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# **God's Steadfast Love**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn the Bible at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## God's Steadfast Love.

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### Topics.

- God's steadfast love and mercy endures forever.
- Doubting God's love and perfect love.
- Sin dwelling in the flesh.

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### GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE AND MERCY ENDURES FOREVER

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The English Standard Bible says:

- **Psalm 118:1-3:** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! <sup>2</sup>Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." <sup>3</sup>Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

The King James Bible says:

- **Psalm 118:1-3:** Give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endures for ever. <sup>2</sup>Let Israel now say, that his mercy endures for ever. <sup>3</sup>Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endures for ever.

The expression, "God's steadfast love endures forever," is one of the most common expressions throughout the Psalms. Some Bibles say, "God's steadfast mercy endures forever," while others say, "God's love endures forever. The word mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*cheched*) and means to show, kind favour, to show merciful kindness, to be kind, to show one-self merciful, and to pity, which embraces such things as compassion, sympathy, empathy, comfort, and forgiveness showing that love and mercy are bound together.

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After reading (Psalm 118) it becomes clear that the Psalmist was in great distress (v5), people hated him (v7) and enemies of all nations surrounded him (v10), but with God favouring him he overcame them and got the victory over them (v11). After such a triumphant victory he calls all Israel to praise the LORD.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- **Romans. 13:10:** Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4:** Love is patient and kind.

The word mercy embraces the following:

- Compassion.
- Pity.
- Kindness.
- Sympathy.
- Grace.
- Forgiveness.

Which means love and mercy cannot be separated, love without mercy is not love and mercy without love is not mercy, which also means that Bibles that state, "God's mercy endures for ever," and Bibles that say, "God's love endures for ever," are both correct in their interpretations.

**NOTE:** love is not a part of God's character; God is love wherever love is God is present by His Spirit. This does not mean that wherever love is the people are saved to eternal life, it simply means God by His love is in that love.

- **1 John 4:7-8:** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- **1 John 4:16:** So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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## DOUBTING GOD'S LOVE AND PERFECT LOVE

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Ponder for a moment the majestic beauty of the following Scriptures:

- **Romans 5:6:** While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- **Romans 5:8:** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 5:10:** While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

These verses are breath-taking statements, and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Christ since they carry an astounding and perfect example of love, and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us.

**In the book of Corinthians, Paul states, "we were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20), the price Paul refers to, is the life of God's only beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who laid his life, down to a brutal, bloody, and cruel death, so that we could be counted righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works, and despite the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling in our flesh (i.e., selfishness, ego, pride, greediness, lust, envy, anger, unbelief, coveting, and such like things). For details of each of these sins, see the title:**

- Sins of the Flesh, at the end of this document.

Despite our corrupted fallen human nature God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness, it is imputed to us as a pure, and free-gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were sinners and indifferent to God and His ways and in some cases blasphemers. Sadly, because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on, some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed, God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love, all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us, and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and cloth us with his robe of righteous, so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort, and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days, or keeping religious customs and traditions.

This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain, if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him, and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him, and what did not, He will, with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace).

**David's Psalms and prayers:** David's prayers in his Psalms clearly show he perceived God's great love regardless of his circumstances (good or bad), this is why he could be openly, and sometimes brutally honest before God in prayer. For David, having the steadfast love of God dwelling in his heart was his greatest treasure.

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## SIN DWELLING IN THE FLESH

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### Jesus said:

- **Matthew 5:28–29:** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Here Jesus shows that sin is not limited to outward actions and behaviour only, but also embraces inward sinful thoughts, and Paul in the following verses speaks of sin dwelling within his flesh (i.e., human nature).

- **Romans 7:17-18:** So now it is no longer I (Paul) who do it, but sin that dwells within me.<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right (i.e., the desire to be perfectly Holy and righteous), but not the ability to carry it out (i.e., the ability to attain to it).
- **Romans 7:19-20:** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.<sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- **Romans 7:23:** but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
- **Romans 7:24-25:** Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

In these verses Paul speaks of:

- Sin that dwells within him.
- Sin that dwells in his members.
- Serving the law of sin with his flesh.

Following is a list of nine primary sins that dwell in the flesh:

**1. Selfishness:** and self-centredness, at their extreme embraces people who:

- Have a total lack of consideration for others
- Do not see (or are unwilling to see) beyond themselves and recognize that there are others sharing the world.
- Sole concern is excessively and exclusively upon themselves
- Are callous and insensitive to the wants and needs of others.
- Seek and concentrate on their own advantage, pleasure, and well-being without any concern or regard for others

- Sole focus is concern for their own welfare and advantage.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have this extreme level of selfishness and self-centredness, but at some level selfishness dwell in all of us.

**2. Ego:** and being egotistical at their extreme embraces people who:

- Are excessively conceited, and have an inflated feeling of pride, and view of their own self importance
- Are absorbed with themselves, and think they are better and superior to everyone else.
- Put their welfare above others, and have an extreme sense of self-importance.
- Use others for their own gain an advantage, and to succeed, regardless of the harm it may inflict upon those they use. This is because an unhealthy ego can make a person extremely sensitive to failure, or overconfident in their abilities, and either of these attitudes can drive a person to use others to achieve their own goals.

Clearly, most of the world's population are not this egotistical, but at some level ego dwells in all of us.

**3. Pride:** and being prideful at their extreme embraces people who:

- Are arrogant, conceited, and have a bloated sense of self-importance, and superiority, believing they are superior to everyone else.
- Have an exceedingly high self-regard.
- Believe they are always right, and treat others as lessor, and with insolence, disrespect, contempt, and disdain.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have this extreme level of ungodly pride, but at some level pride dwell in all of us. It should be mentioned, not all pride is bad, when pride motivates a person to do a good job, or to achieve their goals, or a promotion in a legitimate way, or achieve something good and worthwhile, or finish a difficult task, or help others with their needs, a healthy sense of self-respect, and personal worth, and a feeling of satisfaction, joy, and gratification will follow.

**4. Greed:** and being greedy at their extreme embraces people who:

- Have a strong desire and craving for more than they need.
- Always want more and more; money, food, alcohol, fame, power, authority, importance, and material possessions etc.
- Lack of restraint, and are excessively self-indulgent.
- Indulge themselves in excessive and extremely opulent luxurious lifestyles.
- Are stingy in giving money, help and time to help others.

Clearly, most of the world's population do not have the wealth to attain to this extreme level of greed, but it matters little, because you can be greedy for just about anything, and at some level greed dwells in all of us.

**5. Lust:** and being lustful. For many the root of lust is often emptiness, and the desire for gratification, many succumb to it in a vain attempt to fill the void they feel in their life. Lust is a strong and powerful word, for no one lusts for things they do not deeply crave after or care about, it indicates, selfishness, and lack of self-control and it embraces:

- A strong craving and desire for anything (i.e., power, wealth, fame, importance, popularity, and food etc.).
- Sensual lustful fantasies and immoral thoughts.
- A strong passion and desire for another person's husband or wife.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have extreme levels of lust, but, because lust can take any form of craving, all at some level have lust dwelling within.

**6. Envy:** stems from an unhealthy focus on other people's successes and wanting to bring them down because of it. Many people do not recognize indwelling envy, because it is an emotion that is largely unconscious in most people, however, it is easy to discern; if you are not happy for others when they achieve success, or their success makes you feel unhappy, and you feel the need to diminish their success, it is very likely you have a high level of envy. It embraces:

- A person who begrudges others, is jealous, spiteful, resentful, and unhappy because someone else has achieved or possesses, what they wished they possessed, or achieved.
- A feeling of discontent, and resentment aroused by someone else's good fortune, luck, success, possessions, fame, talents, and such like things.

Clearly, most of the world's population do not have extreme levels of envy, and some would be almost void of it altogether. It should be mentioned, according to researchers not all envy is bad, a person can have positive envy, which is kind and compassionate envy that motivate a person, to positive thoughts about another person, and to admire their achievements, and talents and successes. This type of envy can have a positive affect a person by motivating them to be a better person and inspire them to succeed.

**7. Anger:** is a strong feeling of being upset or annoyed because of something misunderstood, or did not go the way the person wanted it to, and the feeling that makes a person shout, swear and curse etc., and want to hurt other people. It embraces:

- Frustration, this is its most triggering and primary emotion, because it stems from a feeling of helplessness, or being out of control, and over time, feelings and emotions of frustration can cause a person's mood to simmer until it reaches and overflowing state of anger.
- A strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility.
- Resentment, bitterness, and hatred.
- Raging anger, this is anger at its peak, and often leads to physical abuse and violence. Some who fly into fits of rage, have low self-esteem, and use their anger to dominate and manipulate others, and to cause them to feel powerless.

Obviously, not all have extreme levels of anger, but, because we all experience certain moments of frustration, it is certain we all have a certain level of anger dwelling within.

**8. Unbelief:** concerning the Bible, God, and the Lord Jesus Christ embraces the following:

- An absence of faith, and lack of belief.
- Indifference toward God, and refusing to believe in God and His word.
- A deliberate conscious decision not to take God at His word, and believe His promises.

Note, doubt is different to unbelief, like temptation is different to sin. Doubt comes and goes, but unbelief is a deliberate decision, and conclusion a person reaches, to live their life as if there is no God

**9. Coveting:** is a strong emotion that stems from strong and greedy thoughts, that have such an obsessive hold on the mind that they have the potential to lead to sinful behaviour and wrongful deeds. It embraces:

- Obsessive, strong, and persistent thoughts that are contrary to the will of God, that arise from inner desires.
- Being in a state of mind that is wrongfully focused upon things belonging to others.
- Obsessive thoughts stimulated by sight, that focus on the beauty of a person one desires to possess.
- Craving, wishing, yearning, and desiring earnestly what we cannot have (especially something belonging to another).
- Fantasying about sinful things in thought and mind (especially sexual fantasies).
- Wrongfully desiring (someone or something), without regards for the rights and feelings of others.
- Obsessive and compulsive desires for indulgent luxury, and excessive wealth and material possessions, or for an award, or prize.
- A craving desire for power, fame, importance, and popularity, or another person's ministry, position, or talent.

The command, 'You shall not covet,' takes us from the outer world of works and deeds into the deep place of the inner man where good and evil begins.

- **Matthew 15:18–19:** But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Coveting stems from selfish attitudes, desires, envious passions, and the restless, greedy, avaricious, jealous, and internal thoughts that flow out of the human heart. These indulging covetous thoughts arise from the inner man, and have the potential to lead to outward sinful actions and ungodly behaviour.

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## THE BIBLE AND COVETING

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**Concerning converting the Bible states:**

- **Deuteronomy 5:21:** you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

- **Exodus 20:17:** “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

A man who covets his neighbour’s wife consistently nourishes thoughts and cravings for her, which can lead to flirtatious behaviour and charming manipulations to woo his neighbour’s wife into his arms.

Jesus highlighted the principle of this tenth commandment when He said:

- **Matthew 5:27-28:** You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

This commandment, is very important because it applies to the heart and our thoughts, which are what all actions stem from. Jesus said:

- **Matthew 15:19:** “Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”

Paul in Galatians chapter five presents the flesh as an adversary of the Spirit, with the flesh and the Spirit battling against each other to gain our favour, our heart and to be the master of our behaviour.

- **Galatians 5:16-18:** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**The works of the flesh:** are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. (Gal. 5:19-20).

**The works of the Spirit:** called the fruit of the Spirit, are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; there is no law against these. (Gal. 5:22-23).

James the half-brother of Jesus said:

- **James 1:14–15:** each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The internal battle between the flesh and the Spirit has external consequences, and we can all determine which is winning the battle, and who we are choosing by examining our outward actions and lifestyle. This commandment is the most difficult to keep, because it deals with our inner man, and the thoughts of our mind. When we cast our eyes over the populations of the world, it is easy to see the lack of moral ethics are a widespread cause of humanity's troubles. The commandment, 'you shall not covet,' shines a spotlight on the truth; God's commandments concerning mankind are founded on love, because each command protects the innocent. It has been said, "all public crime would cease if this one law was kept," and that every sin against a neighbour, whether of word or deed, springs from breaking this commandment. The idea underlying the command, 'you shall not covet,' is that we should all be content and satisfied with what God has granted us.

**NOTE:** this does not mean it is wrong to notice things that belong to our neighbours, nor even to desire to legitimately obtain such things for ourselves.



**CONCLUSION:** not all of us have extreme levels of selfishness, ego, pride, greediness, lust, envy, anger, unbelief, and coveting, dwelling within, but various ones are at some level abiding in all of us, and though some may be lying dormant, given the right triggers they have the potential to raise their ugly heads.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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