

DAILY READING: 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. He continues to demonstrate His love for me each 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. 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 nature. God is love. Love cannot be earned, it is a gift. People fall in and out of love, but God's love is eternal. There is nothing I can do to make God stop loving me. There is nothing I can do to make Him love me more than He does this very moment. His love is unconditional and sacrificial: "For God so loved that He gave..." Regardless of how others treat me, I will express only love toward them. I will not fear that someone may un-love me. Today I will respond to others with love.

God's love is beyond my comprehension. Yet I am rooted and grounded in His love, and it has taken hold of every area of my life. 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 only love others as I love myself – to see myself as God sees me. He sees me as a masterpiece, a prized treasure and as His child. My self-worth comes from His love for me and my Father's acceptance of me. I do not need to seek the approval of others or allow their thoughts of me to determine my worth. I am fully and completely loved and approved by my loving Heavenly Father. I am secure in His love for me. Today I will respond to others with love.

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

DAILY STUDY: LOVE

DAY 1: Loving My Neighbor - Matthew 22:37-39 (Page 753);
Leviticus 19:9-18 (Page 94)

DAY 2: God's Love - Ephesians 3:17-19 (Page 896); 1 John 4:19
(Page 943); Psalm 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.

ACTIVITY:

Who do you love and why do you love them? How differently do you act toward those you love versus those you do not know or love? Today, talk to strangers with kindness as you would a family member or friend. Do this in a safe environment. Show loving kindness to others.

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?