

The Passionate Love of God the Holy Spirit for Believers

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The love of God the Holy Spirit may not be the first thought that Christians consider when musing on the 'love of God.' God passionately loves His children. He jealously longs for their affection. He affectionately pursues them for their good and for His glory.

Text:

ἡ δοκεῖτε ὅτι κενῶς ἡ γραφή λέγει· πρὸς φθόνον ἐπιποθεῖ τὸ πνεῦμα ὃ κατώκισεν ἐν ἡμῖν,

Author's Translation:

"Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain: 'The Spirit who dwells in us longs with jealousy.'"

1. It is an everlasting love.

God's character endures forever. He is enduring, unchanging, perfect, and eternal. His being cannot change. His character cannot change. His essence cannot change. Since God is eternal and His character is eternal, then it follows that His attributes all endure eternally. To think that the Spirit of God has a love for saints that everlasting should motivate the child of God to heartfelt obedience and reciprocal love. Perhaps nothing should comfort the heart of the child of God more than the reality that the Spirit of God jealously loves His people everlastingly. Nothing in the past, the present, or the future can alter the love that the Spirit of God has for true believers.

2. It is an unchangeable love.

The love that human beings receive is often quite changeable. Love that humans have for one another begins at one point, may end at one point, could fluctuate in terms of intensity and faithfulness. But the person regenerated by the Spirit of God receives a love from God that never changes. Humans experience love from others that can vary from day to day depending on one's feelings or mood. On the other hand, the love that God's elect experience never varies depending on God's mood since His love is an unchanging, unfaltering love. O the joy that flows into the believer's heart when the unchanging love of God the Spirit invades his heart and arrests his affections.

3. It is a free love.

Few people find anything for free. Every person in history has received the free, common grace of God that He has given in the gift of life, breath, family, friends, and natural cosmic blessings. But it is the child of God alone who receives the free love of God that undeservedly transfers the dead sinner from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. When the Spirit of God sovereignly regenerates a dead sinner, He does so with an amazingly free love. It costs the sinner nothing. The sinner can do nothing to merit this love. The sinner cannot bring himself to receive

this saving love of God by his religiosity, ceremonies, traditions, or works. When the Spirit of God gives life to a broken, hardened, dead soul, He does so out of his supreme and free love.

4. It is a regenerating love.

The best love is an undeserving love that saves from eternal wrath. Many people love on earth physically but it is the Spirit of God who loves eternally in the soul. When the Spirit regenerates and gives life to the rebel, it is the demonstration of divine love. A sinner born into the world receives a sin nature and is, because of that nature, a rebel who revolts against God. Yet when God invades that sinner's life and brings light into the soul — an act called regeneration — it is a one time, supernatural, monergistic, miraculous act of the Spirit of God. The sinner is wholly undeserving and entirely unworthy. Yet when the sinner receives heaven, forgiveness, reconciliation and regeneration, divine love from God the Spirit has been bestowed.

5. It is a sovereign love.

The love that the Spirit of God gives cannot be thwarted; it is eternally planned, most sure to happen, powerfully supreme, and supernaturally bestowed at the right time, at the right place, to the right person in full accord with God's eternal decree. When the Spirit of God grants saving love to the sinner, it is a miraculous act of God and God alone. This is sovereign love. The Spirit of God breathes life and provides light to darkened souls in full accordance with the divine decree established long ago. When God acts according to His sovereign prerogative, He is exercising the sovereign authority that He Himself intrinsically possesses. The child of God receives a love that the Spirit of God sovereignly bestows upon whomever He wills.

6. It is a faithful love.

God is faithful and cannot lie. God is faithful and will never break a promise with His people. God dealt faithfully with Israel and never broke a promise and this energizes the believer today to rely entirely on the faithful love that God has for His chosen ones. The love that the Spirit lavishes upon His children can never be revoked, diminished, or exchanged. Nor can His love fail. The reason why the Spirit's love endures faithfully is because the Spirit dwells within the believer — never to be taken away. The Spirit of God faithfully loves His own even when they do not faithfully love Him in return.

7. It is a jealous love.

The Spirit of God jealously longs for His people. He jealously desires that His children be unstained from the world. He does not wish for them to love the present world or the things in the world. The Spirit does not want to share His children with another god. He jealously yearns for them, for their hearts, and for their entire lives to be lived in holiness.

8. It is a heavenly love.

The Christian has received the electing love of the Father, the redeeming love of the Son, and the indwelling love of the Spirit. This experiencing of the triune love of God is the present spiritual reality that will be fully and most gloriously experienced for all of eternity. To know the love of God is to be graced with heaven. To experience the Spirit's love is to receive a foretaste of heaven. Heaven is a world of love — not only the love of believer to believer but also the full manifestation of divine love incomprehensibly lavished upon the saint. The Spirit's love is thus a heavenly love that is presently enjoyed though experienced in part. Soon it will be fully known.