

In our post-fall world, our concepts of God are distorted—from the animistic belief in fickle and selfish spirits that must be constantly appeased to the common caricature of a God who is poised to punish those who don't follow the rules. Even as we embrace the gospel, many of us transfer old beliefs into our relationship with our Heavenly Father. We end up striving to earn His favor or appease Him, often substituting legalistic rule-following for joyful obedience. Many people experiencing poverty and injustice believe that God is punishing them or is simply distant and unconcerned with their daily lives

The simple truth that God is love can free us from bondage to fear, hopelessness, legalism, and judgement. Understanding that God's love is unconditional and that He seeks our good in all circumstances can enable those in brokenness to pray for guidance and act in faith. Time after time, families begin to flourish as their trust in a loving God leads them to try new things, endure hardship, or defy cultural norms that have held them in poverty. Join us in praying that Christians around the world would have a fresh understanding that God is love.

Please pray with us...

- For our concepts of love to be healed. Pray that Christians will
 understand how and why love requires obedience, condemns sin,
 and allows difficulties and sorrows. Pray that we would grasp that
 we can't earn God's love (and don't need to try); we are loved not
 because of what we do or produce but because it is God's very
 nature to love.
- Pray that Christians—especially pastors—would understand and teach the truth that God is love and that His love is unconditional and infinite.
- Pray that churches around the world would demonstrate God's love in tangible ways to their communities. Pray that through these Acts of Love, churches would be strengthened, needs would be met, nonbelievers would experience true love, and God would be glorified.
- Pray that those experiencing poverty would go to God with their struggles, knowing that He longs to be gracious to them, to guide, and to bless. Pray that they would ask for and receive guidance and wisdom for their daily needs.
- Spend a few minutes contemplating God's love, and let it lead you into worship.

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Enhesians 3:16-19

