

# Three Facets of LOVE



A sermon by Norman Moll

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# Three Facets of LOVE



God's Love

Our Love for God,

Love of the Truth

# What is LOVE?



A feeling of strong personal attachment  
induced by sympathetic understanding,  
or by ties of kinship;  
Ardent, tender, passionate affection.

# What is LOVE?



1 John 4 (Amplified Bible)

*<sup>8</sup>He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for*

*God is love.*

# What is LOVE?



1 John 4 (Amplified Bible)

*<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God; and he who loves [his fellowmen] is begotten (born) of God and is coming [progressively] to know and understand God [to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him].*

*<sup>8</sup>He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for*

*God is love.*

# What is LOVE?



1 John 4 (Amplified Bible)

*<sup>8</sup>He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for **God is love.***

*<sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest (displayed) . . . in that God sent His Son, the only begotten or unique [Son], into the world so that we might live through Him.*

*<sup>10</sup>In this is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins.*

*<sup>11</sup>**Beloved, if God loved us so [very much], we also ought to love one another.***

# What is LOVE?



1. God is Love
2. Without loving one cannot know God
3. By loving each other we can learn to understand God's love better
4. God's love for us has been demonstrated
5. Because of God's love we owe love to all

# What is God's LOVE like?



- Before Creation the Godhead . . .
- Creation – Elohim expanding their family
- Creation week – God preparing a home



*God . . . breathed into his nostrils the breath of life . . .*

## Genesis 2

*18And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

*21And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

*22And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

*23And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*



# What is God's LOVE like?



- Before Creation the Godhead . . .
- Creation – Elohim expanding their family
- Creation week – God preparing a home
- Creation a personal event by a loving God
- Sabbath, a day for friendship and love –

**Adam and Eve's first full day!**



*"The Sabbath was made for man" Mark 2:27*

# What is God's LOVE like?



God's love is based on His desire for

- Relationships
- Friendships
- Unselfish giving
- Freedom of expression
- The free choice of the one loving!

Key!

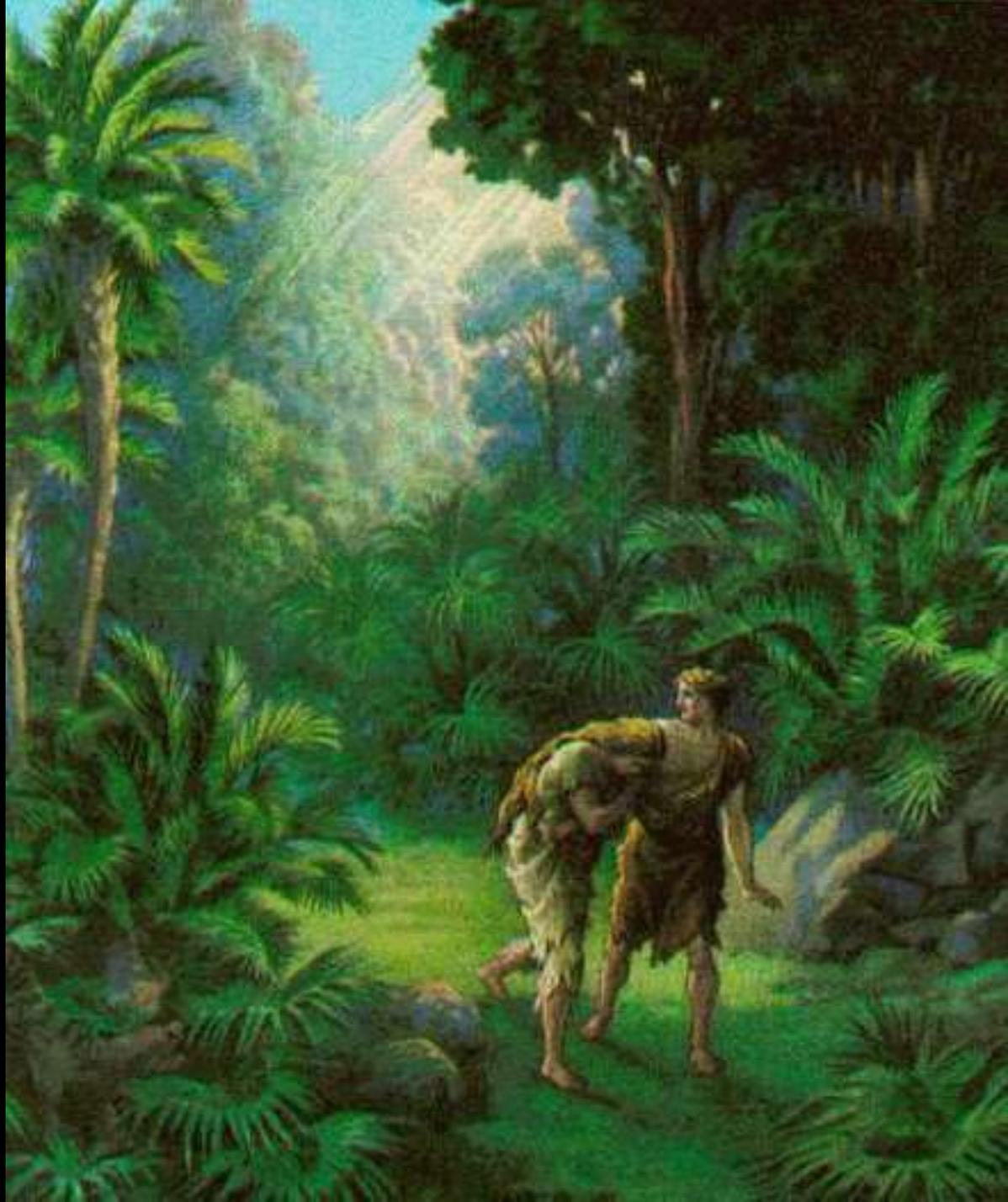
God is LOVE

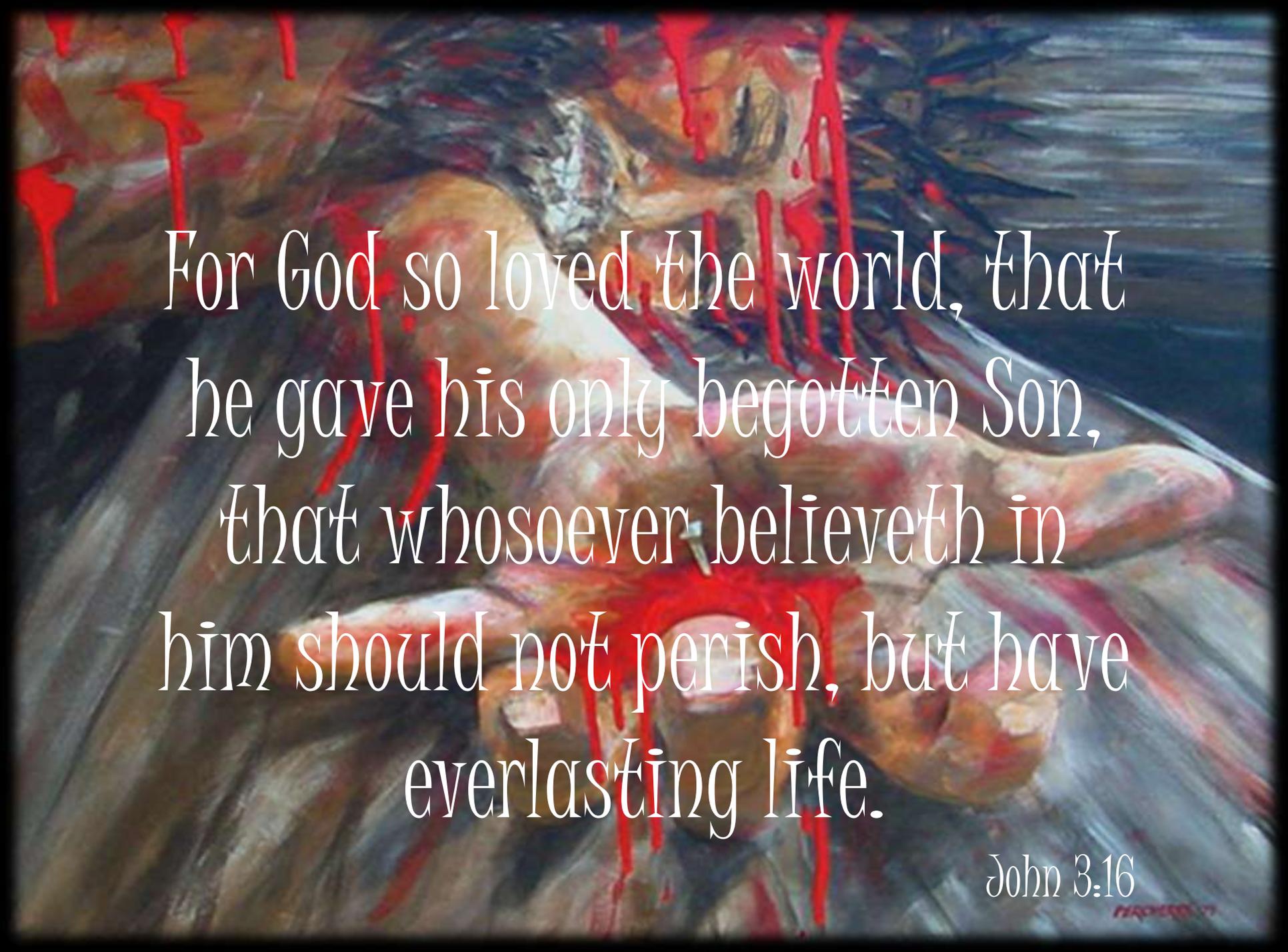
Key!

God loves because of  
**who He is**  
not because of what we do  
or what the recipient of that love  
does!

Did  
God  
LOVE

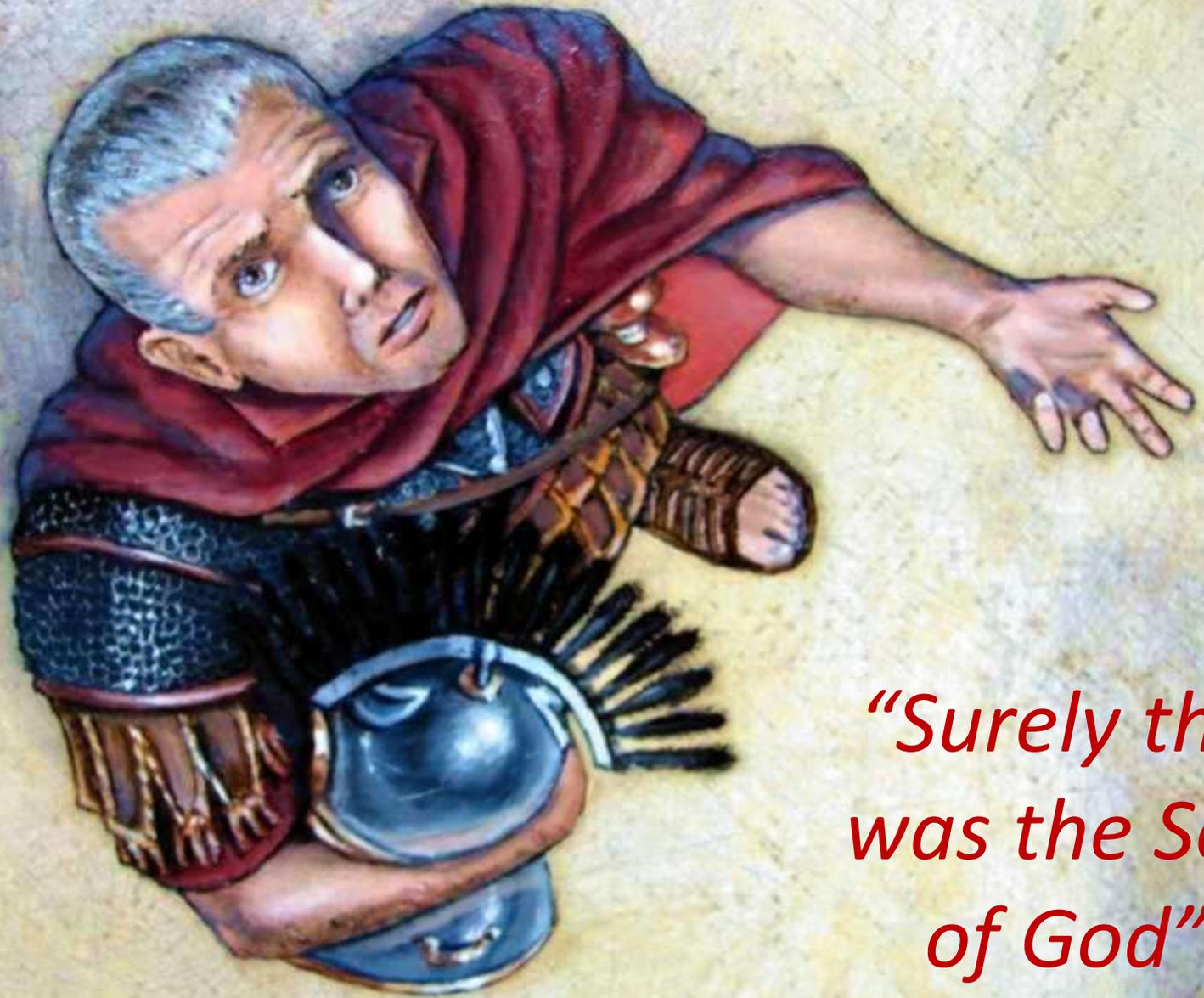
Adam and  
Eve less  
after they  
sinned?



A painting depicting a crucifixion. The body of Jesus is on the cross, with red liquid dripping down from the wounds. The background is dark and textured. The text is overlaid on the painting in a white, serif font.

For God so loved the world, that  
he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in  
him should not perish, but have  
everlasting life.

John 3:16



*“Surely this  
was the Son  
of God”*

Mark 15:39

# God



loves because of

**who He is**

not because of what we do  
or what the recipient of that love  
does!



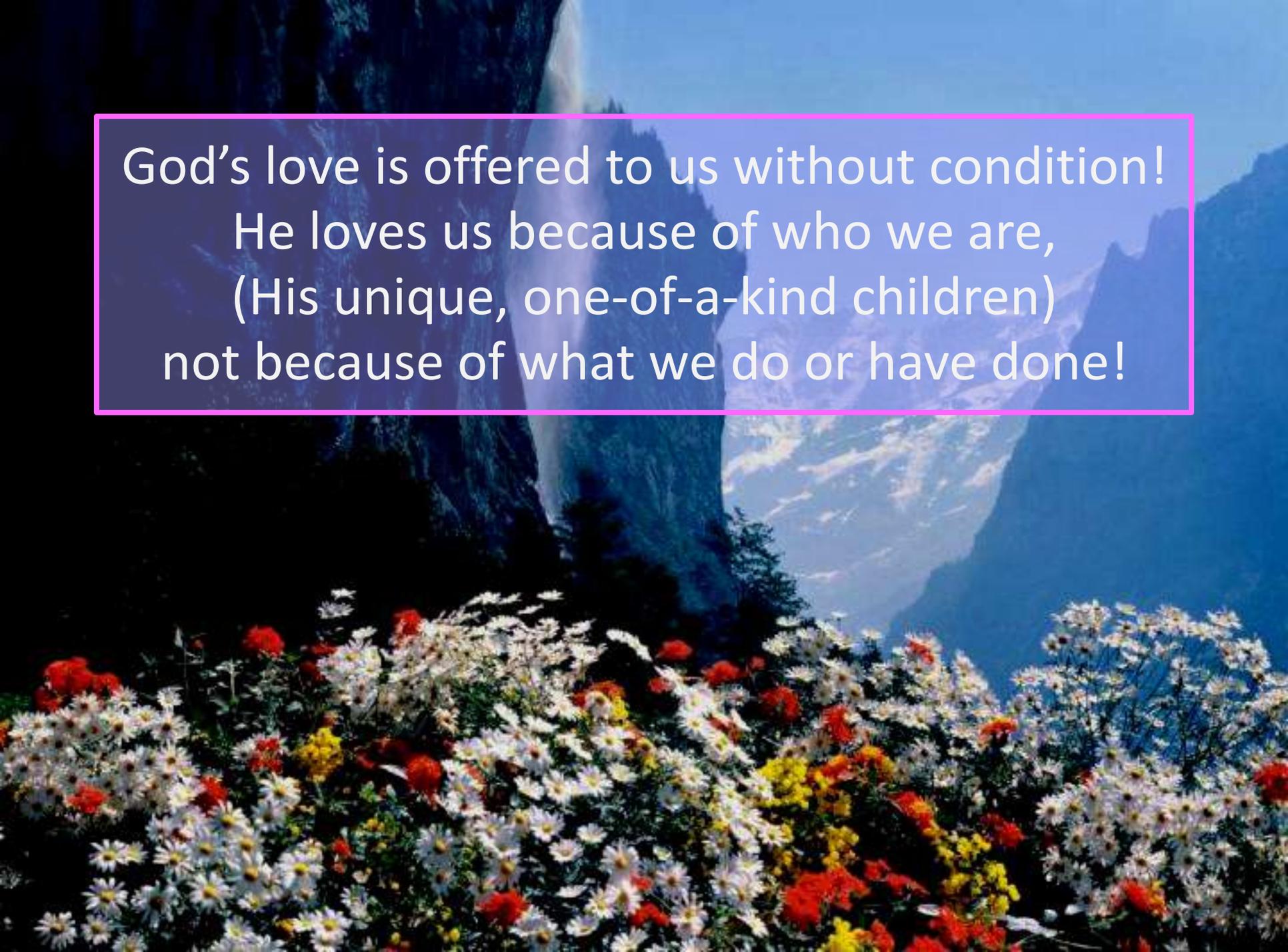
*Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his  
friends.*

John 15:13

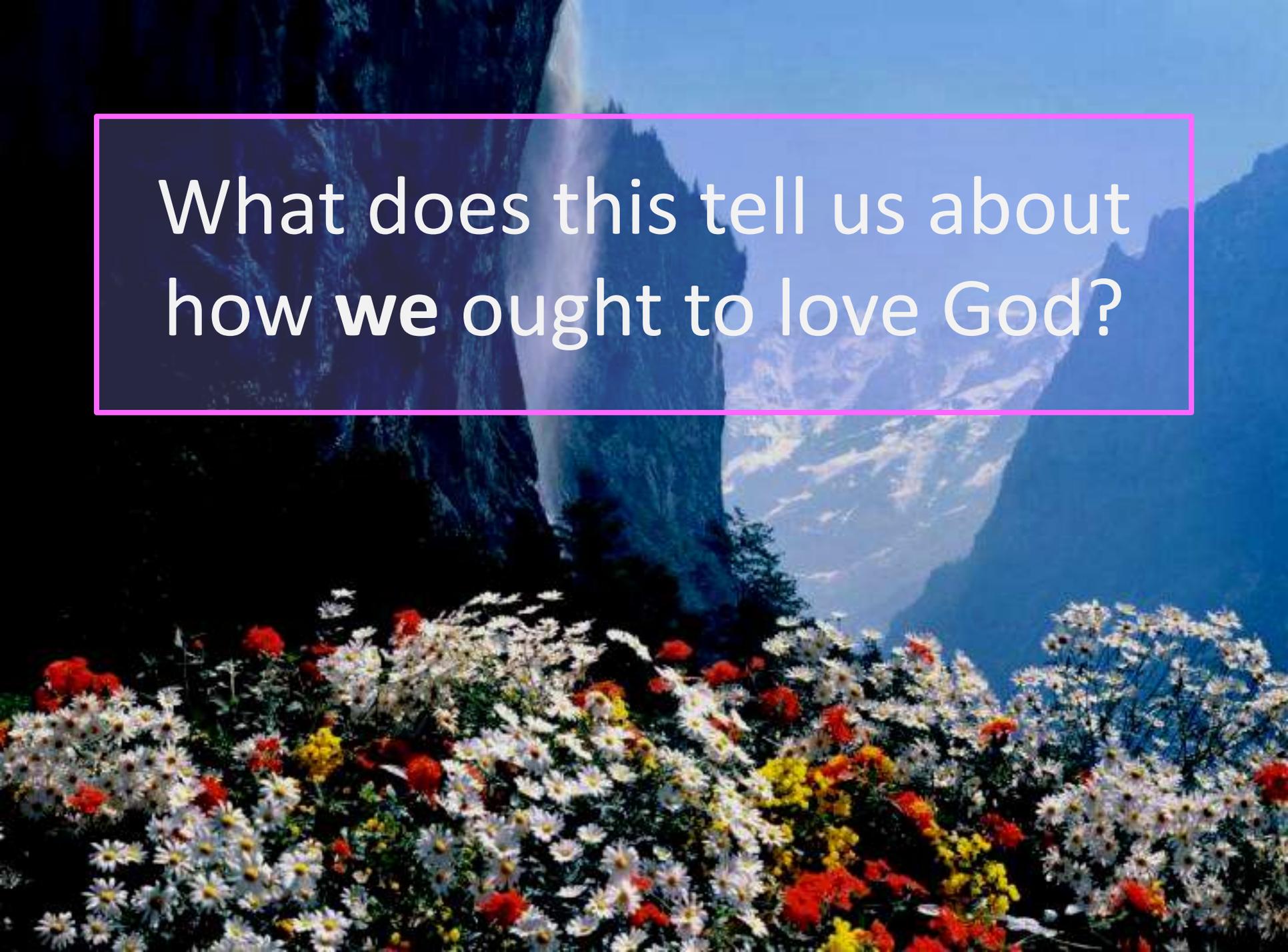
*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,  
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8

*[Jesus,] him that loved us, and washed us from our  
sins in his own blood . . .*

Revelation 1:5

A scenic mountain landscape with a valley and a field of colorful flowers in the foreground. The foreground is filled with a dense field of white daisies, interspersed with vibrant red and yellow flowers. The middle ground shows a deep valley with a winding road and a small town. The background features majestic, rugged mountains under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular box with a pink border.

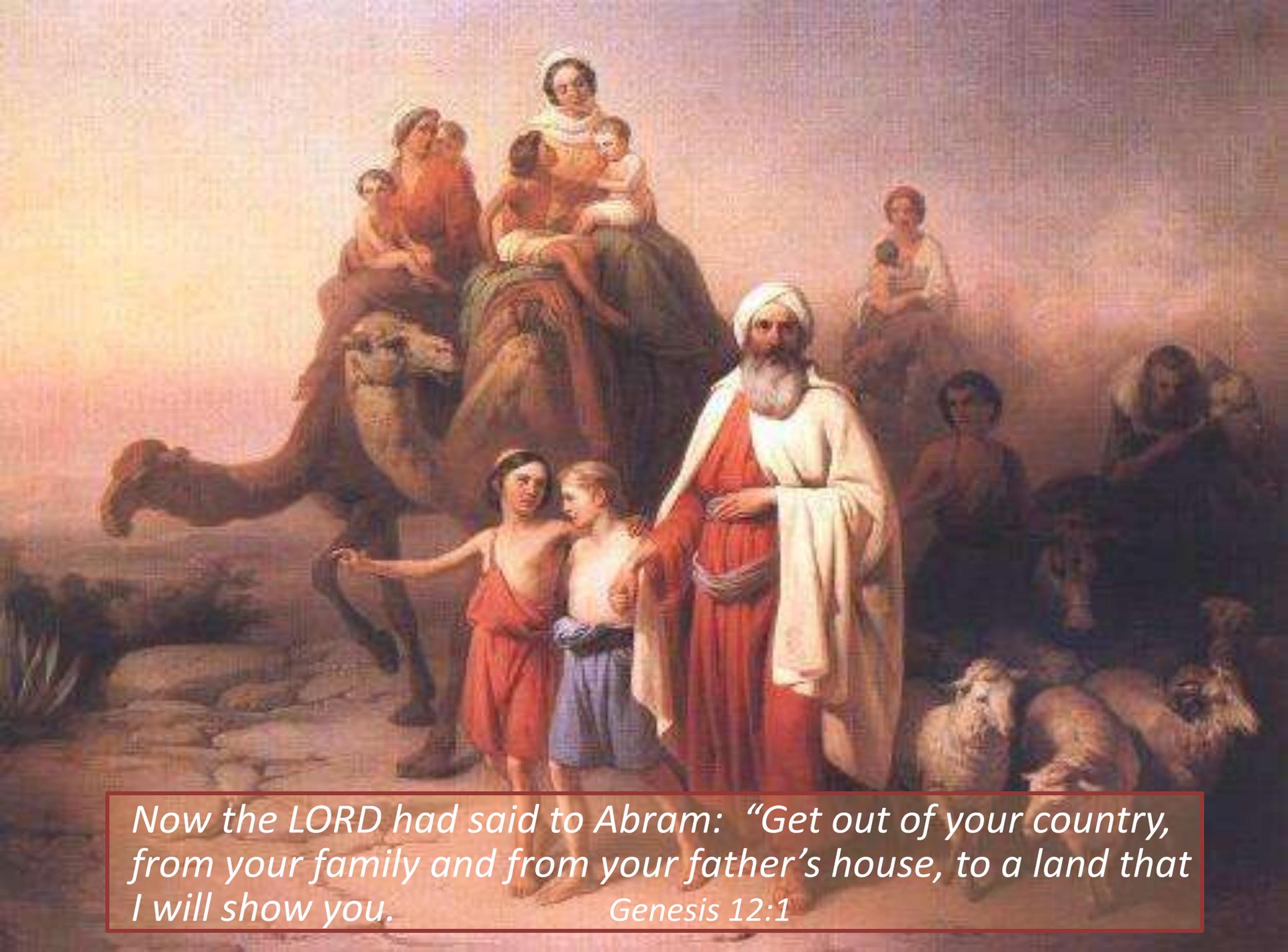
God's love is offered to us without condition!  
He loves us because of who we are,  
(His unique, one-of-a-kind children)  
not because of what we do or have done!

A scenic mountain landscape featuring a waterfall cascading down a dark, rocky cliff on the left. The background shows misty, blue-toned mountain peaks. In the foreground, a vibrant field of white, red, and yellow flowers, likely daisies, is in full bloom. A white text box with a pink border is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

What does this tell us about  
how **we** ought to love God?



Do we love God  
because of what He has done for us  
or because of who He is?



*Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.*

*Genesis 12:1*



When Abraham set out for the unknown land did he understand God's love?

Did Abraham obey because of what God had done for him or was it because Abraham sensed who God was?

How did Abraham's love for God change as the years passed?

*And he said,  
Lay not thine **hand** upon  
the lad, neither do thou  
any thing unto him:  
for now I know that thou  
fearest God, seeing thou  
hast not withheld thy son,  
thine only son from me.*

Genesis 22:12





To truly love God requires not only  
that I recognize who God is,  
but also that I perceive who I am  
– a sinner in need of salvation.

*“Who art thou,  
my son? . . . Art  
thou my son,  
my very son  
Esau?”  
And he said,  
“I am.”*

Genesis 27:18, 24



*The angel said,  
“Let Me go,  
for the day breaks.”  
But Jacob said,  
“I will not let You go  
unless You bless me!”  
So He said to him,  
“What is your name?”  
He said, “Jacob.”  
And He said,  
“Your name shall no  
longer be called Jacob,  
but Israel [God contends];  
for you have struggled  
with God and with men,  
and have prevailed.”*

*Genesis 32:26-28*





By claiming to be Esau, Jacob deceived Isaac into giving him the birthright that belonged to his brother.

Only when Jacob acknowledged that he was “the supplanter” was God able to give him a new name, “Israel” symbolic of his real self.

*When he was yet  
a great way off,  
his father saw  
him, and had  
compassion, and  
ran . . . and kissed  
him.*

Luke 15:20



Was it not the knowledge of his father's love that drew the prodigal back? Even incomplete understanding of that love, gave him confidence of acceptance and forgiveness.



# What can keep us from loving God?



- Not knowing who God really is
- Absorption with self
- Viewing oneself as rational rather than emotional and thus not needing to love God

Fear – the basis for all of the above and more

- Being afraid of oneself
- Fear – a substitute for / consequence of guilt
- Fear always results in the inhibition of love

# Examples of Fears



- Fear of failure or success
- Fear of criticism
- Fear of intimacy or solitude
- Fear of feelings
- Fear of life or death
- Fear of pleasure or pain
- Fear of loss of control or respect

Is there an answer to these fears – to all fears?

*There is no fear in love;  
but perfect love casts out fear.* 1 John 4:18

# Perfect Love Overcomes Fear



God's love for us, demonstrated by Jesus, is the solution to our inner conflicts. Not our obedience, not our good deeds, but rather our surrender to that love, this is the key.

In the same way that God loves us for who we are, we can love God for who He is, the originator of love.

The  
Prodigal  
Surrendered  
to His  
Father's  
Love

Can  
I?



# Paul's Struggle –



And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:18-25 (New Living Translation)

# Paul's Struggle – Is there a solution?



So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8:1-2 (New Living Translation)

Paul openly admits to his inability to perform on his own. He has made himself vulnerable, and open to the Holy Spirit living in him, the Spirit promised by and sent by Christ.

**By beholding we become changed** 2 Corinthians 3:18

God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out . . . The mystery in a nutshell is just this:

**Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory.** It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message.

Colossians 1:26-28 (The Message)

# What does it mean to be vulnerable?



- To be vulnerable means admitting to the hopelessness of one's situation.
- It means admitting who we are, like Jacob.
- It means giving in to God's love, like Abraham.
- It means coming home, like the prodigal.

*He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.*** John 15:5

*And this is eternal life, that they may **know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3*

# Three Facets of Love

- God's Love
- Our Love for God
- Love of the Truth



What about the third facet: Love of the Truth?

The phrase is used only once in the Bible but there it is referred to in a most solemn warning.

*Jesus saith unto him, "I am the **way**, the truth, and the **life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Luke 14:6

*<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the **love of the truth**, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.     2 Thessalonians 2:8-11*

# Why is believing the truth so important in the last days?

## **Deception will be rampant –**

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron . . .*

1 Timothy 4:1-2

## **Loving the truth will be more important than life itself –**

*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

Revelation 12:11

*Mary . . . sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

Luke 10:39-42 (NIV)



*“When the Son of Man comes in His glory . . . All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Matt. 25: 31-32*



*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven . . . Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Matt.7:21-23*

The spiritual journey to the Kingdom begins and ends with love. Notice Jesus words to the lost, “I never knew you!” In experiencing God’s love we are called to surrender to the infinite, compassionate love of our Creator who desires to above all to be in relationship with us in order to restore in us His divine nature – self-sacrificing love.



*“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

John 13:35

The greatest of  
these is **Love**.  
Surrender to it!



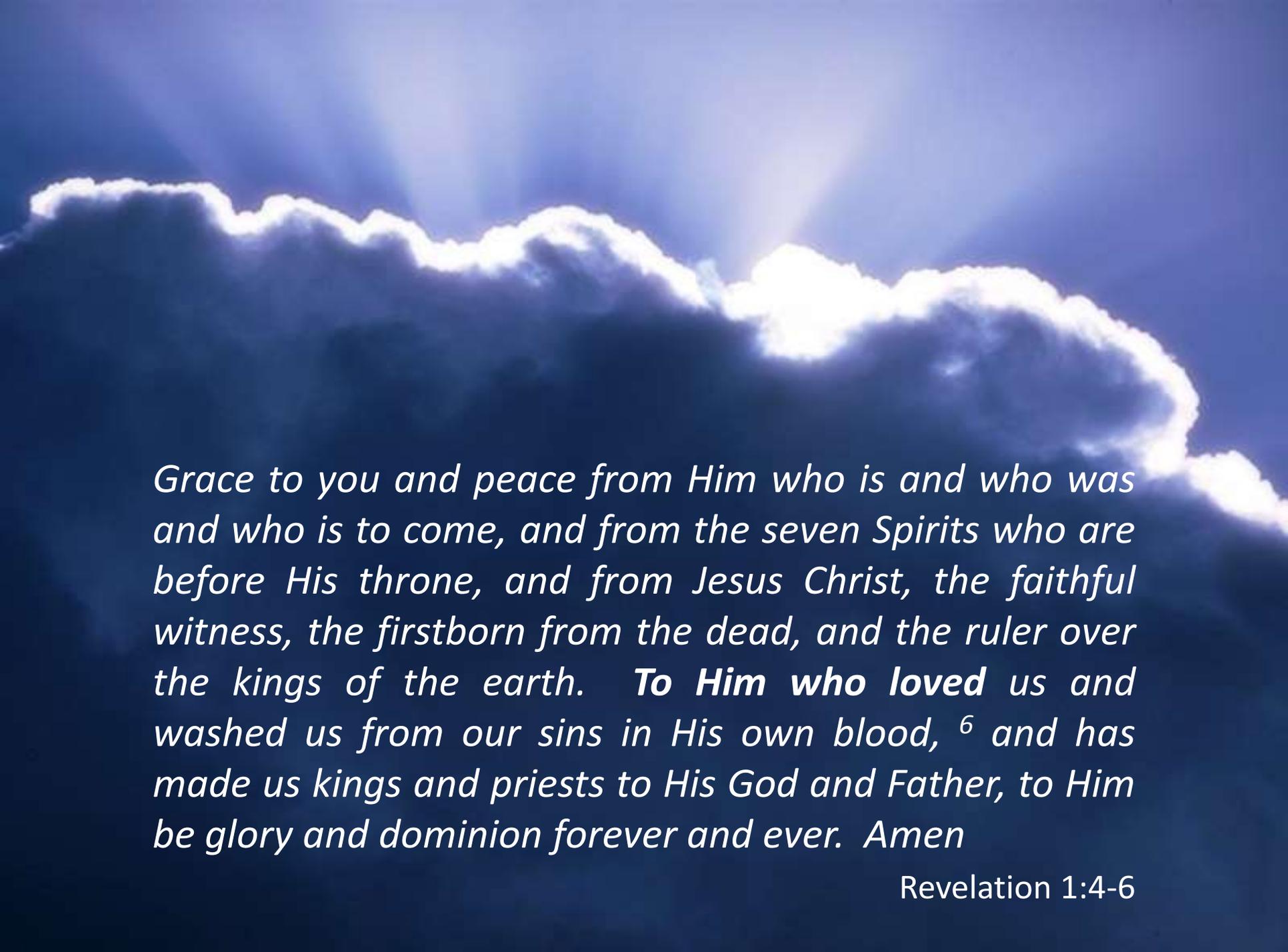
## My Prayer for YOU

*May the Spirit of God give you the power needed for your spirit to grow strong so that, rooted and grounded in love, you will be able to understand the breadth and the length, the height and the depth of Christ's everlasting love for you.*

Ephesians 3:16 , 19 (adapted)







*Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,** <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*

Revelation 1:4-6

