

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Jesus Loves Us Individually

Dear Friend,

I cannot remember a time quite like this in which Jesus has wanted so much for me to grasp a particular revelation. For several days this thought has constantly been going on inside me; God, my Father and Jesus, my Lord and Savior **love me!** I know how trite it must sound to say, “God loves me.” The truth of the matter is if we really begin to lay hold on this one revelation of **God’s great love** for us, I believe it will completely and totally revolutionize our lives and permanently alter the way we receive from God.

Why do I believe this? For most of us, everything about our life with Jesus is about us, our efforts, our attempts to show God how much we love Him, with little if any understanding of **His great love** for us, individually. We have made our spiritual life about our efforts, our love, our devotion to God instead of considering His love for us. Had it not been for the fact that He first loved us we would have no opportunity now to love Him. So, what’s more important for us to appreciate, our love for Him or His love for us?

Ask yourself this; “How would I describe my relationship with God?” You might respond with your score card of how much time you spend in prayer, how many chapters of the bible you read, your church attendance, witnessing, etc. What does this show? When a person describes their relationship with God by talking about all the things **they are doing** their relationship is based on their own actions. Somewhere along the line, we need to switch from focusing on what we do to focusing on what He has done, and more importantly, why He has done it.

I believe the way we can accomplish this is by turning our attention off ourselves and our own efforts to please God, and onto God and **His great love for us**. Think about it; had it not been for **His great love** for each of us being put on display two thousand years ago we wouldn’t be able to enjoy what we have today in our salvation and new birth into God’s family. We love Him, and can love Him, **only** because He first loved us. So, let me ask you, doesn’t it seem important that **His great love** for us become more than something that we only

occasionally consider in our minds? Besides, our natural minds can never truly appreciate the magnitude of God's love for us, it can only be revealed by the Holy Ghost to our spirit.

Sadly, far too many Christians have the misconception that God's requirement for blessing them and answering their prayers is that they first prove their love for Him. They believe that by demonstrating their love God will respond and bless them. By believing this, people have substituted their actions in place of God's grace, mercy and love, deceived into thinking their actions are the reason for God blessing them instead of His love.

This mentality creates the idea that Jesus is more interested in our actions, than in us. In truth, we have what we have, not because of anything we have done, but because of **His great love** for us. We have the awesome privilege of saying, "We love you Jesus!", **only** because Jesus first loved us and gave His life for us.

Our actions really aren't supposed to be the issue when it comes to God blessing us and answering our prayers. It's you and I who make a point of counting the number of times we read a certain chapter or book in our bibles. We are the ones wanting credit for confessing our healing scriptures. We focus on whether or not we have thanked Him for healing us. Consequently, we have made it all about our performance, instead of realizing that all that we have in Jesus is the result of God's great love for us before we were ever born.

Please don't misunderstand, I'm not telling you not to read your Bible or pray. What I am suggesting is to check the heart motivations for **why** you're doing what you do. Unfortunately, instead of originating out of a heart of gratitude and thankfulness for God's unfailing love, many of our actions are responses to thoughts such as; "what am I **doing**, or **not doing**, that is holding up my healing?"

So long as we continue to focus on our side of the equation, what **we** are doing or not doing, we miss the real truth that made everything possible; God's love for us. God showed me that once the depth, the length, the breadth, the height of His love for us begins to be revealed to our hearts, our believing that we have received all that He has made available to us becomes easy. Without this revelation of God's exceedingly great love for us we battle within ourselves to earn what He has already freely given.

My earliest church memories are of singing, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." In reality, after 45+ years, I am finally beginning to comprehend God's exceedingly great love for me. I haven't had too much

problem believing God so loved everyone. The problem for me came when I had to believe God so loved me. I know me. Why would anyone hang on a cross and suffer so horribly for me and die? Let alone, that someone being the creator of the universe.

The Apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, spoke of praying for the Ephesians and asking God to help them comprehend His love. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

***“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”***

God knew that the real struggle for mankind would be to believe that He could actually love man with a love so immeasurable that words could not describe. Notice in Paul’s prayer that there was no mention of our love for God, but rather His love for us, which goes beyond our natural ability to comprehend. We can only understand God’s love in our spirit. Obviously, such an important revelation as knowing the love of God must become our focus and what we seek after with all our hearts, because of the liberty this brings.

The Apostle John mentioned God’s love repeatedly in his first letter to the church. He spoke of God’s love, which He bestowed upon us by enabling us to become sons of God. (I John 3:1)

***“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...”***

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle John wasn’t drawing our attention to our love for God, which would have us focusing on ourselves. Instead, the Holy Ghost wanted us to behold God’s love for us, which God exemplified in the fact that we have become His sons.

Again, John speaks of perceiving the love of God. (I John 3:16)

***“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”***

Jesus, the Son of God, demonstrated God's great love for mankind by willingly laying down His life for us. We can love God because He first loved us with a love that knows no boundaries.

John proceeded to say: (I John 4:9)

***“In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”***

God's unwavering love for us is revealed in the fact that He sent His only begotten Son into this world to suffer in our place that we might live through Him. It was His love for us that made this all possible. Had it not been for God's great love for us that sent His Son to the cross, we would have no chance.

The following verse seems to encapsulate everything I have said. (I John 4:19)

***“We love Him (God) because He first loved us.”***

Had it not been for God's love for us long before our first breath we would never know the peace that passes all understanding.

One final verse to drive home my point can be found in John's Gospel chapter 17. Here we have the record of Jesus praying to God the Father before His being offered on the cross of Calvary. One statement Jesus made during His prayer is so good it is almost too good to believe. (John 17:23)

***“I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou has sent Me, and has loved them, as thou hast loved Me.”***

Jesus is saying that God the Father has loved us with exactly the same love as He loved Jesus. It would be impossible to believe if it wasn't written in God's Word. Think of it, the same love God the Father loved Jesus with is the same love God loved us and continues to love us with.

How should this affect us? When we finally realize that all we have received in our redemption and new birth is the direct result of God's great love for us, **it should end our efforts attempting to earn something from Him.** God never intended for us to try and earn what Jesus did for us. It is “religion” that convinces people that their actions are what causes God's blessings to come to them. God's greatest blessing to man came with no strings attached, no quid pro

quo, no “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours”. His blessing of salvation and the new birth came because of His great love for us.

I challenge you to turn your attention to God’s great love for you. These verses from first John are what I am looking to in order to facilitate this revelation being born inside of me. I, like you, want all that God has for me and I believe the revelation of His great love for me will pave the way for everything else to follow.

**“Father, thank you for loving me. I love you because you first loved me!”**

~ Grace be with you

*Mark Jenkins*