



# GOOD NEWS GUIDE

“THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE”

February, 2021

## Loving God

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5)*

Jesus said this is the first and greatest of God's commandments, In Mark and Luke He said “all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.” In other words, with everything you have.

Before I get into the message, I want to say this: I am certain that every command of God is for our benefit. He doesn't tell us to praise Him in order to boost His ego. We are commanded to praise Him, first, because doing so aligns our thinking with the truth; and, secondly, so we can hear and internalize those words of praise, that truth.



God commands us to love Him in order to bless us by building a stronger and closer relationship with Him. Loving God does us a lot of good.

Now to the lesson. The other day I happened across an article about the five languages of love. Author Gary Chapman has written a series of books on the subject.

As I read the article, it occurred to me that much of its logic could be applied to the love relationship between a Christian and the Lord. I gave it some thought, and now I'm sharing my thoughts with you.

Here is a list of the five Love Languages, based on Chapman's list but with some paraphrasing and rearrangement for my purposes:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Loving Touch
3. Acts of Service
4. Giving, Receiving, and Enjoying Gifts
5. Spending Quality Time Together

### 1. Words of Affirmation

I already mentioned praising God. It doesn't have to be done formally, as in a church service. You can look at a flower or a hummingbird and think, “Lord, Your creation is so amazing, so beautiful.

Every marvelous thing in it demonstrates Your astonishing creativity and Your power and Your goodness. Thank You, Lord, for blessing me with this marvelous moment.”

When you think of who God is and what He has done, words of praise and thanksgiving should come to your mind immediately. If they don't, just call them forth intentionally. Then say them aloud. Your ears need to hear them, just as your mouth needs to say them, and your love for God will grow stronger.

Singing God's praises is always good. Find a good praise song or two, memorize it, and sing it aloud now and then. Let your voice demonstrate and encourage your Love for the Lord.

### 2. Loving Touch

God is a spirit. How can we touch Him? By touching others with His love.

Mother Teresa, washing the feet of a diseased and starving beggar, knew that she touched God. Jesus said, “As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (Matt. 25:40)

When we help or encourage someone, we touch God. When we add to that a warm handclasp or a hug, with a smile, we feel that touch ourselves.

Reach out and touch someone with God's love. Especially make sure your family members feel your loving touches. And when you can't do it in person, for whatever reason, do it from a distance with a phone call, a card, or a note.

### 3. Acts of Service

On trash pickup day, if our container has been emptied, a neighbor who walks in our neighborhood always brings it to the top of our driveway. It's a kindness to us that shows her love for God.

You can show your love for Him by doing little things for others. Reading to a shut-in, teaching a child to ride a bike, ushering at church, making coffee for your



spouse—it is so easy to find little ways to bless others. And much bigger things as well, when the Holy Spirit prompts them. I know of a man who was given a kidney by a woman in his church. This was a wonderful gift, but it was also a huge act of service.

#### 4. Giving, Receiving, and Enjoying Gifts

Love is the opposite of selfishness. When your heart is generous; when you give to help others, even if you have to sacrifice something you want or need, you are loving God.

(A quick note about tithing—just my opinion: tithing is not the same as giving. God may not quite say it this way, but it's as if He says, "Of everything you earn or receive, all of which is being provided for you by me, my fair share is the first ten percent. Your fair share is the remaining ninety percent. Any gifts you want to give to me or anyone else must come from your share, not mine.")



The Apostle Paul reported that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) Why is this true?

If you give in order to get something, that isn't giving; it's investing. But if you "lend, expecting nothing in return" (see Luke 6:35), that's giving, isn't it. And in doing that you are indeed loving God by giving unselfishly.

So much for material giving. You have two other things you can give to God—things He strongly desires. Giving them is not always easy, but it is wonderfully rewarding, absolutely worth whatever effort is involved. Those two things are **your trust** and **your obedience**.

When someone else says, "Trust me," there is always some uncertainty about doing it. But God says that to us. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* (Prov. 3:5-6), The only appropriate response is to say, "Of course, Lord," and then do our best to do it.

David wrote, *"I delight to do your will, O my God."* (Psalm 40:8) The prophet Samuel said, *"To obey is better than sacrifice."* (1 Samuel 15:22) And Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* (John 14:15) When we obey God, acting in agreement with His will, we are loving Him.

#### 5. Spending Quality Time Together

Many years ago, my wife and I attended a weekend seminar called "Marriage Encounter." One of its themes was helping couples avoid being "married singles," living together but largely both going their separate ways."

If you truly love someone, you will want to be with that someone a lot. Conversely, if you and the loved one spend time together, expressing and receiving love in its various languages, your love for each other will grow and strengthen.

God constantly invites us to spend quality time with Him by praying and reading His word. He has given us His Holy Spirit, who is always with us, whether or not we acknowledge Him or are even aware of Him.

Of course, "quality time" in prayer means more than going to God with a list of requests. We need to invite Him into our presence. We need to wait for the Holy Spirit to touch us and help us to pray. We need to wait for God's truth to



register in our awareness. All of which sounds like mumbo-jumbo—but try it and see if God will make His presence felt. I'm sure that the more we do this, the more intimate and fulfilling our relationship with the Lord will become.

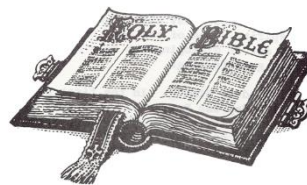
*"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."* (James 4:8)

To summarize: Loving God is not automatic. It takes intention and determination. But, with His help and guidance, we can begin to do it, and with practice we will make progress. And He will be very pleased. And remember that *The joy of the Lord is your strength.* (Nehemiah 8:10)

Blessings and Peace —

*Brother Roland*

Comments and questions may be sent to  
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## Bible Study Resources for Inmates

Some time ago an inmate brother, James Scott, sent me a list he had compiled of Bible study resources for inmates. Somehow it got buried on my desk, but I recently dug it out. So now I am sharing it with you. I apologize for the delay.

Endorsed by Brother James

<b>American Bible Academy</b> <b>PO BOX 1627</b> <b>JOPLIN MO 64802</b>	Eight books, each with three exams; graded, with a certificate for each book. Each section covers a Bible passage, with doctrine and commentary—a Bible is not required. (Includes return envelopes; postage not paid.)
<b>Christ for Me, Inc.</b> <b>PO BOX 1694</b> <b>TALEQUAH OK 74465</b>	Many different Bible-based courses, each consisting of many lessons. Courses range in difficulty from youth to college level. A Bible is required for the exams. (Postage is not provided.)
<b>Crossroads Bible Institute</b> <b>PO BOX 900</b> <b>GRAND RAPIDS MI 49509</b>	Several levels with 12 to 14 lessons and completion certificate for each. Exams are corrected and returned with hand-written letters of encouragement. An NIV Bible is required. (Envelopes and postage are not provided.)
<b>Emmaus Correspondence School</b> <b>PO BOX 3228</b> <b>EVANS GA 30809</b>	Course has 14 sections, with booklets. Exams are corrected and returned. Certificate upon completion, along with a Bible and Bible Dictionary. (Postage is provided.)
<b>Rock of Ages Discipleship Institute</b> <b>PO BOX 2308</b> <b>CLEVELAND TN 37320</b>	Bible-book-based lessons, with a certificate upon course completion, along with a Bible. A King James version Bible is required. (Includes return envelopes; postage not paid.)
<b>The Bible Says</b> <b>PO BOX 1703</b> <b>GRAY GA 31032</b>	Course consists of 7 mailings, each with 5 exams. Graded exams are returned. No certificate awarded. A Bible is required. (Envelopes and postage are not provided.)
<b>Church of Christ</b> <b>1731 BEATTIE RD</b> <b>ALBANY GA 31721</b>	An unknown number of simple, easy lessons. A King James version Bible is required. (Includes postage-paid return envelopes.)

Other schools that Brother James was reviewing:

<b>Mount Hope Prison Ministry</b> <b>PO BOX 177</b> <b>HAGERSTOWN MD 21741</b> <i>(Heartily endorsed by Brother Roland!)</i>	<b>Prisoners for Christ</b> <b>PO BOX 1530</b> <b>WOODINVILLE WA 98072</b>
<b>American Literature Mission</b> <b>PO BOX 1511</b> <b>TUCSON AZ 85712</b>	<b>Salvation Army Correctional Services Bureau</b> <b>PO BOX 635</b> <b>WEST NYACK NY 10994</b>
<b>Prison Mission Association</b> <b>PO BOX 2300</b> <b>PORT ORCHARD WA 98366</b>	<b>PMI Center for Biblical Studies</b> <b>PO BOX 177</b> <b>BATTLE CREEK MI 49016</b>

# Loving Your Neighbor

Jesus said we are to “Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Then he told the story we know as “The Good Samaritan” parable. We would be wise to keep these two commandments and the Good Samaritan’s example in mind. Enjoy the puzzle.

## Puzzle:

K N W T R A O U Y S U B E T J F O R W D U Y U H W T A L T S A  
Q F A P O S N T B A N Y C X E Q S Y O K A T N H A L Y O D P D  
B U S E B P Q E I T K O Q V R S Z T W B L T O O L F O Q A Q E  
X Z H V H J T Z X T J H A D P I T Y O N H I M Y K K O I N T B  
V L E X G L H D V P E C R H O S Q E K D S G O L H O D O U Q B  
Q K D E I J I S T A E I P F G L A Q D M I U I I T F D G M G O  
J Y H Y E A L L Y O U R M I N D F W Y J R T M E O N T N G I R  
P K I X N X Y W W T H E T K K W F N N S E T S R N V F E C O D  
S E S E R T I R P H O J J L W F E G T A O S C U B D Z J Y C N  
T C W D U D U W R E D O S J A I X R J A T A U L M N O V E E A  
I A O J O L P N H Y U T N A G W E L N A R I M S P T J O N G N  
D Z U X Y J G O D W Y N L H S N Y I W E Z O R Q Q T A I G K E  
N M N D E H A N Q O K W B O G A N E A A Z Q P A G X W H Y A T  
A F D R V D U G J U M O X T E N M P R H Y I Y L M D M X W M A  
B I S Z O E O P G L R D H Z T O H A V E E T E R N A L L I F E  
Y Z A T L E L V X D O S D E E N E H R E V E T A H W S F X D B  
B U U O P M E D U N W P Y T O M A T E I U T L V V H R E A P U  
D C I V E Q O W E O L J S N R L A V I P T I H T V O D O H K A  
E I D O T E R E H T T F E L L A Q S C V O A F E M X R F F T P  
K W E K T S L D X H C H I Y R Y E Q E E E U N J L E I I M D O  
C I V N Z O Y S J E G Q O L V B B H E H L L E T H A U C V L Y  
A H H V V R A X C L S U B C G T V S R O T R A T R G W U B P A  
T D N E D Q P B S P R G G C Z Y Y G P U U O N D R A M S N O J  
T C G I U Y I J K S M J K B E V E G L S O O D E I V V N A W C  
A O F L E S R U O Y E V O L U O Y S A S N Y X U B D S E A Y K  
D A V X M R Z U N K R K N W O F E L U A V M L Q O E O L L Z S  
Q Z L W A D L P P M D Y J Q V Y E M M U J T M L E Y P S E E A  
A P R I E S T P A S S E D B Y M D A K I R U K Y A E Y C Q T R

## Words:

AN EXPERT LAWYER  
TESTED JESUS  
WHAT MUST I DO  
TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE  
THE LAW SAYS  
LOVE GOD  
ALL YOUR HEART  
ALL YOUR SOUL  
ALL YOUR MIND  
ALL YOUR STRENGTH  
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR  
A MAN ON THE ROAD  
FROM JERUSALEM  
DOWN TO JERICHO  
ATTACKED BY BANDITS  
BEATEN AND ROBBED  
LEFT THERE TO DIE  
A PRIEST PASSED BY  
SO DID A LEVITE  
THEY WOULD NOT HELP

A SAMARITAN TRAVELER  
HAD PITY ON HIM  
WASHED HIS WOUNDS  
OIL AND WINE  
TOOK HIM TO AN INN  
PAID FOR CARE  
WHATEVER HE NEEDS  
THE SAMARITAN WAS  
A GOOD NEIGHBOR  
YOU DO THE SAME