

How does God show us His love?

By B. D. Tate

When we consider how people show their love there are several areas that come to mind. First, people show love by their actions in how they treat us; Second, through words and body expressions. We learn or experience and receive love from others through **actions and words**.

There is a book written entitled “Love Languages” and it asserts that there are five ways that people receive love. These languages indicate the primary way that each of us is receptive or sensitive to love. The list is as follows: **Touch, Quality Time, Gifts, Acts of Service, and Words of Affirmation**. The contention is that we can miss each other’s love if we communicate in one language while the person we are trying to convey love to is primarily receiving in another language. I found it fascinating but true that each of us has a particular love language that we readily receive love through more than the others.

For example, if my daughter’s love language was touch as in hugging, an arm around the shoulders, or sitting on daddy’s lap, and I decided to express my love by doing something special for her like clean up her messy room, she might appreciate the help but the love message will not be as deeply received.

This is not to say that love is not received at all by another love **language it is to say that one is far more effective than the others depending upon the person**. Why would this matter to us? Well, it might explain **some frustrations** in the marriage when one person feels that their mate doesn’t love them and the mate is

dumfounded by the charge. If the husband loves his wife by giving her gifts on a regular basis because his love language is gifts, he's thinking *"Man I'm showing her a lot of love!"* The wife on the other hand has a love language of quality time, and even though she appreciates the gifts what she wants is for him to focus his time on her, turn off the TV or computer come out of his man cave and spend some uninterrupted time with her with lots of eye contact!

We all receive love differently but God is a Spirit and doesn't have a physical form. God can't express love through actions and words with physical touch. We can't expect God to hug us like our loved ones can...**We need to stop and think about this for a moment** if God created all things and said that it is not good that man should be alone and then created Eve and then through them the human race...maybe we are missing something? Although God is Spirit He is showing us His love through the physical world and physical means!

How does God do this? I have a sign in my living room that was given to us it reads, *"For God so loved the world that He gave us dogs!"* You know there is a lot of truth in that statement. Our dogs show us so much loyalty and love. They would defend us, stay with us and go anywhere with us. They never reject or turn on us and even if we might neglect or mistreat them for some strange reason they love us still. Do you remember the YouTube video "God and Dog?"

And then it would carry over that God created all that we know in the earth and cosmos for our enjoyment and our good. It seems then that as we **meditate upon creation we are taking in**

the love God has for us. As one person put it before He made man and put them in the garden he'd already provided for every need that we'd ever have.

Ro 1:20 For since the creation of the **world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being **understood by the things that are made**, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Sometimes we have ***taken for granted*** that we are alive, live in this world, and all the things that exist were created by God to ***express to us His invisible attributes!*** We need to actually ***stop and smell*** the flowers, look at the sunset, enjoy the cool breeze, listen to the birds chirp and sing, watch the animals do their thing, admire a web designed by such a small creature, contemplate the work ethic of the ants, see the ingenuity of the beaver making a dam, if there is one example there are millions. **God created a world that we would not get bored with that is love.**

What about the pleasures of life? Without sickness and disease we all wake up feeling normal and that is a good feeling. We have energy, we have capabilities, we have dreams, aspirations, goals, likes, fun, for the scriptures says, *"A desire fulfilled is a tree of life."* God gave us needs, wants, desires in order to fulfill them, to experience things, enjoy, find things...**we have questions the world has answers...**of course I speak of all of these things without addressing sin, the curse, and the fall.

Most of us like food, the pleasure of good food, good drinks, and good company while eating. There is a huge connection with eating and covenant in the Old Testament. Alliances were established through a meal. A mutual sense of

community, welfare, and defense was communicated by sharing a meal. In other words, protection, security, well being, and even love are shared through eating. Most families do well by making the evening meal a family affair. God gave us the pleasure of taste and foods of all kinds. God shows us love through food. If we never grew hungry we'd never known the pleasure of eating or drinking.

There is not only the physical world but the **non physical world** of ideas, concepts, dreams, visions, imaginations, that may be even greater in scope and depth...we can reason, think, communicate, understand, comprehend, envision, plan, we know right from wrong, we believe in truth, that there is a God! **God loves us so much that He's given us a mind, soul, and spirit...**

How does God love us? We need to stop and ***be thankful and appreciate*** with great consideration what we've been given. The mind is awesome and God is greater than what we can think or dream or imagine and that is incredible.

If we are feeling a bit devoid of God's love it may be we are taking for granted the things all around us. We have the world and we have people. When people show us love where did they get it? When a mother or father show love to their children where did they get it? When husbands and wives show love where did they get it? **All of this is to say that although God is Spirit He loves us through the physical world and through people!**

I came to understand a very unique truth that God calls each husband and wife to. Each one is called by God **to love their mate in a very special way—that no one else is called to**. It is a calling to choose to marry someone and ***then it takes grace*** to

love them the way God wants them loved. If you are fortunate enough to have a marriage that loves then thank God for His love because so many marriages don't have it.

How does God love us? How does He show His love? For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **God shows us His love by becoming one of us.** God Himself came to us to teach, share in our life, to be a human being, but then to offer Himself as an offering for the sins of the whole world.

Joh 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

In fact the scriptures teach us that just as the father loves the Son so He loves us. There is great love in understanding what Jesus has done in the atonement. We need to stop and think about what Jesus did...God so loves us that He gave...

God loves us through His creation, through people, and ultimately through His son. What is the son of God? According to scripture the Son of God is the ***Word of God made flesh***. God so loved that He gave His Son...God so loved us that He sent us His Word!

Certainly we can see His actions of love in creation, in people, in sending us His Son, and if we will recognize it, **His love is shown in His words towards us!**

Joh 5:38 “But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

As selfish human beings we are often like the fans that surround sports. As long as you perform they will love you but if your performance is less than acceptable they will turn on you. From week to week from game to game the showing of love is often very conditional. It is like the saying, “Well, you’ve done good but what have you done for me lately?” or “I appreciate all the work you have accomplished in the past but what are you going to do now?” **Selfishness can have a short memory and be very focused on the now.** Furthermore it can be **very blind and demanding** seeking only its own interests, values, and wants.

If we are not sensing or appreciating God’s love for us we need to evaluate a few things. First, have we stopped being thankful? Second, are we recognizing that all love comes from God? Third, have we become caught in a very selfish mode? These things hinder our ability to see, experience, and know God’s love.

If God has expressed His love in the written word for any one He has expressed it for everyone! What God has done for one He has done for all in Christ. What God wants of one He wants from all...especially that we’d understand that **God has poured out His love for us already!**

God is the lover of the beloved! As the lover He has no desire to be second. Jesus said seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, put God first. God is a jealous God in that He has no pleasure when we allow other things to take His place in our heart.

Ro 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

Tit. 3:44 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
6 whom **He poured out on us abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Savior,

These verses speak of an even greater love that manifests not limited by physical space and time but through the eternal presence of the Holy Spirit. We have **His Love Spirit** within us! This love Spirit abides in us through the gift of salvation in being born again. We have a new spirit born after the same nature of the Father. We are born into the kingdom of love. God is love and God is Spirit and those that would love and worship Him must do so in Spirit and in truth.

John 8: 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed.
32 **"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

We experience God's love through His Word revealed by His Spirit and when we abide in that Word we are set free—that is God's love manifested! **When we abide in His Word we are abiding in His Love!**

We are called the friends of God! God has made us alive in Christ, joined with the Lord, full of grace and mercy; full of grace and truth!

Joh 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you**

friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

1Ti 1:14 **And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, **much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**)

When we experience grace, forgiveness, and accept righteousness; when we accept the position of standing in His faith and love in exercising His authority, **we are acting in His love**! When we do these things our joy is made full, and we are experiencing His love for us!

Joh 16:24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

We have received the Lord and become born again in the Spirit; we are of the Father who dwells in us through His word that we've believed. Therefore this promise of Jesus is already true!

Conclusion

How does God show us His love? Through our appreciation of His Creation; through understanding that all love through people originates in God; through God sending us His Son and His Word; through embracing the truth of abundant grace

and His Love being poured out into our heart; **through abiding in His Word we abide in His love—this is a faith fact.**

How does God show us His love? Through thankfulness, through praise, through gratitude, through embracing His word, His truth, His grace, His faith, His authority, by seeing His love already mingled in our spirit through the Holy Spirit. God has shown us His love through the past, through the present, and the promise of the future saying to us **I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

How does God show us His love? In outward signs of this world, through physical actions of loving people, through experiencing the pleasures of life, through the words of God's love in forgiveness, grace, power and **authority that we are to know the truth and it makes us free!**

How does God show us His love? In the Spirit, bearing witness of the Word of God's love towards us, through His kindness, patience, goodness, forbearance, peace, rest, love, faith, and joy that abides in us. **His love is always available because it is always poured out in Jesus who abides in us.**

His love will become real to us as we acknowledge everything that is good that dwells in us in Christ Jesus. His love becomes real to us as we acknowledge all the love He's already provided in creation and through people who love us. **His love will become real to us as we embrace His Word through the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Finally, love is not an emotion, a feeling, a high or low, it is a being—God is love. Love is patient, kind, gentle, forbearing,

trustworthy, peace-filled, joyful, faithful, and is committed to the benefit of others—therefore love is giving. For us to relate to and receive God’s love we need to understand this grace. As we see His grace, grasp His love, **we do so through our faith**. God shows us His love **through our faith in what He’s done**.

P.S. Remember this warning?

Rev. 2:4 “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, **that you have left your first love**.

5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen;

Many of us immediately think of when we got saved and how we glowed in the experience and basked in the assurance of God’s love for us. We knew we were saved, forgiven, and loved!

We see this same experience repeated in others when they first get saved—a glow of love. We all know it’s going to wear off because life goes on and we must get busy responding to our salvation by doing what pleases the Lord, doing the things that mature Christians do. ***What is it that we all do?*** We get busy trying to love God back. We get busy trying to do this or that thing such as denying our self, picking our cross and following Him. We take on the burden of life in resisting temptations, avoiding evil, not loving the world and not loving family as much as God!

But what was our first love? It wasn’t our effort at all; it was God’s love for us that we embraced and walked in during that honeymoon stage of salvation. Then we all began to grow up and do the things we were taught in focusing our effort on loving God back. If we love God we will keep His commandments, do the

right things, witness, be an example, go to church, pray, read the Bible, and serve others. All of this is good but if it places the burden on us to love God instead of doing these things **because** are receiving His love it causes **us to leave our first love!**

If our focus is on our efforts to love God instead of staying in our **first love** which is to abide in the revelation of His love for us, we are missing it. Subtly but surely we cross back over from grace, receiving and abiding in His love, to the works of the flesh, or works of the law, trying to express our love for him!

We've fallen from our first love and didn't know it thinking we were doing the things that Jesus said to do. He did say we needed to keep His commandments if we love Him; however, we clarified it all by saying this is a **NEW** commandment, that we should love each other AS He has loved us! He received the love of the Father and then passed that love onto us! We have nothing to give unless we receive first His love for us and abide in it!

We have mistakenly focused on the **first two commandments** of the **Old Testament** thinking we were fulfilling what he said. The first commandment is "*Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength*"; the second is, "*love your neighbor as yourself.*" Jesus said if a man keeps these two commandments He fulfills all the law and the prophets! The truth is we can't do this anymore that we can keep the law of God! What we can do is receive and accept our salvation as God's love for us being poured out into our hearts. It is God's work that we love one another with, not our own efforts—it always fall short. God has saved us from our lack and given us His love which is our

first love! When we know how much God's loves us we can love Him and others as we ought to. We love because He first loves us!

Joh 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.**

Joh 15:10 "If you keep **My** commandments, you will **abide in My love,** just as I have kept **My** Father's commandments and **abide in His love.**