
The Love of God

To us God is a loving Father. Try to envision how He accompanies us on the arduous journey of our life of faith. He is within us and experiences all the calamities that we have to tackle; He is with us as we overcome our personal problems. He knows intimately all our suffering, even the difficulty we have in paying indemnity. Our God is acutely aware of every rejection we receive. That is why God has much more compassion for us and our situation than we have for ourselves and each other, but even so, He cannot allow us to relax totally. It is because even better than we, God knows how little time remains to restore this world. We Unificationists are the ones who have been given the gift of the Principle and can discern something about the cruciality of this time period; He hopes that we can understand His situation and once we do, He counts on us to go out into the world and lead home the rest of His children who as yet are unaware of where He lives. Therefore although we may be exhausted, He continues to plead with us to breathe the breath of life and love into this world. At the same time, He hopes we know the depth of His sympathy for our predicament.

No parent likes to see his or her children agonize. God is no exception. Our Heavenly Parent was tormented by what happened in the Garden of Eden. He was anguished seeing Abraham make a tragic error which permitted Satan to claim that undivided offering. But God had to endure that agony along with all people throughout history who suffered the immediate consequences. Don't you think He had compassion for Jesus when His precious son was on the cross? Can't you imagine that God cried along with Jesus through the betrayal by Judas, and when his disciples were filled with doubt? Absolutely. God suffered and commiserated along with His son, knowing that the way of the cross was the only way to redeem mankind—even if it could only allow Him to grant His children spiritual salvation.

Today, God despairs because human beings are still the objects of Satan and still do not recognize Him as their parent. No one knows better than God that the job to restore the world is much, much greater now than it was at Jesus' time. So many satanic forces are poised and at the touch of a button, ready to destroy the world before its restoration can be completed. The amount of nuclear weapons and military forces existing in the world today is mind-boggling. The time is crucial. And better than any of us, it is God who feels the seriousness and urgency. He sees what could happen in the future. He sees that potentially Satan's force and power could destroy His whole beautiful plan. That is why God is forced to drive us out into the wilderness to suffer; He has nobody else. If we do not oblige his request and follow His direction and that of True Parents', the salvation of the world may be prolonged indefinitely.

But we must be aware of one thing: by no means does God want us to feel like He is a general who orders and commands us. Not at all. What He wants to do is to impress upon us what He feels deep within His soul—His longing and His immense love for mankind, and His personal affection for us. It is out of love that He entreats us to follow Him. Yet it is up to us how much we perceive that love.

We receive the love of God vertically and then we should accept the responsibility to distribute that love to everyone. Although God is over-generous in pouring out His love, it is a relatively small handful of people who can really understand and perceive it. But He is counting on us to inform many, many people that He is definitely alive and that His real identity is our loving Father. We must herald how important it is that they perceive and accept His love. For once they experience that love, they too can begin to feel the resolve to live for Him.

As soon as you succeed in ripping apart the voluminous curtain of doubt, the overwhelming love of God can enter your heart. The love of God has the power to squeeze your heart until tears begin to fall from your eyes. God is so different from many of the concepts we have built up in our mind. God is never concerned about punishment or judgment. He just wants to embrace us and engulf us in His arms. He wants to give us a hug, the likes of which we have never had before! Can you imagine? When you pray, pull away the veil which surrounds your heart. Go toward Him bearing the gift of your heart. It is unnecessary to speak many words; when you are in His presence, the whole glory and love of God can caress you. And it is the most beautiful thing you could ever experience. You don't have to go far; His majestic love is alive within you!

What God understands about love is something so different from man's limited comprehension. We are so short-sighted. Whereas we condemn people, He lifts them up. If we act coldly toward a person, He radiates compassion.

This is also the kind of love that True Parents offer. It has a different fiber and vibration than the kind of love we give; it is unconditional and divine in nature. By experiencing love from True Parents, we can realize that God must feel quite despondent looking at the misery which exists on earth. God could never harm anyone; He has compassion for each one of

us. Satan is the one who does the killing and incites man's inhumanity to man. And Satan is the one who perpetrates our suffering.

When Satan claimed the realm of love and assumed leadership of the world, God was forced to allow his insurrections to continue; it was God who made the force of love stronger than the force of the Principle. But because of that particular spiritual law, His own heart and love have continued to be steadfast in their loyalty to us, and even now He works at a furious pace to bring the world back to the point where He can once again assume sovereignty.

God is the creator of both the universe and humanity. Once a man and woman conceive a child, they usually continue to shower that child with love even after it becomes an adult. This is the nature of parenthood. Not all parents necessarily live this ideal but God, being the original Parent, is absolute in this respect. He has an unchanging picture, a master plan of parenthood and the ideal. It would be impossible for God to abandon totally any of His children. He has no choice; He is the law, the energy which is self-existing and self-generating. And He is the heart; He is our Heavenly Parent. Bound by this law, the love of God is destined to be consummated in each of His children.

For thousands of years, God has been gazing at mankind with great longing. He so much wants us to understand Him. And He has been waiting for *us* to look up to Him and finally discover that He is not a judgmental God, not an ogre who wants revenge or who would delight in destroying us. For thousands of years God has been hoping we will recognize that He is the God of love who wants to forgive, take us home, and finally embrace us in His arms. He desires to make us feel as we have never felt in our whole lives!

Although we may toss around the word "love," either in a casual or serious conversation, our understanding is very limited and abstract in relation to the true love God represents. This is one thing that I have learned through my years as a Unificationist. As a result of mistakes or sins of omission, I have often felt like such a sinner. I figured that God should and *would* leave me by the wayside. But instead He loved me as if I were perfect. I discovered that I was all wrong about God. Yet even at that moment I wondered if I had misunderstood, and then I became troubled by the fact that

maybe it was *He* who misunderstood, and for some reason had not yet seen how tarnished my spirit really was. But instead of banishing me, He pulled me even closer to His bosom. He cradled me in His arms and touched the marrow of my soul. I felt ashamed for my obvious error and misconception, but at the same time, I was incredibly comforted. It was such a direct experience with the love of God. Have you had a similar encounter that put you in harmony with our Eternal?

Consider yourself watched by God at all times. God is an ever present guide. Like a parent, He observes all of His children and prays that they will grow up to become healthy, wise, knowledgeable, morally upright, law-abiding, loving human beings. It is out of His deep love that He wants us to learn to become people of integrity, people who possess inner dignity, and people who have unshakable faith. The tests and trials, the endeavors and confrontations we face each day, polish the rough edges of our character. Some days we are happy, yet others we may be depressed or feel melancholic. It is normal to experience different emotions, but we should not stay morose or apathetic. Within the span of each new day, numerous lessons decorate our lives. And God is most happy when we learn from them.

God is compassionate; He understands our problems well. It is just that God also thinks years ahead! And because of His keen insight, He pours a thick layer of His love upon us to help arm and fortify each of us against Satan's attacks.

Be assured that God loves you. God treats every person as if he were the only person He loves. Believe that you are that special, because at least you are to Him!

Because God created all mankind, He feels responsible for the entire world population. He even feels bound to provide food and shelter to all people. Yet how can He accomplish this goal when there are so many underdeveloped nations which suffer from a severe shortage of food? There is such an imbalance: other nations throw one-third of their food into the garbage.

The Messiah must see that ultimately all nations on every continent are taken care of physically, as well as spiritually. He comes to proclaim the love of God, not just the news that God is alive. The Messiah feels account-

able to feed, shelter, and clothe the people because he feels the responsibility and the motivation of love which flows from God, the Father.

Through the fall, man lost the ability to perceive the love of God. The restoration process then helps us regain the ability to perceive that glorious love of God. One step forward in an effort to know Him better is making a declaration of our desire to become intimate with Him. And if we keep walking in that direction, eventually we have to feel His love. But it definitely takes effort to go back to God.

The fall resulted in a separation between God and man. Through that very division, we were cut off from the love of God. We no longer knew what it was. We no longer could feel or perceive it. But we are made in such a way that within each of us is a built-in receiver of the love of God. We are meant to be temples of God. We are meant to know and live within His love. And I feel that after this spiritual quarantine we now live in ends, it *will* happen.

The assurance of the love of God comes from many directions. But if you are not able to perceive that love, then even though you hear a thousand times that God indeed does love you, you *still* will disbelieve. It takes two to make the bell of love peal—it takes both you and God. Allow God's messenger to proclaim to you that God loves you. Or let your heart be reassured if you hear God's own voice telling you directly that He loves you. If for some reason you don't believe it, you will face problems of self-accusation and isolation. But He wonders whether or not you will allow anyone to pick you up and heal you after your battles with Satan.

If someone begins to talk about God and brings His love to us, we may be able to recognize it. It is similar to a baby finding its mother's breast. Even with closed eyes, it can sense where the breast is and then begins to suckle its needed nourishment. We all have the built-in sense or possibility to nurse on the love of God.

The love of God binds us together. If this love has weakened within you, you may find that you separate yourself from others. If this happens realize that for one thing, your love for God has subsided in some way. Encourage yourself to restore the dynamism of your relationship with Him. Continue to be tied to God, True Parents, and to others with the rope of God's love. Its tautness has been tested.

Love is the world's most effective glue. Sometimes Satan comes with a knife which he tries to wedge between us and God. On occasion he succeeds in loosening the sticking power of that love-glue; that is when life looks confusing and becomes difficult. Then God must work to repair the connection. But once more adhesive has been applied, the whole world looks bright again because we feel secure in His love.

\AThen I worked as the lone missionary to pioneer the movement in Austria, I prayed day and night and fasted almost all the time. I searched for people and paid indemnity through fulfilling stringent conditions. But nobody answered my call. Nobody wanted to know what I had to say. Because there was such a lack of human response, I was forced to come close to God. I needed to talk with someone; I needed a response. I needed a partner, and I made God my companion. Even though I was lonesome for a few years, God endeared Himself to me so intensely that I could hardly sleep anymore. My whole being was saturated with God's love and I constantly felt His affection for me. He was my oasis, my shelter.

My prayer life was strong; I was active, intent on living for my God. And I felt the love of God so strongly. I became a real fireball. I had so much love from God, I gathered up basketsful of it every day. It was so real to me, I could almost see it. My heart opened up, and my intuition and spiritual senses developed. We built a beautiful mutual devotion, and the love of God blended with my faith and my love for Him. It became like a medley, so soothing to my heart.

I found that I was one tributary that emptied into the river of God's love. And that river meandered along the shoreline of the grounds of God's palatial home; it was there I rested and took refuge. There are so many spiritually dry riverbeds among the whole of humanity. Yet each one of us has the potential to become a full-fledged tributary, for God has the desire that ultimately each of us drain into His reservoir of love.

Many of us do not understand why God chose us. We wonder, "Why *me*?" Everyone has his weaknesses; everyone is individualistic to some degree. Most of the time we shrug off the inconsistencies in our character, but during the moments we struggle most, through our tears we may cry, "Why did You pick me, God? *Why*?" I myself asked that question countless times.

Sometimes when we struggle with another person, we may ask God why He chose *them*! That also happened to me. One girl who joined in Vienna ran away two or three times. She even tried to commit suicide by

taking an overdose, but I found her in time and took her to have her stomach pumped. And in her gratitude, with spite in her voice and anger in her face, she said, "Next time you *won't* stop me!" And then she landed in an institution. After a few days she called me, "Please, get me out of this place!" When she saw all the crazy people around her, she begged me to bail her out.

This girl gave me so much trouble. She ran away *again* and I was so angry. I went into the prayer room and said, "Father! I don't know what to do for this girl. As far as I am concerned, enough is enough. If You really want her, send her back right away. But if You don't want her, then please don't let her show up ever again!"

A few hours later, members had gathered in a room on the second story of our building. Suddenly, we heard someone whistling "Arirang." Who but another Unificationist knew that song? I went down and opened the door; there she stood! I was amazed but simply invited her inside.

That was an amazing lesson to me about the depth of God's love. Obviously, God wanted her. Sometimes we are much too hasty in our judgment and often cannot discover what it is God loves about a certain person.

If you only communicate spiritually, you only get a spiritual response. But instead of just using your heart, absorb the love of God even through your skin; when you do, it will overpower and refresh you. It is not just felt spiritually, but ultimately even our physical senses will feel the passionate love of our Heavenly Father.

Love is God's element; it is His most beautiful quality. If you are able to comprehend it and give it a home inside of yourself, you can become the temple of God. You can be the embodiment of goodness and love. Undulations of love can emanate from within you to wash up on the shore of another's life. Those are waves of love from God that have the power to create high or low tides.

Why do we have problems opening our hearts to God? Why do we come up against spiritual bottlenecks? Fear. But what is there to fear? People go to psychiatrists to become unblocked mentally. Through prayer and a life of faith, we can become unblocked spiritually.

Begin by surrendering to God. Doing so allows you to perceive God's love. It will make you feel embraced and secure. Insecurity comes from the

idea and then the belief that no one loves us. But if we can become confident that God loves us, we will have no more fears. We are still fearful because we don't trust in God—or His love—enough.

God is different from what we sometimes think. We cannot fathom the depth of His love and longing for us. Could it be that this omnipotent and almighty God is lonely? The answer is an unqualified *yes*. He begs us to accept Him and His love. He forgets and cancels our past, treating us as if we had never sinned. He longs for us to be close to Him. He wants to feel joy, and wants us to feel the same way. Each one of us has to reach out to God on our own. We have to step over the threshold ourselves. But once we do, we will be able to enter His house, and breathe His love for eternity.

How did God continue to give out love even when people did not respond or return love to Him? People always doubted or disregarded Him, but He kept on loving anyway. He is God—our loving Father. And His love is pure, true.

God continues to have patience. He would feel relieved if all mankind would return to Him immediately and love Him. But He cannot make that move for us. There is nothing He can do until we ourselves take action. But despite His long wait, God is unchanging in His love. God keeps on loving because He knows that in the end He will win our love. Father knows God intimately and shares this burden with Him. Even if someone argues with Father, he sits patiently and listens until the person is finished. Then he slowly begins giving out love and washes away the person's resentment or pain. He is always the victor in love. That is an attribute of God—unconditional and perfect love.

Everyone is longing to be loved by this mystical God. Instinctively they feel that His love would be true and genuine, very unlike the cheap substitute Satan has perpetrated. The love they have experienced from the imperfect people of this world has been tinged with falsity. Its illusion has caused countless disappointments because people have wielded selfish love and manipulated others with it. But if only we could discover the essence of true love and bestow this divine love to people, they would naturally hunger for more. And they would want to pursue the one who originated this kind of love. It is our commission to assist in making the introductions; once they see His face, I am sure they will desire to unite with us in accomplishing the will of God.

You can never forget how the love of God tastes once you sample it. Even if you don't savor it again soon, you just can't discard the idea to ingest it someday. There is nothing higher than the love of God—the perfect, true love of God. Nothing less will satisfy you after that. Nothing else can equal it. Real, true love is an absolute consummation of joy. After you sample the love of God, no lover can ever pull you away from it. God's true love tastes so pure and refined, everything else will taste like artificial sweetener in comparison.

By law, God is attracted much more to those people who have greater love. And conversely, people who have the greatest love are more attracted to God. People are drawn to those who possess the magnetism of love. A believer who does much for God and loves Him, is naturally much closer to His heart. Even the criminal is God's son, but is far away from perceiving and receiving His love. Every person has the basic necessity to experience love from God. The amount or degree of love we feel for God determines our distance from Him. God too feels such yearning to be loved; I believe it is His greatest need.

God loved the people who died in the flood at Noah's time. We must realize that they were His people—His children—but had rejected Him and united with Satan instead. Even though God had created them, in one very real way, they ceased to relate to Him as their parent; Satan took them away and became their father. If God had not destroyed them, they would have kept sinning. They would have created mountains of invisible animosity and enmity against God. To the unspiritual eye, the Flood Judgment may appear to be a rash move made by an angry God. But seen in light of the dispensation, it was actually an act of pity and love. God removed the possibility for those people to interfere or block His dispensation. And He could then begin to create a new world with Noah's family.

It is important to first learn how to perceive love from both God and people, and then become a container strong enough to hold it. The closer you come to God, the larger your container and the greater becomes your capacity to handle love. God has so much love; He does not know what to do with it. Most people have a very small container of love; only so much love can be poured in before it starts to overflow. Yet all of us should work on expanding our reservoir of love.

You are the one who determines how much God can work with you. You may ask Him to work with you but once you do, you have the respon-

sibility of doing your part. You can achieve anything with the assistance of God and the spirit world. If you create bases for God to work through, you cut off your strings to Satan. Yet Satan often proclaims his love to us and ensnares us in his trap. Once we are on his launching pad, he may hurl us into the nets of hopelessness, depression, inferiority complexes, insecurities, fears, and inabilities. Those nets cut us off from God's love until we break free of them and can once again be embraced by our Heavenly Father.

When we become God's true sons and daughters, His love for us will no longer stem from pity. Yet during this time of restoration, of necessity His love is primarily based on charity or sympathy. The pure and total love of God can only be experienced when the perfect God meets His perfected children.

Whether a person is able to sense the presence of God and perceive His love is a question of sensitivity. Not everybody can. Through the fall, man lost that ability, and the process of restoration involves reestablishing it.

The love and passion of God is like fire. But fire needs oxygen to keep burning. When you buy a pressure cooker, you get a set of instructions on how to use it. The "cooker" of God's love is available for our use, and the Principle is our set of instructions. But it is up to us whether or not we use it or simply put it away and allow it to collect dust. Why not cook! All you need to do is read the directions, and ultimately your dish of love will turn out delicious and satisfying to both you and God!

The divine love of God is something quite strange and different from what we might have thought previously. In fact, we may also have envisioned the entire spirit world and the Kingdom of Heaven different from what we understand now. We look for the spotless, the perfect when we search for the ideal where even the thought of hatred, animosity, or anything negative or evil would be unthinkable! But how do we live today? How much do we still think in such ways and unite with Satan even in small things? How much do we reject the love of God simply because we do not notice it? Is every thought and feeling we have divine? The real essence of love is something different from what we experienced in the past.

If you once taste the love of God, you will desire to feel it all the time. You will reflect upon what you did to get to that point. You have to uncover both what your disposition and your attitude were at the moment of impact with His love. The love of God in itself is what motivates you to reach that height once again. You want the same love the next day, the next week, and the next month. Once your appetite is whet through even one experience of God's love, you will no doubt hunger after it with voracity. And as its sweetness lingers adamantly to your heart, you will not settle for anything less. You know it will buoy and sustain you above the murky waters of Satan's world.

No matter what work you do, thank God that He called you to do it. It is out of His love that He chose you for it and it for you. He knows you intimately—what situations will help you grow, which are the points you need to overcome. Feel the love of God, even in your work. Once you do, your emotions and your reactions to situations you confront every day, will be different.

Some people desire that their emotion of love develop more strongly than their intellect. That is a healthy thing to do: allow God to bathe your heart and emotions with His love. Once you are replete with His love, move forward. That is when you will be able to approach each day with optimism.

I feel warm all over when I merely think about God. I believe that with the right pinch of determination, any of us can feel the same way. Push zeal into your entire being by thinking positive things—things full of love and tenderness. When you go out witnessing and carry the love of God within you, you will even be strong enough to reject rejection! It is a question of the right attitude and preparation. And part of that is opening yourself to allow the passion and radiance of God's love to flood your heart. Then, spill out spiritual affection to those you meet.

The majority of people in this world do not know what love is. Many of them live in poverty and have very little to eat. Their first thought is how to get food, shelter, and clothing. They do not reach the level of love and cannot think about loving God. They might not even know who God is. They deify food; it becomes their god. However, if God reveals His love to certain historic figures or groups of people, they then have the responsibility to care for those who don't even have the basic necessities. The people who have received some knowledge and had some experience of God's

love must give their fellow man something to eat, shelter in which to live, and clothes to wear. Only when these economic necessities are taken care of, can they share wisdom and experience God or His love.

If you offer even a little bit to them, that alone will be a substantiation of love. If you have plenty but give someone who has nothing even a little of your blessing, it is still an expression of love. When we feel the love of God, we automatically receive His command to give that love to others. As we do that, God will naturally shower even more of His love upon us. And we, in turn, will be able to give out more of it. This just expands and escalates. As we grow in spirit, we need to increase our container to receive greater amounts of love, and at the same time, develop our capacity to disseminate it. I feel that personal spiritual growth is actually the process of expanding one's self to be able to contain the love of God.

There is a constant outpouring of the love of God. Even though we may not comprehend that God is with us or that He loves us deeply, He definitely takes care of us both physically and spiritually. It was God who designed the laws of nature. And it was God who designed the laws governing the world of spirit. Most of us experience such things as gravity, wind, and the ticking away of time, without giving too much thought to the dynamics behind them. We may do the same with the spiritual law of God's love. Do we recognize that God is love and that He shares His love with mankind? Even in His loneliness, He pours out His love to elevate us so that eventually we may grow and become His true children.

How can we behold the love of God?—through prayer life and activity, and even by connecting ourselves with nature. Although we can distinguish the love of God within the creation, it is especially made manifest within our interpersonal relationships. That is one very real way He uses to communicate with us—when and if we let Him.

If we are fortunate enough to meet God, we will discover what He is all about. It is when we do His will that we can fathom His love.

I feel sure that all of us ultimately want to come to the point of feeling the heart of God and becoming a channel for the love of God. In order to do that, we have to deepen our consciousness and the level of our own love. Those of us who are no longer single people share our vision with our spouse; that is the way we are able to see more of the world. As we transmit

this view to each other, both pairs of eyes observe the world in a more total way. That means that between husband and wife there is a greater capacity to perceive the love of God—not just on an individual level but also through the experience of conjugal love.

When a couple has children, there is the potential for God-centered spiritual love to be seen through even more pairs of eyes. "Heaven" can be experienced within a God-centered family, for such a family becomes the channel of God's true love. That love then flows to each member.

We become channels of the love of God once we individually work on establishing our vertical connection to God through prayer life, meditation, and action. Whatever input we receive from God, we must then transfer to our neighbor. That is a part of our commission from God. We must have give and take on the horizontal level—with our spouse, with our children, and with each other.

If parents behave like God and raise their children in a God-centered way, they become conduits for the love of God. If millions of families could live in this way, they would form God-centered societies and nations. Then the world would be an artery through which the love of God could flow and meander. The love of God could then be funneled through those families and each person would receive some of that treasure.

God wants to restore this fallen world by injecting His love and truth. He implores all of us to change our hearts and lives. Those who have the mission to lead others must themselves be centered upon God. They must be aware that the love of God is being channeled from the individual through the family to the society, into nations and finally within a network covering the entire world.

God desires that we stay pure and chaste in order to individually become channels for His love. If we do not have the love of God within our heart, what quality of love can we share with our mate?—only superficial, physical and horizontal love. But the real essence of human life is the divine love manifested in all three levels of love which originate in God (as explained in the Principle).

Do not try to find the love of God only within the hearts of your partner, friends, parents, children, and associates. Look around you! God offers you the whole universe—a veritable rainbow of colors of flower blossoms, the mutant greens of the trees, the shades of pearls, the subtle tints detectable in coral and seahorses—something everywhere we look. There are especially beautiful parts of this world—natural wonders like the Grand Canyon. This is all God's offering to each of us. He wants to touch our hearts with His

love through the colors in the landscape, through the blossoms, through every tint and hue with which He painted the world. Not only that, but He hopes that at times we will also enjoy feeling the whipping wind and cascading rain that He used to perfect the multi-dimensional picture. Our feelings and heart are not only touched through what we observe with our eyes; those experiences penetrate straight through our skin. We can experience the universe through our very pores. And that is a precious moment in which we are able to feel one characteristic of the love of God.

God is forced to keep His true love in reserve. Each of us is a sinner and that naturally compels us to live apart from God. At present we are still under His indirect dominion; His true love is something that we have not yet experienced to the fullest. Even though we may have had a taste of it or remember a moment when the full weight of God's love moved us, it was love based on His compassion for us.

Father often talks exuberantly about God's love and while our mind may eagerly race along with His enthusiasm, there is still an important element missing; we cannot totally comprehend what He refers to. Because of His own laws, God is not free to play a tune of true love on the heartstrings of imperfect man. Perhaps He has been able to strike a chord at one time or another, but He cannot pour out His true love to us. He has no doubt already composed many love songs within the perfected hearts of the True Parents. And I am convinced that He has a ballad ready for each of us—when we reach that same stage.

According to spiritual law, God has to give all His love and power to His object. He has been looking and longing for His object to return. That is His nature, very characteristic of a parent. Whether He wanted to or not, He just had to pour out all His love to find His children. For the first time, this union with God manifested through True Parents; He found what He had lost in the Garden of Eden. God could not share Himself with Adam, Abraham, Buddha, Mohammed, Jesus, or any other figure in history as much as He can with perfected Adam and Eve—the True Parents.

The love of God is so different from what we think. Our concept of love cannot be compared with God's. To begin with, God's love is unconditional. Whether or not we love Him in return, respect Him, or are obedient, He loves us anyway and provides all the necessities for our lives. But most

of all, His longing for us—His children—is so great that He is motivated to do just about anything for us. In fact, when He manifested Himself through Jesus, He even offered His own life for us. That is one clue revealing the nature of His true and sacrificial love.

The billions of people in this world are all longing for God. Many may have given up looking to meet God in reality, so they have opted for substitutes. But everybody is still looking and longing for love and fulfillment. The echo and hollowness which resounds in their souls does not ring true; and each in his own way prays that there is something which will fill the void. People find substitutes in all kinds of secularized and worldly things. But it is our mission to convey to all those people that real love—not animalistic or superficial love—which comes from God is what they ultimately seek. In order to transmit this serious and weighty message, we ourselves must become the incarnation of such love. We really have to connect with God and at all times be fortified against the aggression of Satan. In a true sense then, we need to convey to people the fullest possible image of God, including the nature of His love.

We know that God is represented by the good spirits in spirit world. Once you shoot yourself into the heights of spirit world, billions of spirits and angels will surround you, desiring to cooperate and respond. And when they sing the same song as you, your voices and actions will create beautiful harmony. You will hear melodies which you never heard before—not only through your ears, but even through the pores of your skin. At that moment you will feel God. You will feel "in heaven." You will feel love throughout your body and your heart. It will be like diving into a sea of love. But you need to make a breakthrough into that realm. If you cannot find the way out of the labyrinth because you cannot detach yourself from your material possessions, then you will be unable to experience a true spiritual liberation. You must dive headfirst into the love of God.

Grace is another form of the love of God. Feeling the benevolence of God—His forgiving heart and nature—makes it easier for us to come home. God's grace does something to you. It makes you do an about-face; it even cancels sin. It opens the door and brings you closer to God. It opens your eyes to God and allows you to visualize what He has in mind for your life.

The pillars of fire and cloud revealed to the Jewish people were signs of

the grace of God. God meant for the dove to be a sign of His grace to Noah. But His grace is also tangible today. We are given signs—words of both encouragement and warning from True Parents. These are direct blessings from God. It is as if He says, "I am with you." Not just spiritually, but also physically. His mercy is both the promise and its realization. Yet the grace of God does not just suddenly descend so that you will bask in its light. The grace of God definitely demands a response.

On impact, the love of God melts open the door to our heart. Truly, it can even roll away the heaviest stone blocking entrance to the human heart. The liberation that comes about at that point is the freedom for which mankind searches. We have a longing to be emancipated and free of all the weight and burden of sin. We all have such a desire to be genuine, to be ourselves and not someone else. It is the most beautiful thing to develop into the perfected human being God created each of us to be. How wonderful it will be to just give up the pretense. If you pretend once, you have to continue that game, but it is incredibly strenuous and draining. You become a phony if you do that; you even lose respect for yourself. People will find out soon enough whether or not you are genuine.

God is only able to reach a heart that is pure and humble—a heart which longs for God, and one which desires to serve Him. He can speak through a heart that is child-like, not a complicated machine that twists words and emotions before they even leave the area of the heart.

Most questions we have can be answered simply if we use one common denominator: the love of God. Contained within it are the answers to all our questions. Always connect your thoughts and feelings to the love of God and do whatever you do in the name of True Parents. That will solve everything. Love is the measure of all things and the love of God is the best measuring cup of all!