

Love

Today I will respond to others with love. I am created as an expression and object of God's love which He demonstrated for me on the cross. And He continues to demonstrate His love to me every moment of every day. He empowers me with His Spirit; and the natural expression of His Spirit living in me is love. In the same way He expresses His love to me, He wants me to express love to others. I love because He first loved me. I love Him, myself and others. And I am most like Him when I express love to others. Today I will respond to others with love.

Love begins and ends with God, it is His very nature. Love cannot be earned, it is a gift. There is nothing I can do to make God stop loving me; and there is nothing I can do to make Him love me more than He does this very moment. He loves me completely. God's love is unconditional and sacrificial, thus the cross of Jesus: "God so loved the world that He gave..." The same unconditional, sacrificial love God has for me is flowing through me to others today. Regardless of how others treat me, I will express only love toward them. Today I will respond to others with love.

God's love is immeasurable and beyond my comprehension. Yet I am completely rooted and grounded in His love, and it has taken hold of every area of my life. Because of this, I choose to love God with all my heart, soul and mind. And I choose to love others as I love myself. Love is not a feeling that fluctuates with the passion of a moment. Love is a decision and a choice to do what's best for others. I can and will choose with my will, by the power of the Holy Spirit living in me and empowering me, to love. Today I will respond to others with love.

I can only love others as I love myself. That is to see myself as God sees me: His masterpiece, His prized possession, His child. My self-worth comes from His love for me and my Heavenly Father's acceptance of me. I do not need to seek the approval of others or allow their thoughts of me to sway my esteem, for I am fully and completely loved and approved of by my Father. Because I am secure in His love for me I can live in the choice and command to love others as I love myself. Today I will respond to others with love.

Study: Love

Day 1: Loving My Neighbor - *Matthew 22:37-39* (Page 753); *Leviticus 19:9-18* (Page 95-96)

Day 2: God's Love - *Ephesians 3:17-19* (Page 896); *1 John 4:19* (Page 943); *Psalms 136* (Page 475)

Day 3: The Greatest is Love - *1 Corinthians 13* (Page 878); *Proverbs 10:12* (Page 487)

Day 4: Christ's Love Compels Me - *John 21:15-17* (Page 829); *2 Corinthians 5:14-15* (Page 884)

Day 5: God is Love - *1 John 2:9-11* (Page 941); *1 John 4:8* (Page 943)

Day 6: Love Overflow - *1 Thessalonians 3:12-13* (Page 906); *Philippians 1:9-11* (Page 899)

Day 7: I am God's Masterpiece, Prized, Children - *Ephesians 2:10* (Page 896); *Deuteronomy 26:18* (Page 159); *Ephesians 5:1-2* (Page 897). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: 1 John 3:16 "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?