

Love

Immanuel, Immanuel, God is with us, (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8-10) Immanuel! The very essence of love! Micah 5:2 takes Immanuel to be the Messiah, whom Matthew 1:23 identifies as Jesus.

Oh! The awesome wonders, and magnitude of His Love. It is difficult for me to describe it in just a few words. To really know and understand it one needs to experience it.

Jesus, Messiah, born incarnate of a virgin maiden. Truly God and truly man. God became man. When He did this, He demonstrated to us His love. He loved His friends as shown to Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He showed compassion as we are told Jesus wept, He also showed empathy with their tears. Do you not think that even today when we weep, His heart is touched with compassion for us?

He is now at the right hand side of our Father. The word tells us that He is ever interceding for us to our Father. He paid the ultimate price for our salvation. Therefore, He is worthy to intercede and to be heard.

Jesus' friends and disciples were very sad when they witnessed their Friend Jesus leaving them and ascending into the heavens. But, He said to them, *"Why stand here watching, go tarry in the upper room. I will return to you. I will be with you. I'm sending my Holy Spirit, the Comforter, Helper to you. I promise I will not leave you, wait for Me!*

Faithful to His promise, He did return to those in the upper room who were obedient to His instructions. We know about this from the story of Pentecost! The Holy Spirit came in a mighty witness of the Rushing Wind and Tongues of Fire. They were empowered to witness in various languages so that all could understand about Jesus. They became witnesses to all in Judea and throughout the world.

We today, have our blessed Immanuel, Savior and Redeemer available to fill us with this same power — to be His witnesses in our world

so others will know our wonderful Immanuel.

It is our continual goal to love like 1 Corinthians describes. We strive and desire these characteristics because we want to be those effectual disciples of the One we love. We can never repay Him for the Gift of Salvation that He gave us, but because we love Him, we want to obey the Great Commission. It is for all. He came and died for all. It is now up to us to return that love as He enables us. He is counting on us to let His Holy Spirit reveal Immanuel, Jesus to everyone who comes into our circle of life. God is love!

~ Grandma Carolyn Franklin
Mineola, Texas, USA

Loving Father,

I cannot even begin to understand Your Love. It is so deep, so wide, so long and so high. I cannot escape it. You continually seek me out no matter where I go. When I get there, You are already there ahead of me. Lord, help me not only to be a recipient of Your Love, but also help me to be an agent of Your Love. "Let Your Love flow through me." May I live it well. Let my love bring honor to Yours. Amen.

More ...

The LOVE Chapter

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and
of angels, but have not love, I have become
sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.*

*²And though I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.*

*³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
and though I give my body to be burned,
but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

*⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy;
love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;*

*⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own,
is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails.

*But whether there are prophecies, they will fail;
whether there are tongues, they will cease;
whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

*¹¹When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child;
but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

*¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

¹³And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

God IS Love!
