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# Voice of Triumph

*“The Lord appeared from of old to me [Israel], saying, Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you and continued My faithfulness to you.” Jeremiah 31: 3, AMPC*

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## INTIMACY GIVES YOU THE SATISFACTION THAT GOD LOVES YOU

The Apostle John was fully persuaded Jesus loved him. His distinction was rooted in their intimacy. They were first cousins: Jesus was born between 6BC and 4BC and John, AD 6. John referred to himself as “the one Jesus loved” at least five times. “So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it will be.’ This was to fulfill the Scripture, ‘THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER CLOTHING AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.’ So the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother’s sister [Salome], Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. So Jesus, seeing His mother, and the disciple whom He loved (esteemed) standing near, said to His mother, ‘[Dear] woman, look, [here is] your son!’” John 19:24-26 (AMP). “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved,” John 13:23 (KJV). “Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him,” John 20:2 (KJV). “Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord he girt his fisher’s coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea,” John 21:7 (KJV). “Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on His breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth Thee?” John 21:20 (KJV). What John recognized and realized is that he alone was Jesus’ favorite among everyone else, no matter the relationship. What a noticeable difference that would make to incorporate that caliber of acceptance from God. From John’s example, grasp the same conviction of God’s perfect love. Then you will have that same confidence that casts out all fear of rejection. Begin to say aloud, “I know I’m God’s favorite.”

## PASS THE HEART MONITORING TEST WITH THE WORDS GOD BELIEVES

God always looks at the heart to see our true motives as Proverbs 27:19 (ERV) reveals. “Just as you can see your own face reflected in water, so your heart reflects the kind of person you are.” Jeremiah 17:9-10 (AMPC) shows what a heart looks like without the influence of God. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]? I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.” With that in mind, let’s visit a nonbeliever, disbeliever, and an unbeliever. All three words seem identical, but each one is unique: 1) Nonbelief is not in our composition; intuitively, we believe something all the time. 2) Disbelief believes the impossible can only be impossible, refusing to accept alternatives. 3) Unbelief claims that not even God can change an impossibility into a heaven-born reality. What most of Israel believed breached God’s promises to them. The fear of the enemy was greater than their reverence for God. They hadn’t received His perfect love. The 11-day journey to the Promised Land turned out to be 40 years in the wilderness. They received what they believed which delayed God’s plan for them. Let Psalm 27:8 (AMPC) alter your heart to always believe the best about God. “You have said, Seek My face [inquire for and require My presence as your vital need]. My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for, and require [of necessity and on the authority of Your Word].” An endless circle of belief in God deletes cycles of unbelief.

## BE MINDFUL THAT GOD LOVES YOU JUST AS MUCH AS HE LOVES JESUS

Jesus’ invocation to God reveals His heart in John 17:17-26 (KJV), “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth. As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are One: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me. And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” The two-edged Sword of the Spirit customizes the heart to keep it synchronized with God’s heartbeat: one side is the scalpel to bring healing, the other side is for deliverance. 1) Circumcised to cut back the flesh: “And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live,” Deuteronomy 30:6. 2) Cleansed to remove contaminants: “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will,” Proverbs 21:1 3) Curative so you will be open to stay whole and well: “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones,” Proverbs 14:30.

## Thought for Transformation

*In Greek, “constrained” highlights a preoccupation to stay in union with God’s heartbeat. There is no greater love than God’s. All distractions have been removed to prove He always has your undivided attention. Now you are predisposed to share His everlasting love with all others. “If we are insane, it is for God’s sake; and if we are sane, it is for your sake. For the Messiah’s love has hold of [constrained] us, because we are convinced that One man died on behalf of all mankind (which implies that all mankind was already dead), and that He died on behalf of all in order that those who live should not live any longer for themselves but for the one who on their behalf died and was raised,” I Corinthians 5: 14, (CJB).” Don’t let go!*

## Sacrifice is Surrender

*I sought the Lord after surrendering to stand in the gap: my being willing and obedient were at stake. Holy Spirit led me to Song of Solomon 8:7, (TPT). It left such an impression on my heart I had to share it with you. “Rivers of pain and persecution will never extinguish this flame. Endless floods will be unable to quench this raging fire that burns within you. Everything will be consumed. It will stop at nothing as you yield everything to this furious fire until it won’t even seem to you like a sacrifice anymore.” Desirous of releasing the original song, “Pearl of Great Price,” it was vital to have closure to the lyrics, “I’m Your living sacrifice.” Once I could see it and sing it as Mary’s surrender to God to birth Jesus, I breathed again. I believe I also received God’s approval when the sun cascaded through the skylight as I sang that song as the Christmas concert finale. Jesus’ sacrificial love is the healing balm.*

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