

BEING IN LOVE WITH GOD 26.8.18

Love is an awesome thing! Being in love is a beautiful thing. Demonstrating love makes it a real thing. Being in love with Jesus is a precious thing and loving Jesus makes it a powerful thing.

The Word likens our relationship with God to that of a marriage – where One is chosen to the exclusion of all others; we commitment is made to be with Him, hear from Him, wanting to know what He wants from me, for me today – in life; where a sacrifice is made for intentional time to do this first; where we want to know more of Him that the relationship might deepen (strengthen).

1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:2ff; Isaiah 54:5; Matthew 25; Isaiah 62:5; John 3:29.

A relationship where we value time together and want to communicate. He desires every moment – in keeping with a first love. He is always ready to hear, to listen and nothing we say or do can diminish His love for us. He intends that love grow.

When we are in love with someone we are not embarrassed or ashamed to be with them in public. Can we apply this to our love for Jesus? What if my spouse didn't want to walk with me in public?

Am I ashamed to stand for Him?

Am I ok with everyone knowing what I believe, and in Whom I believe?

Am I the same everywhere?

Matthew 10:32-33. 'Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.'

Love without commitment is just a word. Actions (what we say and do) demonstrates love. Jesus said, 'If you love Me, you will obey Me.' John 14:15-17

We can be orthodox in our beliefs, but our lives show our love for God – prove our words.

Have I made a commitment to God?

Have I made a commitment to love God?

God started the relationship in His love for us; He loved us first and He demonstrated His love by sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins on the Cross, to die for us that we could come back to Him.

John 3:16, John 3:3; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10 starts this journey in prayer: 'that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.'

As we pray, read His Word, gather with believers and help others the relationship deepens. Have I decided to make a stand for God? Have I chosen to spend time every day in His Word to see who He is, what He wants – I can make this decision today. He is always drawing us further – He continually says 'Come, follow Me.'

Has my love for Him grown cold? Have I neglected those things that *keep/nurture* the relationship? God has never failed His part. Paul spoke prophetically to the Church in Ephesus – in his last words to them exhorted them to love with an undying love, to love by faith. We see in Revelation 2 – the first Church address has 'forsaken' (chosen to leave) their first love Christ. His response – repent (turn back to Me) and do the things you did at first. What did we do at first? Prayed, spent time in His Word finding out more about Him, more of Him; what He wants from me, for me. We fellowshiped and sat under teaching and we shared – no one was in need – we fellowshiped with each other and we helped others, souls were added.

God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8