

The Birth of Love

The Bible says that, **GOD IS LOVE**. We see many expressions of His love in Old Testament times;
But when the Eternal Son of God left His Glory to be conceived in the womb of a virgin –
The revelation of the Love of God went to a whole new and glorious level!!!

Do you know that God created you and I in His own image FOR RELATIONSHIP?
He loves your puppy, BUT HE WANTS REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!
 Yet before Christ came there was *DISTANCE* in the relationship of God with His people.
The way for the nearness that God Himself desired had not yet been manifested.

Yet EVERYTHING CHANGED in the opening pages of the New Testament!

An angel of the Lord appeared and said: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and **you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**"
 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:
 23 "**Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,**" which is translated, "**God with us.**" Matthew 1:20b-23 NKJV

He is both **JESUS, the one who saves us from our sins,** and **EMMANUEL, God with us!**

Do you realize HOW MUCH God wants to be WITH YOU, and not just with you but IN YOU?
He wants to be Emmanuel, GOD WITH US!

In John 17:20-26 Jesus prays for the *CLOSE UNION* with Him and the Father which He desires for us.

The one in love is not satisfied to be at a distance from the object of His love – He wants to be near!

Hebrews 12:2 ...**Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** NASB

That you and I would be with Him was the *JOY SET BEFORE HIM* which empowered Him to *COME TO THIS EARTH and ENDURE THE CROSS IN SPITE OF ALL THE SHAME.*

His desire is to be Close to you, so that you and He can Do Life together!

JESUS – SAVIOR – Saving Us from Our Sins

Before we can fully experience Him as EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US, we need a BIG REVELATION AND EXPERIENCE of Him as JESUS, SAVIOR – SAVING US FROM OUR SINS.
The two are totally connected.

BORN to DIE

Philippians 2:5-9 ...**Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** ESV

**Knowing that His purpose was to be the sacrifice for all of our sins – He said, 'Father, I will go.'
He was the only baby born into this world WITH THE PURPOSE OF DYING.**

To complete His assignment, He came as a man and lived a perfect, sinless life.
 This qualified Him to be *"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"*, John 1:29.
*He then yielded Himself to the Love Purpose of the ages and into the hands of sinful men –
 To be spit upon, tortured, beaten to a pulp, nailed to a cross and hang there until He died.*
 (Still the most brutal form of capital punishment known in the earth.)

Why Did He Have to Die?

Why did the perfect Son of God, the Darling of heaven, have to be subject to such treatment?

***It was OUR SIN and THE UNFATHOMABLE LOVE OF GOD FOR YOU AND I
 That caused Him to be condemned, and brutally crucified.***

Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. NKJV

It's because **God is both perfect love and perfect justice.** Sin had to be punished (perfect justice),
 but He loves you and I and does not want to punish us (perfect love).

IN THE BODY OF JESUS, THE LOVE OF GOD PAYED A RANSOM TO THE JUSTICE OF GOD.

What a Plan! What a Savior! What a Love!

THIS IS THE REASON we can have such confidence, access and closeness with Him!!!

*We know there are many who have not yet heard of His dying love;
 and also, many of us as Christians do not possess these precious realities of His saving power
 and His nearness to the point where they are POWERFUL IN THEIR LIVES.*

*Maybe you see things in your own life or in the lives of those you love that cause you to wonder,
 HOW do we walk in what we know God has for us?*

***It all starts with DEEPLY EMBRACING what His GREAT LOVE has done for YOU
 and STEPPING INTO the NEARNESS THAT IS YOURS, which HE PURCHASED FOR YOU!!***

"You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

"They shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

This is the Promise – The Heavenly Declaration to Joseph!

This is our Inheritance and the blood bought portion of every child of God!!

**When we respond to His Love and draw near to Him by clinging to what Jesus has
 done for us, HE WILL LOVE US INTO WHOLENESS IN EVERY BROKEN AREA OF OUR LIVES
 AND WE WILL EXPERIENCE HIM AS 'GOD WITH US!'**

In this way, in this journey of saving and nearness, He will increasingly become the very impulse
 and motivation of our lives, leading us to fulfill the very desires of our heart
 that He Himself placed there. ***What a God! What a Salvation!***