



*Cross Currents
International Ministries*

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Love:

Influential

"perceive the love of God"

1 John 3:16

By Richard A. Bennett

Dear Prayer Supporter,

We praise the Lord that through the triumph of our lovely Lord Jesus, we can face the uncertainties of a New Year! Your gifts are deeply appreciated for the continuance of CCIM's widespread ministries which do not appeal for money either on our broadcasts or distribution of missionary literature. This ministry is **your** ministry. Thank You!

Through the preaching of His Word, lives are changed such as a Turkana man who recently repented of the great evil done to the neighboring Pikot people.

May *"Influential Love"* impact your life for His glory. In His Love,

God's love extended through CCIM by broadcasts in Africa.

Ivory Coast: I listened to a flash of Dorothy's French radio program when travelling on a bus which made me feel good as I started to meditate concerning my relationship with the Lord Jesus. You said on your program: "How are you going to personally answer to God's love?" This caused me to question my love for God as I continued meditating. Then I decided to organize my life in answer to God's love for me. **Without any reserve, I decided to completely give the Lord Jesus my life!!**

Leiten: By listening to *"Dorothy's Daily Devotional,"* I gave my life to Jesus. Although a church member, I did not know

that Christ died for me and that I needed to give my life to Him. **Forgiveness had been a big problem in my life** but I have since learnt how to forgive those who wrong me. I now look at issues with the love of God that was manifested in me when I gave my life to Jesus.

Kenya: Praise God for saving me through your inspirational program. Once you listen to it, if you do not know who Jesus is, then sister Dorothy will hold your hand through the teachings and show you the Cross. Thank you once again and please send me *"Your Quest for God"* and *"Food for Faith"* for spiritual nourishment.

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“... for the glory of God,”

John 11:4

by Richard A. Bennett

The Love of God

1. Incomprehensible Love
2. Inclusive Love Part I
3. Inclusive Love - Part II
4. Insightful Love
5. Incomparable Love
6. Incontestable Love
7. Inductive Love
8. Influential Love

Just nine letters in two words constitute the shortest verse in the Bible – “*Jesus wept*” John 11:35. As the Savior wept, He demonstrated His deep compassion for the family He loved. He also shed tears for a city: “*He beheld the city, and wept over it*” Luke 19:41. In each case, the Lord Jesus was confronted with unbelief.

The Family: The lovingly knit family of Mary, Martha and Lazarus had suddenly found their close family ties broken when Lazarus died. At that time, the Lord Jesus was two-day’s journey away from these loved ones. When the disciples shared the news of Lazarus, Jesus did not go into a panic mode and rush to the scene, but delayed two days before commencing His journey. He said to His disciples: “*I am glad for your sakes that I was not there . . .*” If the Lord Jesus had been with Mary and Martha before Lazarus died, He would have healed him. But Jesus said: “*I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent that you might believe*” John 11:15.

Living faith is not only demonstrated by thanksgiving on the mountain top of blessings, but more especially in the valley of testing. If my faith in the love of God is confined to thankfulness for material blessings, good health, family tranquility, and financial security, I am missing the point.

Although Martha knew **what** she believed, when facing a crisis, she did not demonstrate faith in **whom** she believed. She had correct Christology: “*I believe*

that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world” John 11:27. Unlike the Sadducees, Martha also had correct eschatology: “*I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day*” verse 24. Martha was also very busy serving the Christian community. Today, she would gladly volunteer to organize the church’s potluck suppers and trips in the country for senior citizens. But she did not have a living faith at the moment of crisis: “*If Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*” verse 21.

It is interesting to note that some of the Jews who had been ready to stone the Lord Jesus also said: “*Could not this Man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?*” John 11:37. We can understand when a non-believer acts like a non-believer, but it is difficult to comprehend when a believer acts like a non-believer. Do you have an ‘if only’ in your life? You can see your way around the problem if circumstances had only been different, but you cannot comprehend the sufficiency of the risen Christ to meet you at the point of your greatest dilemma. The Lord Jesus had said to Martha: “*I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*” verse 25.

Jesus also indicated: “*Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?*” John 11:40. The question was not the

resurrection of Lazarus, but **the glory of God.**

In this case, it was to the glory of God that Lazarus was raised from the dead. Later, it would be to the glory of God that Deacon Stephen was stoned to death. It was to the glory of God that the apostle Peter was released from prison, but it was also to the glory of God that the apostle Paul ended up in prison. The lame man who, *“they laid daily at the temple which is called Beautiful”* asked the disciples for alms and received legs! *“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth”* he was commanded to *“rise up and walk.”* No longer lame, the beggar walked, leapt and praised God. Acts 3:2,6,8. However, in his physical afflictions, Paul said: *“I will rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”* 2 Corinthians 12:9. The question is not life or death; prison or freedom; healing or sickness, it is the glory of God. Comfort and convenience are not the only demonstrations of the love of God.

The City: *“He [Jesus] beheld the city, and wept over it”*. . . *“they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation”* Luke 19:41,44. When the Lord Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem, being God, Jesus knew of the tragic consequence of their unbelief which would cause the future desolation of the population, including the children, being slaughtered in A.D. 70 by the Roman army under Titus. *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”* Matthew 23:37.

Do you, do I, shed tears for the foreboding future of our own country enmeshed in sexual perversion, abortion slaughter, and political corruption? Do we view the dying souls of unknown people who live in despair in spiritual delusion, and in the threat of untimely death through the magnifying effect of the teardrops that splash from heaven? Such precious people cry out for a ray of God’s love and truth. It is up to us to introduce them to the Lord Jesus who is the Resurrection and the Life. That is God’s

influential love working in and through us.

It is of great blessing for Dorothy and me, through CCIM, to reach out to such people around the world through the means of Internet, literature, and radio broadcasts of *The Way of Truth* and *Dorothy’s Daily Devotionals*. Let us share with you one of the hundreds of communications we receive each month.

A pastor in Senegal, West Africa, regularly visits the Djourbel Prison, located 100 km from the capital city of Dakar. He gave *Your Quest for God* to a prisoner who was incarcerated for many years after attempting to escape from prison on two occasions. This prisoner used to be a ranking member of an extremist religious movement. He never cut his hair and belonged to ‘Bayfal,’ a people who dedicate their lives to religion and follow a guru. Isolated in his cell, he read our book and gave his life to Jesus.

This new believer then requested to have a haircut and wear new clothes. He now participates in the prison church as an active member. Seeing the transformation of his life, the prison guards also requested copies of *Your Quest for God*, and the Lord is doing great things among the prisoners and the guards in this Senegal prison! Praise the Lord for **His influential love!**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Spiritual Check Up

- * I am so very thankful that God loves me with an unconditional love: In turn, do I love Him with an unconditional love?
- * Though I praise the Lord when I feel like it, do I praise the Lord when I don't feel like it?
“Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me” Psalm 50:23.