

Meditations On The Love Of God

21-day series

meditations on the love of god

GOD IS LOVE



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Introduction

We are designed for contemplation, and we are designed for communion with God. But, as Christians living in a full world with full schedules, time for contemplation and silence before God is often hard to come by. Yet, if we want to hear the voice of God and grow in his love for us, regular time of contemplation is crucial.

The season we find ourselves is one of enforced isolation – this, at times, can be challenging, but it is a season which gives us the unique opportunity to develop our understanding and experience of the love of God. Rather than seeing isolation as a barrier to your spiritual growth see it instead as an opportunity. In John 4:4 we read that Jesus “had” to go to Samaria to see the Samaritan woman. He had a divine appointment with the one. This woman was isolated and alone, yet Jesus came to lift her up. In the same way, although you may be undertaking this journey on your own, Jesus too will lift you up and meet you in your time of devotion.

Meditation is a biblical concept. In Joshua 1:8 we read that success came to Joshua as he ‘meditated’ on the Word of God. In 1 Timothy 4:15, when talking about different spiritual activities, Paul says “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” Biblical meditation is thus not about emptying your mind; it is instead about concentrating your thoughts and imagination on a biblical truth, to grow in your union with God.

There are 21 days’ of love meditations in this series, each of which is designed to focus our minds on the love of God and lead us into a place of surrender. Surrender is the gateway for intimacy with God. We hope and pray that by the end of these 21 days we have all developed in ourselves an understanding of the importance of meditating on the love of God.

As you approach these meditations, remember that God lives in you. Your starting point is that God dwells within you. The role of these meditations is therefore not that of striving to get a union with God, but rather it is to realise this union that we already have with him. We’re simply placing ourselves in the right environment to best speak and hear from our creator.

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Practical steps for each day

1. FIND A COMFORTABLE POSITION.

-Find yourself a comfortable position for you to spend the next 15 minutes. This could be a chair that can become your 'God chair' or it could be simply taking a comfortable position on the floor, either sitting or kneeling.

2. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS.

-Where possible find a silent place – close the door, leave your phone outside, remove the noise.

3. CLOSE YOUR EYES AND BREATHE.

-Closing your eyes and breathing deeply helps you to focus and consolidate all your energy on this time of prayer. Before you begin to read the day's meditation take five deep breaths with your eyes closed.

4. OPEN YOUR EYES AND READ THROUGH THE DAY'S MEDITATION.

-Read through the passage of Scripture as many times as you wish. Let the words sink in. Then read through the attached meditation which is designed to lead you to a place of surrender.

-Having read through the meditation, spend some time in prayer, concentrating on the thoughts that have been pulled out of the passage.

GOD IS LOVE

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 1 - God Is Love

Day 1: God Is Love

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

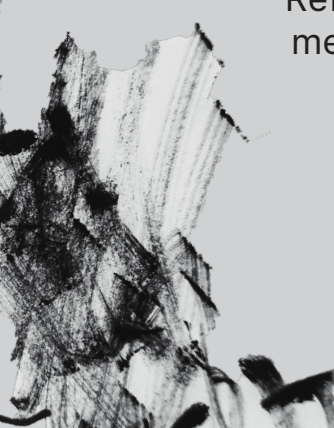
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the idea that love comes from God and that God is love.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 1 - God Is Love

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Love is not a thing; it is not a concept that you can observe or exhaust or merely just feel. Love is more than that. Love is all-encompassing, it's transformational, it's powerful. Love is so much more than just an idea. Love is a person and that person is God. God is love. As humans we're all capable of acting in a loving way, but only God is true love.

There are all kinds of attributes given to God throughout the Bible – He is said to be gracious, merciful, righteous... And He is. Yet each of these are adjectives; descriptions of his character. Only love is given as a description of who God is, not simply what God is like.

As the very essence and definition of love itself, anyone searching for true love need only look to Jesus, in whom we see love incarnate; love in flesh, love personified. Fully tangible, totally encompassing and powerfully real love.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 1 - God Is Love

Meditate today on this God of love. Remember that he loved us first so that we may extend this love to those around us, loving them through his love for us. The God who was, is and always will be love personified, who has come to dwell in me and you.

PRAY—

God, thank you that you are love. Thank you that I am your child. Thank you that love comes from you. Help me to reflect that love to those around me. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 2 - This Is Real Love

Day 2: This Is Real Love

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

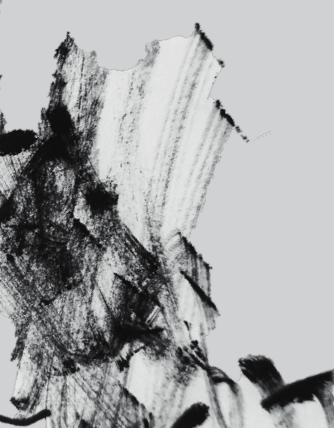
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

1 John 4:9-10

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God demonstrated his love for us by sending Jesus to die and rise again.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 2 - This Is Real Love

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Have you ever felt completely loved? Loved without hesitation of affection or half-hearted endearment, but fully loved for all you are. The kind of love that leaves you feeling unexplainably secure, completely at peace and fully assured.

This love, overwhelmingly good as it may seem, is but a glimpse of the love God extends towards you. His love for you is more than you could ever consider or imagine. It's real and it's active. Ever-giving itself towards you - flaws, failures, triumphs and all. God loves you as his own; his son, his daughter, his precious child who he is pleased with and who he dwells within.

The same God sent his son Jesus into the world, so that his life may be given to redeem yours. And, although this took place long before you were born, it was and remains the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. Jesus, the perfect Son of the living God, gave his life for you. Gladly and without hesitation. This is real love.

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 2 - This Is Real Love

Meditate today on Christ's downward humiliation culminating in his crucifixion on the cross.

Think about what Christ's death says about his love for you, and how his victory over that death means freedom from shame, relief from guilt, and forgiveness from any mistakes. Spend time contemplating the grace of God that is continually extended towards you and the perfect sacrifice that would have been made even if only for you.

PRAY—

*God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for his death and resurrection, which is the ultimate demonstration of real love. Help me to understand the freedom and victory which this has bought me.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 3 - God's Love Perfected In Us

Day 3: God's Love Perfected In Us

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

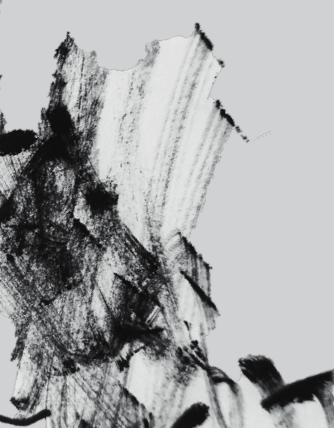
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us."

1 John 4:12

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God lives in you, and that by living in you He brings His love to full expression in your life.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 3 - God's Love Perfected In Us

THINK—

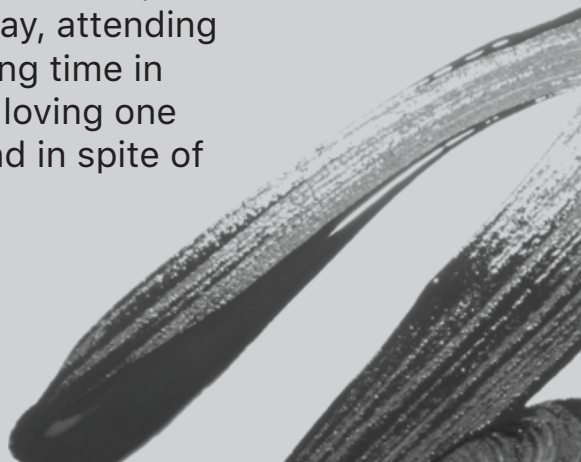
Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Think back to a time when you've seen God at work in your life. Maybe you felt his presence during a difficult period of time, or you saw him come through in a miraculous way. Perhaps you just sensed there was something more to life and that led you to an encounter with God. We all have glimpses of seeing God at work but, as we read today, no-one has ever seen God in a full and complete way.

Yet, even though we can't fully see God here on earth, we know that He lives in us through his Holy Spirit. In many ways this is a mystery, but we can trust that through thick and thin and every season of life God is with us.

In today's verse we read that, by God dwelling within us, his love is brought to its full expression through us. So, we can be comforted not just by the fact that God is with us at all times, but also by the fact that He works inside of us and exercises his love through us. Loving us at our core so that we can show his love to our world.

And this love, unconditional in all its essence, is not perfected by behaving a certain way, attending church regularly or even by spending time in prayer. It is simply made perfect by loving one another. Regardless of who we are and in spite of our differences.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 3 - God's Love Perfected In Us

So, meditate today on the presence of the Holy Spirit within you. Think about how God's presence in you empowers you to love those around you and how you can rest in the security this love provides so generously for you.

PRAY—

*God, thank you that you live in me. Today I recognise your presence and I choose to rest in your love. Help me today to love those in my world, remembering that you first loved me.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 4 - Love Is...

Day 4: Love Is...

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

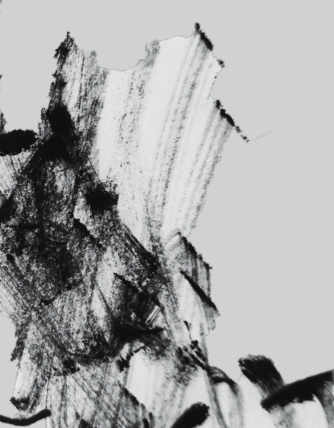
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the truth of what love actually is.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 4 - Love Is...

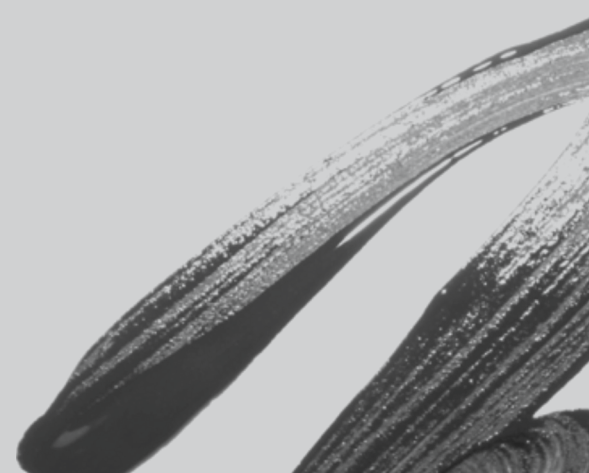
THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

I wonder if you've ever asked the question 'what is love'? Today we read a passage in which we're told exactly what love is. It tells us that love is others-focussed, it's faith-filled and it's ever-hopeful. And, above all else, love is ultimately found in God himself. The God who is love and the God who gives love.

So, all of these attributes that we read about today are not only true of love, but they're true of God. Our God is love, so he is patient and kind. He is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. He exemplifies and embodies love in its entirety, that love which is directed towards you today.

As you read through this passage and focus on what true love looks like, think about the areas where you might be able to love better in your own life. Perhaps it's by encouraging a friend or stripping away your pride. It might mean forgiving someone, truly and honestly. Perhaps it's simply making the decision to exercise patience in whatever circumstance requires it. Whatever it is, make time to meditate on how you can best love those in your own world today.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 4 - Love Is...

In better practicing what love looks like in action you will better understand what God looks like in character – a God who is patient, a God who is kind and a God who loves you so dearly and so fully. As you think on this today, let your mind find rest in this declaration of the goodness of God and the greatness of his love.

PRAY—

God, thank you for your Word, which tells me so clearly what love looks like. Thank you that you are this love, and that you extend that love to me today. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 5 - The Garden

Day 5: The Garden

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

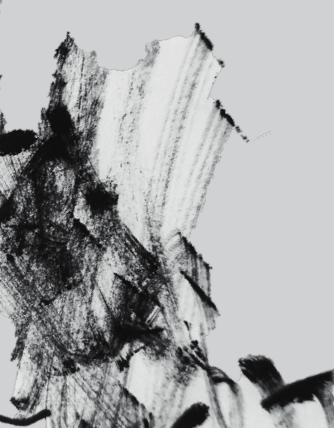
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife."

Genesis 3:8-11, 21

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God sought after his people, though they turned away from him.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 5 - The Garden

THINK—

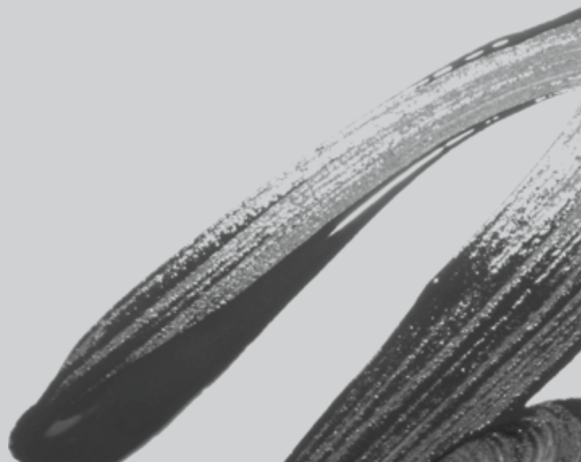
Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Today we read about the first humans, and it's a story all about those humans making mistakes, letting God down, but God accepting and receiving them back. It's a story of grace and the undeserved love of God, and it's amazing that this story, which is all about the love of God, is the first account of God interacting with humans in the whole Bible.

God knew the mistakes that Adam and Eve had made, but rather than shaming them he covered their shame. He clothed them rather than exposing them.

Humans expose the sin in other humans but God doesn't; he covers it. Adam and Eve turned away from God; they chose to disobey him, they chose to do life their own way, yet God's first response is to call out to them, to go to them, and to cover their shame.

Perhaps you're feeling a bit like Adam and Eve in your own life. You may feel like you've walked away from God or gone too far to ever deserve his grace. But from this first story in the Bible we see that there is no 'too far', 'too much' or 'too bad' for God. Whilst we may have made significant mistakes, we are never too far gone for him to turn away from us.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 5 - The Garden

As you consider what unconditional love truly means, meditate today on how this love is directed towards you. No matter what you have done, are doing or will do, God loves you. He accepts you. He is for you. Flaws and all, he cannot be put off by you. Your brokenness does not push him away, in fact, it draws him near. Love, grace and tender mercy at the ready.

PRAY—

God, thank you that you never give up on me, even when I run away, even when I hide. Thank you that your love is always extended towards me. Help me to come back to you today. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 6 - Jesus and Bartimaeus

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PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

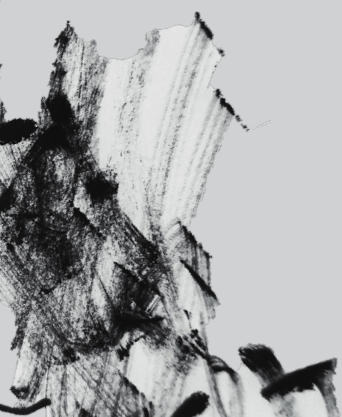
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road."

Mark 10:46-47, 51-52

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the healing power of God which is extended to all, whether rich or poor.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 6 - Jesus and Bartimaeus

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Bartimaeus was a man who would have been shunned by society; an outcast who was looked down upon because of his physical deficiencies. Not only was he a beggar, but he was blind too, which at that time would have made him the very lowest of the low in society.

We all feel like outsiders sometimes, we all have moments where we feel like we don't belong. And for Bartimaeus this feeling of being an outsider was the narrative of his life. Yet whilst others shunned him and treated him like he didn't belong, Jesus welcomed him, met with him, and changed him. Jesus took this outsider and brought him into his inner circle, drawing him near even though the world around him had pushed him far.

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 6 - Jesus and Bartimaeus

Meditate today on the way in which the love of God draws you near. The same love which surrounded Bartimaeus, the same love which held him close, the same love which embraced him totally and healed him fully. The love which met him where he was at but led him forwards, not leaving him there. The love which took him from his old way of living and gave him a new lease of life. That same love is extended to you today – whether you feel like an outsider, disregarded, discarded, or rejected - the transformative love of Jesus which was extended to Bartimaeus is also extended to you.

PRAY—

*God, thank you that you accept me as I am, regardless of what the world says about me. Thank you that your healing love is extended towards me and, like Bartimaeus, I choose to follow you today.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 7 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

Day 7: Jesus and Zacchaeus

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

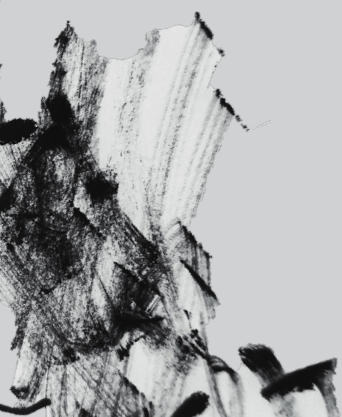
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

Luke 19:1-5

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider how God desires to be involved in your life, just as he desired to be involved in the life of Zacchaeus.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 7 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

The significance of this story is often lost on a modern audience because we can easily miss the scandal of what Jesus says and does. You see, tax collectors at the time of Jesus were despised, scorned and looked down upon, primarily because they cheated people out of their money. And to make matters worse, Zacchaeus wasn't just a tax collector, he was the chief tax collector. Unlike Bartimaeus who was looked down upon because of his poverty and low social status, Zacchaeus was looked down upon because he was rich and powerful, all of which came off the backs of other people.

Yet once again we see Jesus extending his unconditional love. He wasn't put off by Zacchaeus' wrongs, he didn't despise him like the rest of the crowd, he didn't even ignore him as so many others would have done. Jesus not only acknowledged Zacchaeus but he called him by his name.

At the time, sitting down for dinner with someone was a huge compliment; it meant that you considered the person you were dining with a friend for life. So, by asking to have dinner at his house, Jesus gave Zacchaeus a worth that no amount of earthly riches could ever buy, he showed him a love he probably never knew and he treated him as a friend. Something no one would ever expect.

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 7 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

Meditate today on the fact that you too are chosen by God. He calls you by your name and He considers you a friend. Regardless of your behaviour or your religious works, God chooses today to meet with you, wherever and whoever you may be.

PRAY—

God, thank you that you desire to be involved in my life. Thank you that you choose me today. I accept you into my life anew and invite you to work in and through me. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 8 - Jesus and Nicodemus

Day 8: Jesus and Nicodemus

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

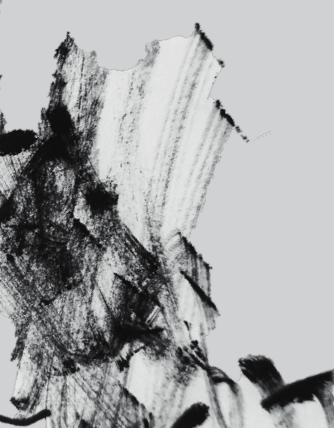
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

John 3:1-3

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider your experience of coming to know Jesus and being born again.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 8 - Jesus and Nicodemus

THINK—

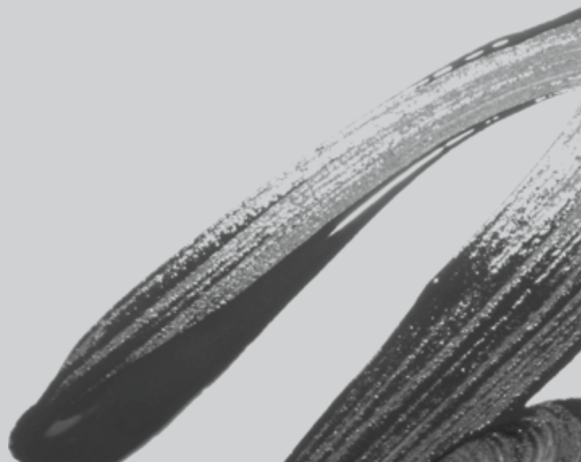
Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

I wonder what you think qualifies you to be right with God. So often we think it comes down to our good deeds or our correct beliefs; even if we have been a Christian for a while we can easily fall into the trap of believing that God counts us as righteous because of our outward performance or our perfect theology.

Today we read Jesus telling Nicodemus, who would have lived a near perfect life as a Jewish religious leader, that what qualifies him is not what he knows about the law, but rather being born again.

The concept of being born again is central to the gospel message. Jesus is not about making bad people good but about making dead people alive.

What Nicodemus was missing was not a better understanding about religion, but a new way of life, a way only made real by a relationship with Jesus. And this new way of life is on offer to anyone who wants it, regardless of their past.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 8 - Jesus and Nicodemus

Meditate today on the love of God which makes all things new. The love which transforms us from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive. Think about where you have mislaid your faith in this area, and realign your thoughts to the undeserved, unmerited and unceasing grace of God. Our outward behaviour is a fruit of our salvation, not a pre-requisite to receive it.

PRAY—

God, thank you that your love towards me is not dictated by my performance. Thank you that you declare me righteous. Help me to remember my right-standing before you. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 9 -Jesus And The Adulterous Woman

Day 9: Jesus And The Adulterous Woman

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

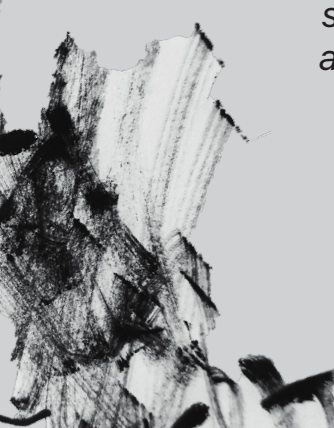
Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

John 8:3-5, 7, 9-11



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 9 -Jesus And The Adulterous Woman

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God doesn't condemn you; rather, his love empowers you to live a life of intimacy with Him.

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

We all have times where we feel condemned, ashamed and guilty. Occasionally these feelings come from others but more often than not they come from within; our own internal voice telling us that we are no good. It's important to know that those feelings of condemnation, guilt and shame do not come from God. While God may convict us to help us understand something is wrong, he will never condemn us for our wrongdoing.

We see this in today's passage, where Jesus has the opportunity to make the woman caught in the act of adultery feel guilty and condemned for her mistakes. But rather than shaming her he shows her love. To the dismay and disgust of those around him, he shows her compassion not condemnation. He makes the point that no one is exempt from sin. We all mess up, we all make mistakes, we are all in the same boat. He says that he will not condemn her, but rather he gives her a clean slate and encourages her to go and live life in light of her encounter with him.

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 9 -Jesus And The Adulterous Woman

The crowd desired to make this woman feel excluded, disposable and irrelevant. But Jesus desired to make her feel included, precious and important. And he does this time and time again, not just for people like this women, but for us too. Wherever we are in our lives, whatever we've done and whoever we've hurt, Jesus wants you to know that because you are loved by him you are included in his grace.

Meditate today on the gracious love of God extended to you. Love that will never make you feel condemned, shameful, or guilty. Love that no mistake can take away and no sin can exclude.

PRAY—

God, thank you that your love towards me is not dictated by my performance. Thank you that you declare me righteous. Help me to remember my right-standing before you. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 10 - Jesus and the Mockers

Day 10: Jesus and the Mockers

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

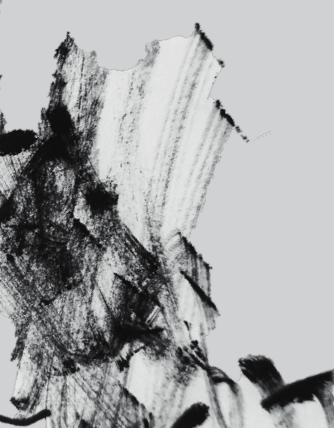
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice."

Luke 23:32-34

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the forgiveness of God which is offered to all. As the criminals in this passage learned, it is never too late to embrace God's forgiveness.



Meditations On The Love Of God

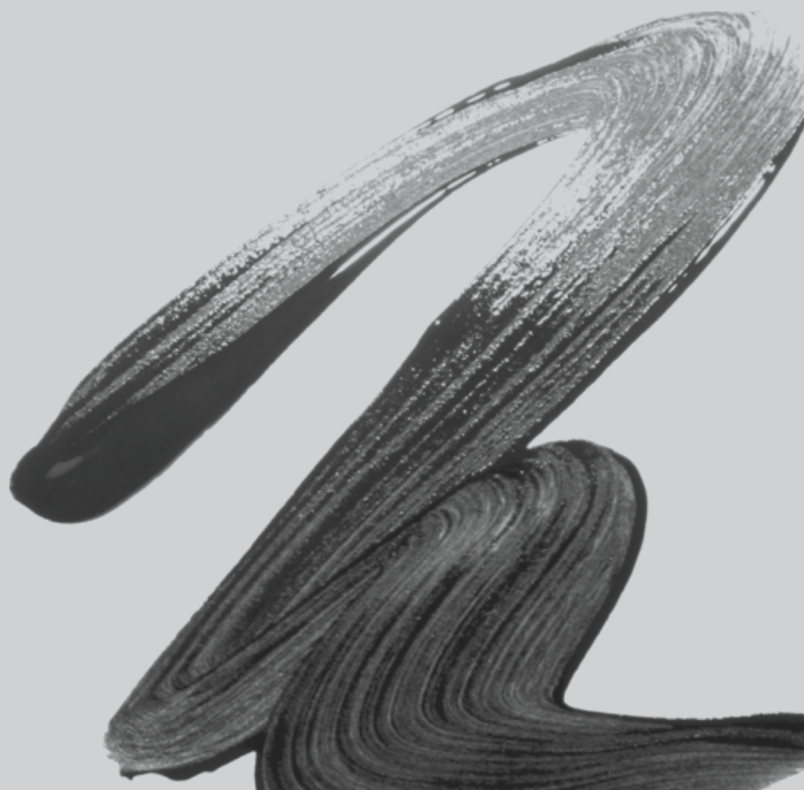
Day 10 - Jesus and the Mockers

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Think about a time when you had to forgive someone. Forgiveness is often difficult, it's unpleasant and it comes with a significant cost. Forgiving people for both horrendous acts and small offences can be an incredibly trying process, and it often takes time, tears and true courage.

In today's passage we read about Jesus, nailed to a cross, looking down at the people who had not only crucified him but mocked him in the process. Jesus, completely innocent of all charges and all wrongs, did not look at these people with bitterness or remorse, but he looked at them with deep forgiveness and untainted love. In the thick of his pain and the depth of his humiliation he made the decision to forgive those who wronged him even though their wrongs cost him his life.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 10 - Jesus and the Mockers

Meditate today on the forgiveness of God which is freely extended to all, regardless of what we have done and in spite of the hurt we may have caused. You may feel like you have made too many mistakes or gone too far to ever merit a fraction of the forgiveness of God. But be reminded today that in the same way Jesus forgave the very men who nailed him to the cross and mocked his very name, he can and does forgive you too. His love never ends, his mercies never cease and his forgiveness never falls short of reaching you.

PRAY—

*God, thank you for your forgiveness which is offered to me. I accept it today. Thank you that your mercies are new every morning.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 11 - Jesus And Paul On The Road To Damascus

Day 11: Jesus And Paul On The Road To Damascus

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

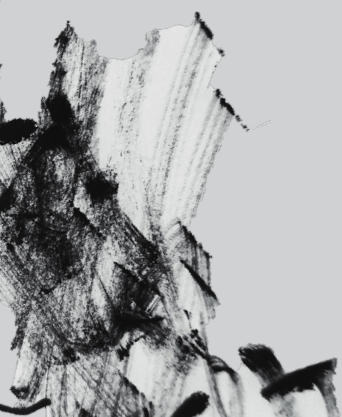
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?' 'Who are you, lord?' Saul asked. And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

Acts 9:3-6

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the transformational power of an encounter with God. Think back to your first time encountering God.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 11 - Jesus And Paul On The Road To Damascus

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

The Saul we read about in today's passage is the same Saul who looked on with joy as Christians were stoned for their beliefs. Saul had been a militant anti-Christian, one who took great pleasure in Christian persecution. Yet in one encounter with Jesus his life was radically changed. God saved him, transforming him into a Christ-follower who was used mightily and mercifully by God.

The power of God's love caused a complete turnaround in Saul's life and that same kind of transformational love is offered to you today. Saul the Christ-hater became Paul the Christ-follower, who went onto write books in the New Testament, start churches far and wide, and become a hero of the faith that we still admire today. Though his mistakes were many and his past destructive even Saul was not disqualified from being loved and used by God.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 11 - Jesus And Paul On The Road To Damascus

Meditate today on the transformational love of God and know that regardless of your mistakes and your past the transformational power of the love of God is generously offered to you today.

Think about where in your life you need God's love to transform some things or to redeem some mistakes and allow his love, which is in you, to empower you to live for him.

PRAY—

God, thank you that we are never too far gone for you to meet us. Thank you that you love me and that you offer your transformational love afresh to me today. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 12 - Healing The Blind Man

Day 12: Healing The Blind Man

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

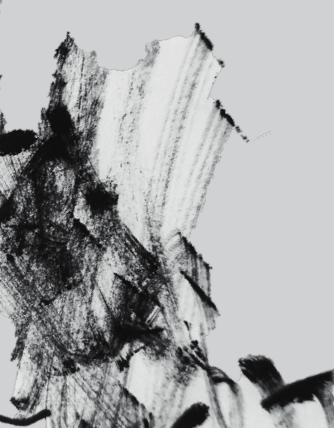
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!"

John 9:1-3, 6-7

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that our illnesses aren't a punishment from God, and that God's love is extended to all.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 12 - Healing The Blind Man

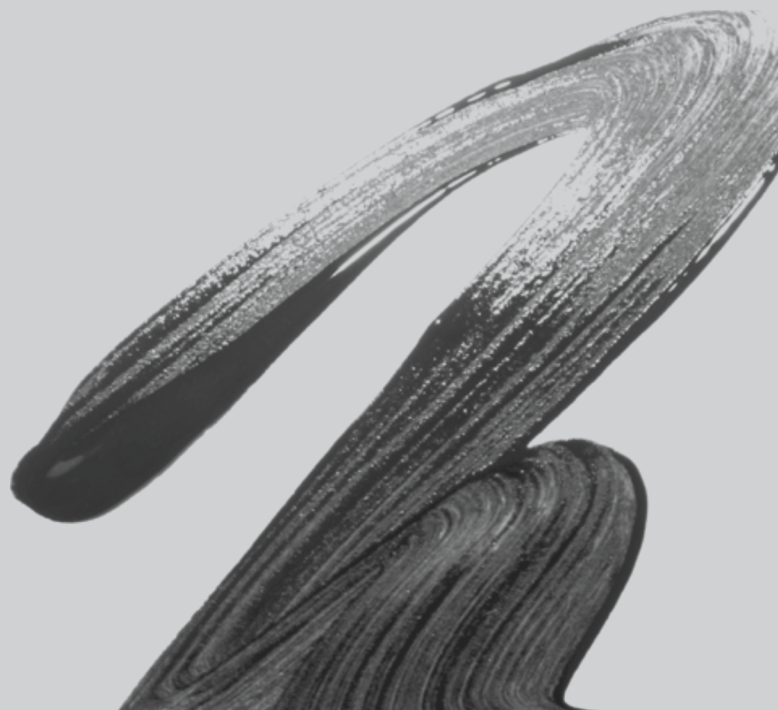
THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further.

Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

How often do we fall into the trap of linking our illness, our problems, our shortfalls or our misfortune with the mistakes we have made or the things we have done? We are so quick to attach our performance to our problems, making our works determine our worth. Even if we have been Christians for a while we can easily slip into that way of thinking, believing that if we had just been more faithful to God he would be more gracious to us.

Today we read Jesus speaking directly into this way of thinking, declaring that the fact that the man was born blind wasn't linked to anyone's religious performance. Rather, it was in order for God's power to be shown in and through him. The story ends with Jesus healing the man, showing the transformational power of God and the healing abilities of his love.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 12 - Healing The Blind Man

Meditate today on the restorative power of God's love. Love that isn't contingent on your capabilities. Maybe you do have an illness in your body or a shortcoming in an area of your life – know that that isn't because God is punishing you or your ancestors and judging your right or wrong-doings. Rather, think today about how these are opportunities for God to outwork his power through you, whether that be through physical healing or simply the fulfilling love of God that never fails to leave.

PRAY—

God, thank you that you desire to work through me. Help me today to trust in your sovereignty and truly know that you are not a punishing or vengeful God. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 13 - "I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches"

Day 13: "I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches"

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

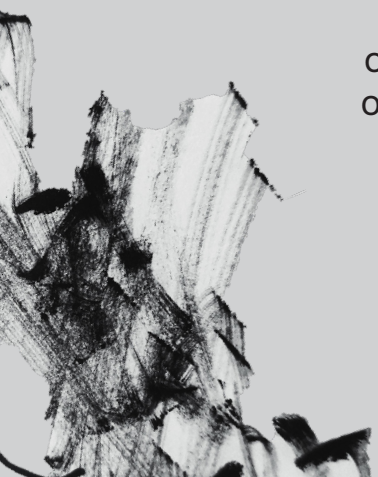
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the connection we have with God due to his indwelling of us through the Holy Spirit. He is the vine, we are the branches.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 13 - "I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches"

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

In today's verse Jesus paints a picture by which he describes us as the branches and himself as the vine. Now, think about a vine, really picture it; when you look at a vine the branches are not separate from the vine but they are one with it, they stem from it and they grow because of it. If the branch is cut off, so too is its life as it is no longer connected to its source, the life-giving vine.

What Jesus is saying is that we are connected to him as our life source. We are one with him and, therefore, we are not separate from him. We don't need to pray to become connected to him but rather we simply need to realise that he is already a part of us and living within us. We need simply to pray for that connection to be realised in our lives, not for it to be formed. Just as a branch sees itself as being entirely connected to the vine we need to see ourselves as being entirely connected to God, the ultimate life-giving vine.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 13 - "I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches"

Meditate today on this illustration that we are the branches and Jesus is the vine. Use this time of prayer and meditation to understand that our connection to God already exists, we need simply to make it known in every area of our lives. Spend some time considering what this divine connection means for your daily life – how it looks, how it grows you and how it produces fruit through you.

PRAY—

*God, thank you that union with you is not something I have to get, but something I simply have to realise. Help me today to understand more deeply my connection with you.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 14 - Jesus and Lazarus

Day 14: Jesus and Lazarus

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

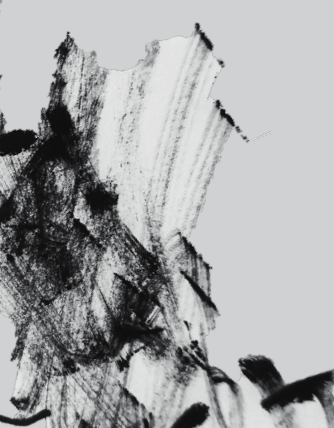
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, 'Lord, your dear friend is very sick.' When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, 'Unwrap him and let him go!'"

John 11:1, 3, 17, 43-44

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God's timing can often appear confusing, but we are called to trust him regardless.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 14 - Jesus and Lazarus

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

I wonder if you've ever felt like God's timing has been different to yours? So often in life we can be crying out for God to come through to do a miracle, but he just seems to be... silent. This disappointment is likely what Mary and Martha would have felt. They had told Jesus that their brother Lazarus was sick and probably on the verge of death, they were desperate for Jesus to act and act quickly. Yet Jesus stayed where he was for two days before he began making his way to Lazarus and, by the time he arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

For many reasons our relationship with God is unlike any other relationship that we have in life, and due to the fact that we can't see God it's often difficult when he doesn't act in the way that we would expect. Faith, however, is a decision to trust in the sovereignty of God, knowing that although his ways are different to our ways, he loves us, he cares for us and he is with us – even when it feels like the opposite.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 14 - Jesus and Lazarus

Meditate today on the areas of life where you are struggling to see God at work or where you think God may be too late to meet your need. Surrender those fragile areas to the careful and caring God, resting in his love and his peace. Know today that he is with you, he is for you, and he loves you more than you know. He is never late, nor too early, but works everything together for good.

PRAY—

God, thank you that I can trust you, even when it doesn't seem to make sense. Thank you that your ways are higher than mine. Help me to keep trusting you. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 15 - Feeding The 5000

Day 15: Feeding The 5000

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

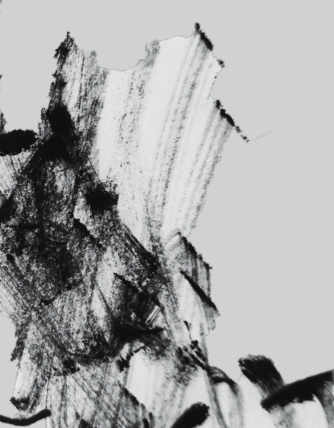
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance'."

Mark 8:1-3

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the compassion that God has for all people. His love for you is the same love that he had for the crowd that followed him in this passage.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 15 - Feeding The 5000

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

When we think of the famous story of the feeding of the 5000, often the first thing we consider is the miracle that Jesus did. But what we often forget is that this miracle stemmed from the love of God.

Before any miracle took place it says that Jesus "saw the crowd... and he had compassion on them."

The Greek word here for 'compassion' carries the nuance of Jesus being deeply moved by the crowd, and it is a word which refers to love rooted in action. The story of Jesus feeding the 5000 is a display of Jesus' deep love for the people which resulted in him performing a miracle of provision. This same compassion – the love that heals, provides and restores – is shown to us today. The love of God extended towards us naturally results in God acting in our lives, impacting us from the inside out.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 15 - Feeding The 5000

Meditate today on God's compassionate love for you which is deep in nature and rooted in action. And remember, just as Jesus looked at the crowd with a deep love and affection, so too does he look at you today with that same love, desiring to move, work and expand in your life.

PRAY—

God, thank you that your love for me is rooted in action. You desire to move in my life and today I surrender to you. I invite you to move in my life today. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 16 - The Disciple That Jesus Loved

Day 16: The Disciple That Jesus Loved

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

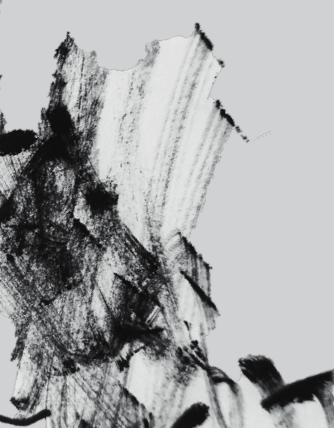
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, 'I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!' The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, 'Who's he talking about?'"

John 13:21-24

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider John's description of the disciple Jesus loved, and think about whether you see yourself as a disciple loved by Jesus.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 16 - The Disciple That Jesus Loved

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Here, we read about the author of the Gospel of John speaking about Jesus' disciples, but referring to one of them as the 'disciple Jesus loved.' Yet what's intriguing is that John is describing himself. Now, at first glance that may seem quite arrogant, as John doesn't refer to any of the other disciples in this way. But this is not arrogance; it is just John's way of demonstrating his confidence in the love of Jesus that was extended towards him.

I'm not sure how you think of yourself but I hope you find encouragement in John's words – John knew where he stood before Jesus, as a beloved son and welcomed friend of the Most High. You too should be confident in the fact that you are loved and welcomed by Jesus. You are the child that he loves and the friend whom he embraces.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 16 - The Disciple That Jesus Loved

Meditate today on the bold assurance you can have in knowing that you are loved by Jesus. Regardless of the ups or downs of your life, the mistakes you have made or the failures you've experienced, Jesus loves you and calls you his disciple too – the disciple he loves.

PRAY—

*God, thank you that I am your beloved child. Today I choose to see myself as a disciple that you love. I am chosen, loved, and welcomed into your family.
Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 17 - Understanding And Experiencing The Love Of God

Day 17: Understanding And Experiencing The Love Of God

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

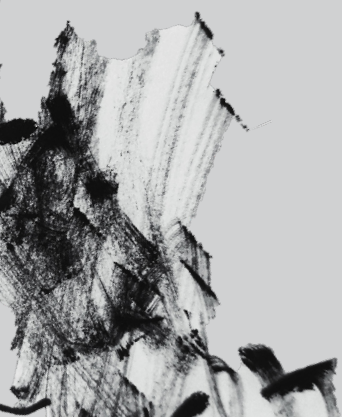
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Ephesians 3:17-19

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that God has made his home in your heart and that, because of this, you can both understand and experience the love of God in your daily life.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 17 - Understanding And Experiencing The Love Of God

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

We read here that, when Christ makes home in our hearts, we will both understand and experience the love of God. I wonder if you've ever pondered the difference between knowledge and experience?

When you were at school you may have learned about the geography and history of a certain country, but it wouldn't have been until you actually visited that place in later life that you would be able to truly experience it.

In the same way, when it comes to understanding what love is, we can read all kinds of books and watch all kinds of films, but until you actually fall in love with someone you will never be able to truly experience what love actually feels like. Here we learn that, as Christians, we do not just know about the love of God revealed in Jesus, but we actually experience it!



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 17 - Understanding And Experiencing The Love Of God

Meditate today on the fact that Christ has made his home in our hearts; in effect, he has rooted his Spirit in us so we too should commit to rooting ourselves in him. Consider how you can continue to build your life on the love of God.

PRAY—

*God, thank you that you first loved me. Thank you that I can both know and experience your love.
Help me today to love you more. Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 18 - Abba Father

Day 18: Abba Father

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Mark 14:36

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the close, intimate relationship that Jesus has with his Father, and think about how you too can have that kind of relationship with God.

GOD IS LOVE

Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 18 - Abba Father

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further.

Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

In the Bible God is often talked about as a Father, but this can be difficult for some, as our frame of reference for a father figure can often be quite negative. For some our father is a great support and encouragement, but for others our father can be a source of hurt and anger, or perhaps he isn't present at all. This makes it difficult, though not impossible, to see God as our true Heavenly Father.

Jesus doesn't just refer to God as Father, however; He refers to Him as 'Abba'. 'Abba' is a Hebrew term which is an incredibly intimate name for a father, suggesting an extremely close and warm, loving relationship. By Jesus using this term we can know that in our lives too God deeply desires to be known and approached as an intimate, present and loving Father. Regardless of what we think of fathers from our own experiences, our heavenly Father will never fail us or turn us away.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 18 - Abba Father

Meditate today on the intimacy of your relationship with God. He is your Abba Father, your closest companion, your loving and present God who is with you at all times. He is closer than you know and he desires for you to approach him with confidence and assurance, knowing that you are His beloved child. As we read in Romans 8:15-16, "by him we cry Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

PRAY—

*God, thank you that you are my Abba Father.
Thank you that I can know you at an intimate level.
Help me today to be open with you, knowing that
your love is extended towards me. Amen.*



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 19 - Jesus In The Desert

Day 19: Jesus In The Desert

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

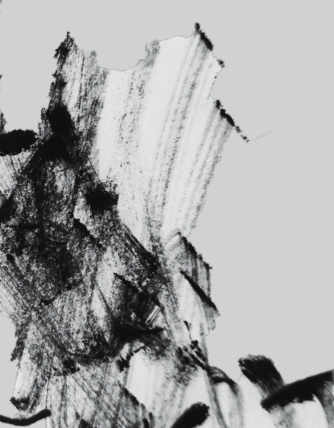
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.' But Jesus told him, 'No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone'."

Luke 4:1-4

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider how Jesus was tempted by the devil, and think about how he responded to the devil's lies with truth from the Word of God.



Meditations On The Love Of God

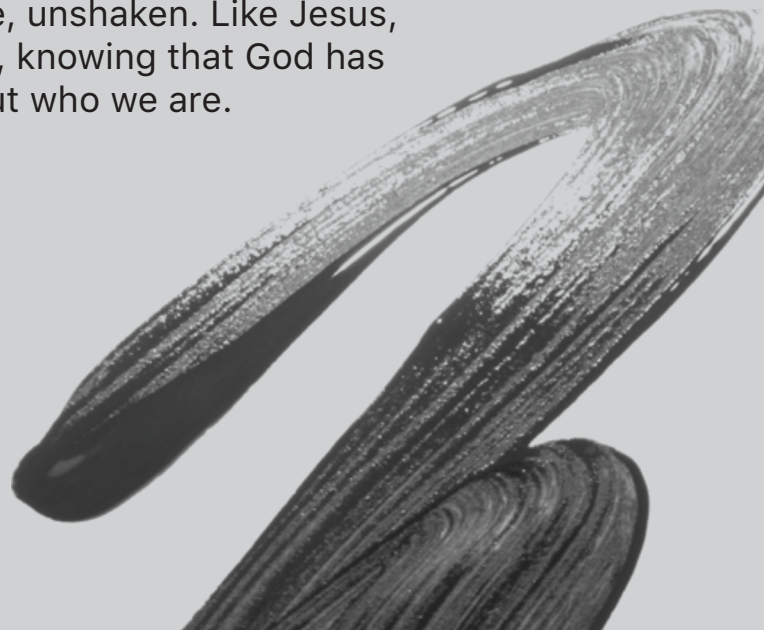
Day 19 - Jesus In The Desert

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

It can be so easy in life to become caught up in the internal dialogues which can easily take us off course and dispel inner peace. Yet in Jesus' encounter with Satan in the desert we see an example of how to respond to and defeat these dialogues. When Jesus was challenged with lies He refused them with truth. The truth that is found in the Scriptures; a powerful weapon against Satan and his deception. Jesus knew the truth about who He was, loved and sent by God. He also knew the truth about who Satan was, a deceiver and tempter. By knowing these truths, there was no place for lies to run wild in His mind.

The point isn't that we have to recite Scripture every time we feel our internal dialogue running away from ourselves; but like Jesus we need to know what is really true in order to recognise when false truths come our way. Jesus' example shows us that by knowing who God is and what He says about us we can stand firm and resolute, unshaken. Like Jesus, we can stand on His Word, knowing that God has the final say about who we are.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 19 - Jesus In The Desert

Meditate today on the love of God which validates you as His child. Know today that whenever you find your internal dialogue running wild you can stand firm on the promise that you are a beloved son or daughter of the Most High God. You are whole and complete, lacking in nothing, and fully secure in the promises of God.

PRAY—

God, thank you that I can stand on the truth of your Word today. Thank you that you are my rock. Help me to stand firm on what you say about me when I am confronted by the lies of the world.
Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 20 - A Love That Grows

Day 20 - A Love That Grows

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

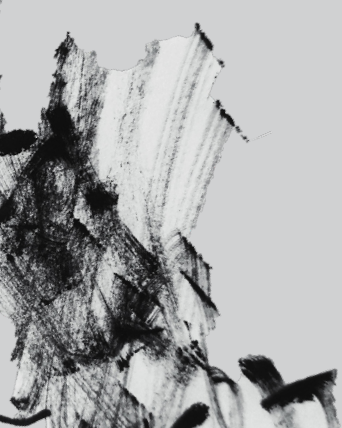
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love."

1 John 4:17-18

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the process of growing in the love of God. Reflect on how the love of God expels all fear from our lives.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 20 - A Love That Grows

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Learning to grow in the love of God takes a lifetime.

It is an ever-evolving journey in which we both learn more about the deepness of the love of God towards us and then see it take root in our lives as we grow in our love for others. As we read today, it is by 'living' in God that our love grows more perfect. We can't merely visit the love of God, we can't dabble in it or spend a few days contemplating it – we need to be rooted in the love of God all the days of our lives.

We will always be loved by God, no matter what, but we should always be seeking to grow in our love for him; to grow in what it means to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and spirit. This is an ever-growing love that develops as we develop in character, wisdom and experience. The fruit of this love is the dispelling of fear and the indwelling of confidence; as we grow in our love for God we walk more confidently, knowing that we are his children.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 20 - A Love That Grows

Meditate today on the beautiful and exciting life-long journey of growing in the love of God that is before you and know that, every single step of the way, God loves you. Consider today how a love for God can extend itself practically into your life, not just in how you love others but also in the dispelling of fear and the indwelling of confidence. Remember, such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.

PRAY—

God, thank you for your promise that your love casts out all fear. Today I choose to align myself afresh in your love. Help me to remember that growing in love is a life-long process. Amen.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 21: Jesus - The Visible Image Of The Invisible God

Day 21: Jesus - The Visible Image Of The Invisible God

PAUSE—

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

BREATHE—

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

READ—

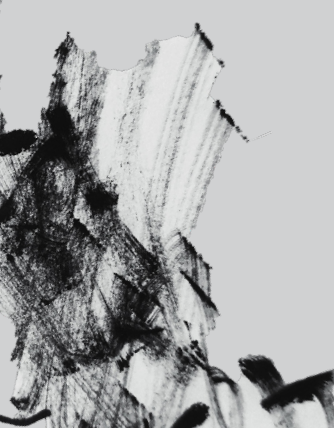
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation."

Colossians 1:15

REFLECT—

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider the fact that Jesus is our example of what God is like; that even though you can't see God you can still know what he is like through the example of Jesus in God's Word.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 21: Jesus - The Visible Image Of The Invisible God

THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

Everyone wants to know what God is like, and this seemingly simple question is often met with complex answers. Yet, in this single verse, we learn that if we want to know what God is like we need simply to look at Jesus. The life of Jesus paints a beautiful picture of the character of God. He treated people with dignity, respect, love and grace. How Jesus treated those around him is how God treats us, and how Jesus thought lovingly of those He encountered is how God thinks of us.

As we have journeyed through meditating on passages of Scripture over the last few days, we have read multiple examples of Jesus interacting with humanity. And how Jesus interacted with each of those people with unconditional love and unwarranted grace is exactly how God interacts with his. He extends love, forgiveness and grace, He covers our sin, He empowers us to love, and He encourages us that come rain or shine, ups or downs, He is with us at all times.



Meditations On The Love Of God

Day 21: Jesus - The Visible Image Of The Invisible God

Meditate today on the love of God made visible in Jesus. Although we can't see God physically, we can know what He is like because of the example of Jesus. Why not think back to some of the examples we've looked at of Jesus interacting with people, and remember that the same love and grace is extended towards you too.

PRAY—

*God, thank you for sending Jesus to give us a visible example of who you are and what you are like. Help me to become more like Jesus, by growing in my love for you and for others.
Amen.*

