

## Obeying the Command to Love God

*But be very careful to obey all the commands and the instructions that Moses gave to you. Love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, hold firmly to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul.* (Joshua 22:5)

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* (Romans 8:28)

We know we're supposed to love God. Our deepest intention is to love God genuinely and completely. That is what we want.

But it's hard.

I went to first grade at a Christian school. We memorized the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians (King James Version!), and it still comes to my mind often. If I am honest, though, I think the truth of that chapter settled in my mind and not in my heart. I'm afraid I failed to really grasp the depth of God's love.

If you asked ten people to define "love," you'd most likely get ten different answers. But we don't have to guess what true, Godly love looks like—it is spelled out for us in the Love Chapter. Love is patient and kind. It does not boast because it's controlled and gentle. It isn't rude, self-seeking, or easily angered. It doesn't delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth because it's full of goodness, faithfulness, and joy.

God's love is beautiful, and He invites us (commands us, if you will) to come alongside Him by the Holy Spirit and walk in this love. It is not a love we manufacture, it is a love we receive. If we could embrace this truth, we would unlock a treasure trove of Biblical benefits God has provided for His children.

So let's stop grinding. Psalm 95:7 tells us that "we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." As we come into the presence of the Lord today, let's rest in the "*Love the Lord your God*" command knowing that He is faithful to carry out His promises.

### Pray

Heavenly Father, our heart's desire is to understand how much you love us and to walk in that love. Please help us know your love in our hearts and not just in our heads, that we might walk in obedience to your commands. Amen.

DAY **4**  
Thursday, January 11th

### RECURRING NEEDS

Revival  
Repentance  
Wisdom  
Marriages  
Families  
Sick/Grieving  
Depression/Mental illness  
City Church  
Church leaders  
Children  
Youth  
Singles  
Senior citizens  
Volunteers  
Teachers and support staff  
Emergency personnel  
Business community  
Elected officials  
Missionaries  
Worldwide church  
The lost

### REFLECTIONS

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