
GET READY

Reliance on God Through Prayer

Introduction

As we look at getting ready for the year ahead, what role does love have in the mix of it all? I mean, it's got to, right? It's what God is all about.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

How does love get us ready for the year ahead?

Love, to be love – needs an object... Who is being loved? And who is doing the loving?

John 14:15-17

Love is entirely connected to our obedience and our inclusion in this grand love story that is God's creation and plan for salvation.

God loves us so much that He didn't just die for us, He came back to live with us forever.

The Power of Love

We have our true identity revealed to us!

Love Changes Everything

Peter – John 21:15-17

God's love changes the fearful and selfish and jealous and angry person into the expression of love like we see in Jesus.

Paul – Romans 8:31-39

God's love changed the hard heart that was right with no love, to be the soft heart that spoke truth only in love...

God's love changes everything...

Staying Alive

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

His love for us, and so our love for Him, draws us into intimacy with Him.

Revelation 2:1-4

The life of the disciple of Jesus is one marked by outrageous love.

Revelation 2:5

Cultivating the Life of Connection

How do you know people in love?

Time, attention, affection, sacrifice, love-sick joy, seemingly endless hours of talking...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray without ceasing! Not go to an endless prayer meeting – though you should come to some. But there is an endless conversation between you and the one who loves you and gave Himself for you, because He's ALWAYS WITH YOU! Amazing! That makes me rejoice!

It Must Be Love

For some of us, it's the revelation of God in our lives that will start or restore us to the path of cultivating our relationship with God – our hands need to be activated by our hearts.

For others, there is a lifetime of this cultivation – every day and every moment is an opportunity to continue to find God, hear His voice, know His leading, be close to Him – our hearts and hands are synced.

For some of us, we need to do the actions that are associated with love, because we are wired that our heart will follow our hands.

We cultivate a passion for thanking Him in the moment, every moment,

Romans 5:5

As we get ready for the Lord's work this year – we don't do it alone – we are with Him and with each other!

Discussion Questions

1. What does loving God look like for you?
2. How does your love for God impact your prayer life?
3. How does it impact how you read scripture and worship?
4. How is the Lord inviting you into new conversations with Him? What are they about?
5. Will you start to cultivate praying together with others? Contending for the things that He's talking to you about?
6. Will you start to pray from a place of listening first? Pray according to His heart?
7. Will you learn to find the quietness that comes from that deep knowing of God?
8. What's in your heart that you have cultivated with God that He is inviting you to invest into someone else this year?
9. Spend some time listening to God for the year ahead, and then praying into that, simply having the conversation with God that He is longing to have with you.