

What Does It Mean to Walk in Love?

The life of Jesus is a great study in how to walk in love. The first aspect that we realize about love in the life of Jesus is that is sacrificial. One of the key references to this attitude is found in Philippians 2:5-8 NLT: **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. And again in Hebrews 12:2 NLT: We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.**

We see the key element of the love of Jesus as being His willingness to set aside his will to do the will of the Father for people that would often reject and revile Him. Love means to do things that are necessary even if not pleasant, for the benefits of others; even when there is not emotion impetus to do so. A great example of this type of loving action was the actions of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:30-37. A priest and a Levite came by but would not help for attending to the man would have made them ceremonially 'unclean' and they would have to observe a cleansing ritual before they could resume their duties. The Samaritan that was despised by the Jews did stop and help the man. The Samaritan didn't just call 911 but actually helped the man reach a place that he could recover from his wounds. Not only that but he paid for the time of convalescence from his own funds. The moral of the story is to help others even when it is inconvenient and to do the most to help them not the least.

Another example of loving service is to help others even when they do not appreciate the act of kindness that you performed. We are reminded of this principle in the healing of the ten lepers, Luke 17:12. Jesus healed ten lepers but only one them came back to thank Him. Jesus rather than regretting the healing honored the Samaritan man that did come back to praise God. We can not serve for reward only or to receive the gratitude of man, but we must serve to please of heavenly Father and He will reward us in due time.

A prime example of love is the faith that we put into the object of our faith. Jesus had complete faith in the Father and He yielded His life totally to the will of the Father. Often times, we will allow the cares of this world detract from our faith as in the case of the seed sown in the thistles in the Parable of the Sower, Luke 8:4-15. The cares of the world choked out the seedlings of faith. Jesus encourages us regarding our faith in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:25 NLT: **"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Jesus then goes on to encourage us, verse 26 & 28 NLT: Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. Our loving attitude towards God will cause us to believe in and trust the promises that God has made to us. He is our loving Father that desires to bless His children.**