

THE  
LOVE  
OF GOD

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AN INTIMATE LOOK AT THE  
FATHER-HEART OF GOD

# THE LOVE OF GOD

OSWALD CHAMBERS



**Discovery House Publishers**

*Books, music, and videos that feed the soul with the Word of God*

Box 3568 Grand Rapids, MI 49501

*The Love of God*

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Interior design by Limelight Graphic Design

ISBN 0-929239-04-0

89-831871

Printed in the United States of America  
06 07 08 09 /DP / 16 15 14 13

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## PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

Few Christian writers in this century seem to have tapped the spiritual realities of our biblical faith as has Oswald Chambers. Known for his bestselling devotional book *My Utmost for His Highest*, his writings have been compiled into a library of more than thirty volumes, most of which are unknown even to those who have read *My Utmost*. Because we believe the Christian community needs to rediscover Chambers, Discovery House Publishers is committed to reprinting new, updated editions of the Oswald Chambers Library. The first volume in the series is this study on *The Love of God* and related themes.

Believers need to hear again from this great devotional writer, to learn the art of biblical meditation, to reflect on the Word of God as taught by the Spirit of God, to know the mind of Christ, and to “appraise all things” from His divine perspective (1 Corinthians 2:9–16).

The author's style is brief and meditative. His work must be read slowly and contemplatively so that his words can be assimilated into one's own thought and behavior. As a theologian, Chambers is noncritical, dealing with truth as it affects us personally rather

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than coming to the teachings of Scripture dogmatically and critically. He assumes the absolute authority of the Word, then plumbs its depths to tap the revelation of God in a manner which generations of readers have found enriching and spiritually stretching.

We commend *The Love of God* to you, trusting that by reading it you will discover afresh the reality of faith at work, making the Father known to you, the Son real to you, the Spirit alive to you, and the Word rewarding to you.

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# GOD IS LOVE

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
(1 John 4:8)

No one but God could have revealed *that* to the world, for we all see nothing but its contradiction in our own limited world of experience. We need little imagination to construe the life of millions of this world's inhabitants into vehement laughter at such a declaration as "God is love." Shattered, broken lives contradict any such statement. No wonder carnal minds consider us infatuated, mere dreamers, talking of love when murder, war, famine, lust, pestilence, and all the refinement of selfish cruelty is abroad in the earth. But, oh, the sublimity of the Abraham-like faith that dares to place the center of its life, confidence, action, and hope in an unseen and apparently unknown God, saying, "God is love," in spite of all appearances to the contrary; saying, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). Such faith is counted for righteousness.

Look back over your own history as revealed to you by grace, and you will see one central fact growing large—God is love. No matter how often your faith in such an announcement was clouded, no matter how the pain and suffering of the moment made you speak in a wrong mood, still this statement has borne its own evidence

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along with it most persistently—God is love. In the future, when trial and difficulties await you, do not be fearful. Let not this faith slip from you—God is love; whisper it not only to your heart in its hour of darkness, but here in your corner of God’s earth. Live in the belief of it; preach it by your sweetened, chastened, happy life; sing it in consecrated moments of peaceful joy; sing until the world around you “is wrought to sympathy with hopes and fears it heeded not.”

The world does not bid you sing, but God does. Song is the sign of an unburdened heart; then sing your songs of love unbidden, ever rising higher and higher into a fuller concept of the greatest, grandest fact on the stage of time—God is love.

But words and emotions pass, precious as their influence may be for the time. So when the duller moments come and the mind requires something more certain and sure to consider than the memory of mere emotions and stirring sentiments, consider this revelation—the eternal fact that God is love, not, God is loving. God and love are synonymous. Love is not an attribute of God, it is God; whatever God is, love is. If your concept of love does not agree with justice, judgment, purity, and holiness, then your idea of love is wrong. It is not love you conceive of in your mind, but some vague infinite foolishness, all tears and softness and of infinite weakness.

### How Is God Love?

**In His very nature.** Some exceptionally gifted men may derive their concept of God from sources other than the Bible, but all I know of God I have learned from the Bible, and those who taught me got what they taught from the Bible. In all my dreams, imaginings, and visions I see God, but it is the God of the Bible that I see, and I feel Him to be near me. I see ever amid the mysteries of providence, grace, and creation “a Face like my face,” and “a Hand

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like this hand," and I have learned to love God who gave me such a sure way of knowing Him and left me not to the vain imaginations of my own sin-warped intellect.

**In creation.** The love of God gives us a new method of seeing nature. His voice is on the rolling air, we see Him in the rising sun, and in the setting He is fair; in the singing of the birds, in the love of human hearts, the voice of God is in all. Had we but ears to hear the stars singing, to catch the glorious pealing anthem of praise echoing from the hills of immortality by the heavenly hosts!

**In His wisdom.** God did not create man as a puppet to please a despotic idea of His own; but out of His abundant flow of overflowing love and goodness, He created us to receive all the blessedness which He had ordained for us. He "thought" us in the rapture of His own great heart, and lo, we are! Created in the image of God were we, innocent of evil, of great God-like capacities.

**In His power.** The whole world moves but to His great inscrutable will; animate and inanimate creation, the celestial bodies moving in their orbits, the globe with all its diversified issues and accompaniments are all subservient to this end.

Yes, God is good, in earth and sky,  
In ocean depth and swelling wood,  
Ten thousand voices ever cry,  
God made us all, and God is good.

**In His holiness.** God walked with man and talked with him, He told him His mind, and showed him the precise path in which he must walk in order to enjoy the happinesses He had ordained for him; He rejoiced in the fulness of His nature over man as His child, the offspring of His love. He left nothing unrevealed to man; He loved him. Oh, the joy and rapture of God the Father over man His son!

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**In His justice.** God showed to man that compliance with His dictates would ever mean eternal bliss and joy unspeakable and life and knowledge forevermore, but that ceasing to comply would mean loss of life with God and eternal death.

That was in the world's bright morning when the morning stars sang together and all creation leaped in joy, but the wild, wild desolation of sin, disobedience, pride, and selfish sinfulness entered and drove a great gulf between God's children and Himself. But, as ever, love found a way. God came to us and for us, and we this day with chastened hearts, quivering lips, and glistening eyes, yet with love deep and strong in our hearts, say, afresh with deep adoration, God is love.

If God exhibits such glorious love in His nature, what shall we say of the glories of the dispensation of His grace? That God would have walked this earth had sin never entered is very likely, yet sin did not refrain Him from graciously walking and revealing Himself in communion with men. No, still He came. But men were so blinded by sin that they saw Him not, they knew Him not, while He hewed a way back through the hard face of sin to the heavenly shores.

### **The Gift of God's Only Begotten Son**

Surely Jesus Christ reveals God's love in an amazing degree. "He who did not spare His own Son" (Romans 8:32) has shown that it matters not how bad a man is; if he will but lift his eyes to the cross he shall be saved. But yet so blinded, infatuated, and imbecilic has man become by sin that he can see nothing in the life of Christ save the evidence of a beautiful, good life of a misunderstood man who suffered and died as a martyr. To meet this difficulty love Himself gave another gift.

## The Gift of the Holy Spirit

When He shines on the historic Christ, all the great and gray outlines spring into glorious relief and color and beauty, and the soul, amazed, calls out, “My Lord and my God.” When the Holy Spirit has begun His gracious work in your soul and heart by making it tremulously expectant, you see a new light on the cross and the “martyr” becomes the Savior of the world.

Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for *our* transgressions, He was bruised for *our* iniquities: the chastisement for *our* peace was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4–5, italics added).

Though it is too difficult, nay impossible, to trace that God is love by mere unaided human intellect, it is not impossible to the intuitions of faith. Lift up your eyes and look abroad over the whole earth, and in the administration of God’s moral government you will begin to discern that God is love; that over sin, war, death, and hell He reigns supreme; that His purposes are ripening fast. We must, by holy contemplation of all we have considered, keep ourselves in the love of God; then we shall not be able to despond for long. The love of God performs a miracle of grace in graceless human hearts. Human love and lesser loves must wither into the most glorious and highest love of all—the love of God. Then we shall see not only each other’s faults, we shall see the highest possibilities in each other, and shall love each other for what God will yet make of us. Nothing is too hard for God, no sin too difficult for His love to overcome, not a failure but He can make it a success.

God is love. One brief sentence; you can print it on a ring: It

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is the Gospel. A time is coming when the whole round world will know that God reigns and that God is love, when hell and heaven, life and death, sin and salvation, will be read and understood aright at last.

God is love. A puzzle text, to be solved slowly, as with tears and penitence, by prayer and joy, by vision and faith, and, last, by death.