



## God's Resources for Life and Healing

### Part 7C: Love

Because God *is* love (1 John 4:8, 16), all of the Bible's descriptions of love are true of God's love towards us. This means, according to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, that He is always patient with us. He knows our human frailties and is not easily provoked by our shortcomings. His ways of dealing with us are done in kindness, directed at our good, putting us and our needs above His own interests. Regardless of the decisions that we make, He continually perseveres in believing in us and in our good and our capabilities. He never gives up on us but willingly endures our mistakes and even our rebelliousness, ever endeavoring to woo us back to a place of fellowship and blessing in our lives.

His goal is to build us up, developing our gifts and talents and bringing out the best in us (1 Cor. 8:1). He does not keep track of our wrongs but quickly forgives them when we confess them to Him (Col. 2:13-14; 1 John 1:9).

He readily shares His strength and supernatural presence with us, offering to carry our burdens and to shepherd our lives, leading us, as needed, to places of rest, refreshment, and restoration (Ps. 23:1-3; Mat. 11:28-30). He comforts us in sorrow, walks with us through the trials of life, lifts our heads before our enemies, and even makes the hardships of life and the assaults of the enemy result in good for us (Gen. 50:20; Ps. 23:4-5; Rom. 8:28).

His generosity towards us extends far beyond giving His own Son to be our Savior (Rom. 8:32). He urges us to come boldly before His throne to receive mercy and help in our time of need and to bring our requests to Him so He can respond to them as a loving Father, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills (1 Chron. 28:9; Mat. 7:7-11; John 16:23-24; Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:19; Heb. 4:16; Ps. 50:10).

He is concerned not only with our needs but also with the desires of our hearts (Ps. 37:4; Mat. 6:25-33). The more we delight in Him and love Him in return, making Him the prime focus of our lives, the more He will pour out good things to us and disclose Himself to us so that we can know Him more deeply (Mat. 6:25-33; John 14:21; 1 Cor. 2:9). Truly, what He wants to do for us surpasses what we can even imagine (John 10:10b; 1 Cor. 2:9; Eph. 3:20)!

God wants us not just to know about His love but to be firmly rooted and grounded in it (Eph. 3:17-19). This means being fully convinced that nothing will separate us from His love and power at any time (Rom. 8:35-39; 2 cor. 6:18; Eph. 1:19; Heb. 13:5). With this kind of faith we are anchored to a solid Rock that will enable us to withstand the storms of life in a way that is impossible for unbelievers or less mature Christians (Mat. 7:24-25). Satan may work through the world system to bring many adverse things into our lives, but when we know and can stand strong in the security of God's love for us, staking our very lives on it, we will have learned the secret to triumphing over them.

Jude 1 in the NET Bible describes us as being "wrapped in His love." What a difference it would make if we could live consistently aware of this reality moment by moment, allowing God's love to soak deep into our hearts (Rom. 5:5)! Our disposition would be transformed (Prov. 4:23; Luke 6:45). Fear, anxiety, anger, and resentments would vanish (Deut. 31:6; 1 Peter 5:7). We would experience the true peace and joy that passes all understanding, which Jesus promised we could have even in the midst of a tumultuous world (John 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 14:17; Phil. 4:6-7).