



Divinely Blessed & Restored

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LOVE ©

Monthly Article
• February 2007

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As I pondered upon a subject for this month's article, I thought about the day many of us focus upon in February – Valentine's Day. Historically, this day is seen as a special time to acknowledge someone that you love. Millions of dollars are spent this one day to "express love" all around the world. We give chocolates, flowers and trinkets many of which are gone within a week or two.

As I thought about all of the emphasis we place on this "one" day, I could not help but think about an expression of love by one person over 2000 years ago. A gift that cost the giver "**everything**" and for the "**receiver**," it is a gift that will last forever, and ever, and ever!

What was this gift? The gift of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. John 3:16 KJV tells us: "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but shall have everlasting life.*" KJV

This gift, as with any gift, requires our acceptance. Once accepted, we enter into a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. His love is continual, twenty-four hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. His love never changes. And, as in any other relationship, in our relationship with the Father, there is an exchange of love – a giving and receiving of love.

When we receive Him we are "born again" not physically, but spiritually, which means we are changed - "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" (II Corinthians 5:17 KJV) Our life will begin to exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

His love empowers us to overcome our sinful nature, to have eternal life, and it opens the door to God's plentiful blessings. Psalm 112:1 tells us "*Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.*" KJV That means as we recognize the sovereignty and importance of God we reverence him. This reverence is referred to as "fear" throughout the Bible and for those who reverence him there are many blessings – physical, emotional and spiritual. Following are some of the blessings you shall receive:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but shall have everlasting life." John 3:16 KJV

- ❖ Safety: "The fear of the Lord leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm" (Proverbs 19:23).
- ❖ Provision for All Needs: "O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want" (Psalm 34:9).

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- ❖ Riches, Honor and life: “ The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life” (Proverbs 22:4).
- ❖ Direction: “Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose” (Psalm 25:12).
- ❖ Companionship: “I am a companion of all who fear Thee, of those who keep thy precepts” (Psalm 119:63).
- ❖ Peace: “The fear of the Lord leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied” (Proverbs 19:23).
- ❖ Friendship: “The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him: (Psalm 25:14).
- ❖ Wisdom: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it: (Psalm 111:10).

If you have not accepted this great “gift”, I encourage you to do so today. If you have already given your life to God, let this be a time of revival and recommitment to witnessing as you encourage others to enter into a personal love relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember, while man(woman) may love you today and not tomorrow, the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is unchanging. Romans 8:35, 37-39 tells us.... *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* KJV

There is No Greater Love!!!

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