBRUARY 9, 2018

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

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**Memory Verse: “It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.” (Matthew 18:14)**

God’s will is not to lose anyone no matter how insignificant they may seem to be. If this is God’s will, then that is what we should do. That should be our attitude to live with.

When we start caring for the little ones, a strange change happens within us. God’s caring heart becomes our heart. That is when true compassion is possible and we become caring people.

*Lord, help me to have your caring heart. Amen.*

# Golden Rule

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

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Matthew 7:12

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**Memory Verse: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)**

What we read today is known as the “Golden Rule”. Living with a considerate heart is the golden rule. Be always kind, gentle, and merciful. Our presence will be a sweet fragrance to them. Let us be considerate even in the smallest things.

*Lord, help me to live my life with a considerate heart. Amen.*

# Unconditional Forgiveness

MARCH 6, 2018

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

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Matthew 18:21-22

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**Memory Verse: “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times (you should forgive).” (Matthew 18:22)**

Forgiving seventy-seven times means to forgive unconditionally. When we hear this, we feel burdened. We protest, saying, “How can we do that?” But Jesus is also saying that God will forgive us like that. God’s forgiveness is unconditional and limitless.

*Lord, thank you for your unconditional forgiveness. As you have forgiven me, help me to live a life of forgiveness. Amen.*



# The Way We Can Approach God

MARCH 15, 2018

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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Hebrews 10:19-22

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**Memory Verse: “...let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith...” (Hebrews 10:22)**

We have to have a right understanding of God. Once we really get to know God, we will see God’s deep love towards us. That deep love of God will melt our sins. That is the only way to deal with our sins. Our sins have to be melted in God’s love. Then we can approach God with boldness.

*Lord, help me to get to know You deeply. Amen.*

# God's Love We Discover Through Our Suffering

MARCH 16, 2018

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken. Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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Psalm 34:17-22

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**Memory Verse: “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.” (Psalm 34:17)**

Our God is not God who protects us from suffering. Our God allows afflictions but saves us from all our afflictions. The Psalm writer said, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous.” As we go through suffering, let us not doubt God’s love. Rather, let us more deeply understand God’s love who saves us from all our suffering.

*Lord, help me not to run away from my suffering thinking it is bad. But instead, help me to experience Your power through my suffering.  
Amen.*

# What God Requires of Us

MARCH 27, 2018

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

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1 Corinthians 1:27-29

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**Memory Verse: “No one should boast in the presence of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:29)**

We thought we lived our lives wisely but as we look back, we were not that wise. We were rather foolish. All our wisdom and power did not do much for the benefit of others; they were used mostly for ourselves. So with our wisdom and power, we cannot do God’s will. What God requires of us is not our wisdom and power but simple love that makes us be more considerate of others.

*Lord, help me to live out the love that You require of me. Amen.*

# Radical Love

MARCH 30, 2018

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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Isaiah 43:4-6

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**Memory Verse: “he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.” (Isaiah 43:5)**

Taking someone else’s sins and weaknesses is love at its extreme. We take “my righteousness” as something that is the most important. But there is no righteousness that is greater than taking someone else’s sins and weaknesses. The true righteousness is only possible in love.

*Lord, thank you for taking my sins upon yourself. Give me your strength so that I may also live the life of your love. Amen.*

# Empty Space

APRIL 17, 2018

So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

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John 6:30-35

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**Memory Verse: “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)**

We have a deep empty space within us. Nothing in the world can fill the empty space. Even though this space is waiting to be filled, we don’t know how to do it. We only realize that with things we cannot fill it. When this space is hollow, we feel the emptiness of life. This empty space can be filled by Jesus’ love and his presence. That was why Jesus came to this world.

*Lord, thank you for filling my empty space with your love and presence. Amen.*

# Sincere Love

APRIL 22, 2018

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

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1 John 3:16-18

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**Memory Verse: “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:18)**

Love is sincere. There is no insincere love. When we have love, we have a heart to help others. We will want to embrace those who are hurt, provide the needs of the poor, lift up the burdens of those who are heavy laden, and bring about the freedom to those who are in bondage. Others’ pain becomes our pain.

*Lord, help me to live out the love you have poured out upon me.  
Amen.*

# Practice of Love

APRIL 24, 2018

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

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Ephesians 4:31-32

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**Memory Verse: “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”  
(Ephesians 4:32)**

It was a very sad day for Toronto yesterday. A van drove down the street killing and injuring many people. A lot of people are in shock and in deep sorrow. We pray that this may not create a chain reaction of anger and hatred. It requires discipline to be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving. Even if we fail it, we should keep practicing it. We pray that God’s amazing grace may be with us.

*Lord, have mercy on me. May my heart be filled with your gentleness.  
Amen.*

# Love Reveals God

APRIL 29, 2018

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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1 John 4:7-12

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**Memory Verse: “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:12)**

We cannot see God with our physical eyes. We can only see God through our love. Where there is love, there is God. As we live our lives with love, it is like living our lives with God's presence. Let us love one another. We will be able to know God.

*Lord, let my daily life be dictated by love. Amen.*



# Absence of God

MAY 1, 2018

If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.

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Job 23:8-10

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**Memory Verse: “He knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.” (Job 23:10)**

Sometimes we don't feel God's presence. As we look around us, we don't sense God's presence. God's absence doesn't mean that God does not love us. God's absence is God's love to train us to trust him more deeply. When we don't feel God's presence, let us use that opportunity to learn to wait for God. God knows the way we should take.

*Lord, when I don't feel your presence, help me not to panic but to train myself to wait for you. Amen.*

# Love and Joy

MAY 3, 2018

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

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John 15:9-11

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**Memory Verse: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."  
(John 15:11)**

Jesus came to give us the fullness of joy. The fullness of joy does not come from joyful experiences of life. The fullness of joy is hidden in love. When we have love within us, we will find the joy of life. If we live a life of hatred, the anger will consume us. But if we have a life of love, the joy will spring forth from within us.

*Lord, help me to be completely immersed in your love and live my life with the joy that comes from being in your love. Amen.*

# Love That Lacks Nothing

MAY 4, 2018

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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John 15:12-17

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**Memory Verse: “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” (John 15:16)**

We did not choose Jesus; Jesus chose us. Jesus chose us as his friends and showed us his love laying down his life for us. Now we have that love. In that love, we experience the abundance of life. We lack nothing. God provides us with all our needs.

*Lord, help me to live my life being fully satisfied in everything. Amen.*

# Be Eager To Do What Is Good

MAY 5, 2018

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

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1 Peter 3:13-17

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**Memory Verse: “For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.”  
(1 Peter 3:17)**

Be eager to do what is good. Let us not be intimidated. God keeps those who have clear conscience from harm. Those who abuse us for our good deeds will be put to shame. When you do good, suffering will follow. That suffering is not God's punishment; it is God's will.

*Lord, help me not to be intimidated and get discouraged because of people's criticisms. Help me to do my best to do what is good. Amen.*

# Beautiful Life

MAY 10, 2018

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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Isaiah 52:7-10

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**Memory Verse: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7)**

How beautiful are the feet of those who reach out to the hopeless!  
How beautiful are the ears of those who listen to the helpless! How beautiful are the hands of those who deliver peace! We should live a beautiful life. Beautiful life is sharing beautiful things of life.

*Lord, help me to share beautiful things of life. Amen.*

# Empathy

MAY 12, 2018

‘To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.” For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.’.

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Luke 7:31-35

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**Memory Verse: “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.” (Luke 7:32)**

Mother’s love is the best example that shows us what love is. When we see mother’s love, we see the true face of love. She bears everything for us, always believes that we will do well, always hopes for us and endures all things for us. We are here today because of our mother’s love. Let us thank them today for their sacrificial love and let us live with deep gratitude for teaching us the beauty of love.

*Lord, help me to live rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who wail. Amen.*

# Mother's Love

MAY 13, 2018

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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**Memory Verse: “It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7)**

Mother's love is the best example that shows us what love is. When we see mother's love, we see the true face of love. She bears everything for us, always believes that we will do well, always hopes for us and endures all things for us. We are here today because of our mother's love. Let us thank them today for their sacrificial love and let us live with deep gratitude for teaching us the beauty of love.

*Lord, help me to always remember mother's love and keep it deep in my heart. Amen.*

# True Family

MAY 16, 2018

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, ‘Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.’ But he said to them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.’

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Luke 8:19-21

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**Memory Verse: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.” (Luke 8:21)**

Jesus’ understanding of family was very different. To Jesus, family is not determined by the blood or the nationality. Jesus emphasized that we were bonded by the truth. The world we live is very different. One country oppresses another country and one race subjugates another race. We pray that the humanity can be bonded again by truth and love.

*Lord, help me to be bonded with others by truth and love beyond my own benefit. Amen.*



# Gentle Heart

MAY 18, 2018

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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Ezekiel 36:26-28

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**Memory Verse: “A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”  
(Ezekiel 36:26)**

If our heart is filled with joy and gladness, we can live a good life. But the reality is that we cannot dictate the condition of our heart to be in a certain way with our will. Our heart is the most difficult thing to cultivate. God controls our heart. God will remove the heart of stone and give us a gentle heart. It is God who gives us a new heart.

*Lord, give me a gentle heart so that I may be gentle to those around me. Amen.*

# The Word, Being Born Anew, and Love

MAY 30, 2018

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’ That word is the good news that was announced to you.

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1 Peter 1:22-25

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**Memory Verse: “You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)**

Being born anew is not an emotional experience. It is the experience of the Truth (Word). It is an event where the Word that is outside of us comes into our soul through understanding. We can all agree with the word that is out there cerebrally. But the word that penetrates into our soul through understanding convicts us. Let us have genuine mutual love. Let us love one another deeply from the heart. The Word is not a theory but love.

*Lord, help me to understand your truth from the depth of my soul and live out the truth through love. Amen.*

# Genuine Love

MAY 31, 2018

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

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Romans 12:9-13

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**Memory Verse: “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.” (Romans 12:9)**

Love must be genuine. Love comes from our genuine heart. The problem is that we don't have love. Because we don't have love, our actions do not become genuine. We only show superficial love which is not genuine love. We can understand God only through love. We can accept God only through love. Let us accept God and love genuinely.

*Lord, help me to take off my superficiality and love You and others with genuine love. Amen.*