

Vibrant Spirituality

2 Cor 13:14  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Benediction!  
This is the essence of the 3 Persons of the Godhead in relation to the believer.

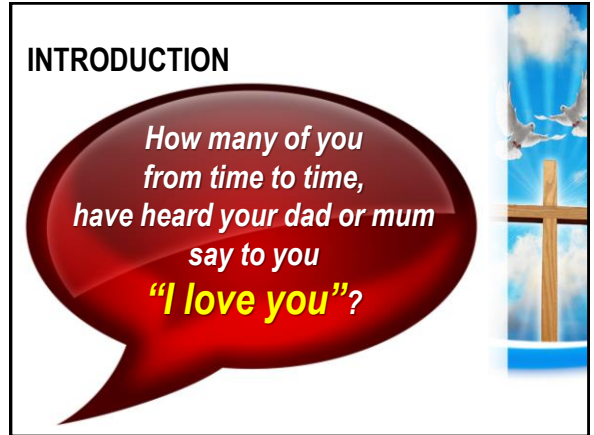


Vibrant Spirituality  
2 Corinthians 13:14  
(Part 2)  
The Love of Father-God  
be with you all!



**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and **the love of God**, and the communion of the Holy Spirit **be with you all. Amen.** (NKJV)

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace (favour and spiritual blessing) of the Lord Jesus Christ and **the love of God** and the presence and fellowship (the communion and sharing together, and participation) in the Holy Spirit **be with you all. Amen. (so be it).** (AMP)



INTRODUCTION

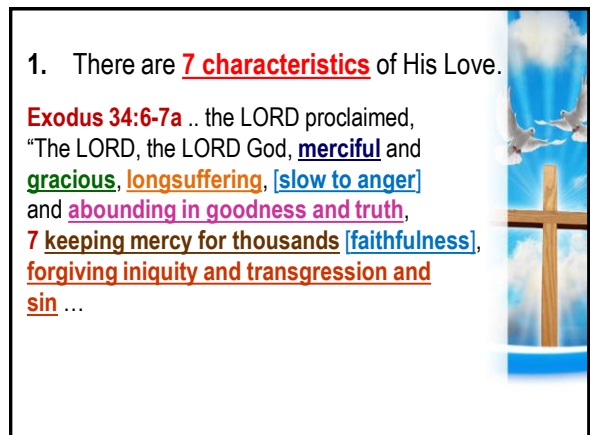
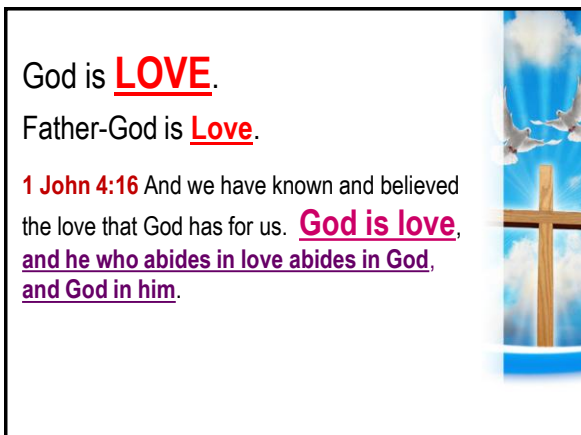
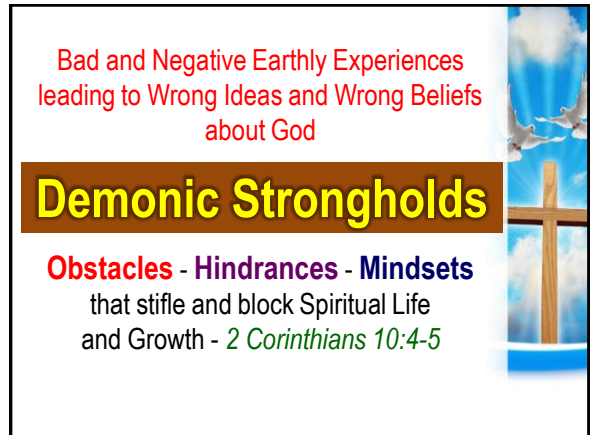
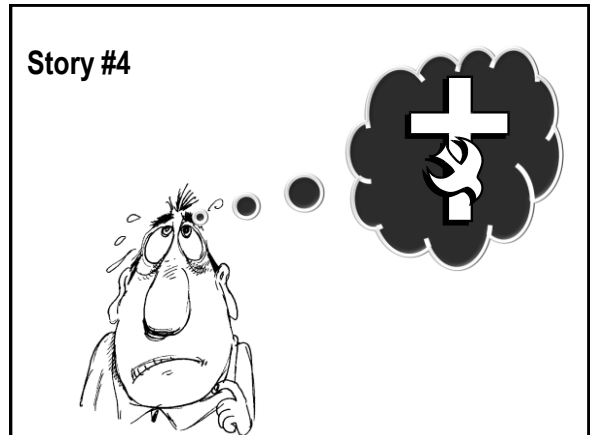
*How many of you from time to time, have heard your dad or mum say to you "I love you"?*



Story #1 -  
**Wrong Image of God**



Story #2 -  
**Performance Treadmill**



1. There are **7 characteristics** of His Love.

- A. **Merciful**
- B. **Gracious**
- C. **Longsuffering - slow to anger**
- D. **Abounding in Goodness**
- E. **Abounding in Truth**
- F. **Faithful - keeping mercy**
- G. **Forgiving**

2A. His love is consistent with His two other key attributes of being **just** and **righteous**.

**Psalm 97:2** ... **righteousness** and **justice** are the foundation of His throne.

2B. Grace is on the side of **truth** i.e. His love does **not** condone sins and violation of His laws.

**John 1:17** For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.

2C. He cannot be loving but **unjust** and **unrighteous**.

**Jeremiah 9:24** But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that **I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness** in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

2D. Therefore, there are **consequences - curses** when we violate the laws of God.

**Romans 6:23** For the **wages** of sin is death ...

**Wages = Consequences of:-**

|                             |                           |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Not obeying the Lord        | Habitually Sinning        | Grieving the Holy Spirit  |
| Foolish Decisions           | Bad Company               | Not heeding Godly Counsel |
| Merely Spectator            | Quenching the Holy Spirit | Not Wanting to Study      |
| Blaspheming the Holy Spirit | Merely Hearer             | Not Applying the Word     |

2D. Therefore, there are **consequences - curses** when we violate the laws of God.

**Exodus 34:7b** ... by **no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children** and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

2E. God in His love for us, in Christ, has redeemed us from the **curse** of the law.

**Galatians 3:13-14**

**13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), **14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus**, that we might receive the **promise of the Spirit through faith**.

2E. God in His love for us, in Christ, has redeemed us from the **curse** of the law.

- i. God Himself does **not** curse man.
- ii. He gave man **laws** and **principles** of life.
- iii. We obey and flow with them for our **well-being** and **prosperity**.
- iv. We disobey and violate them to our **loss** and **destruction**.

3A. In His love, He **trains** and **corrects** His children.

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

**5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the **chastening** of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are **rebuked** by Him; **6** For whom the Lord loves He **chastens**, and **scourges** every son whom He receives."

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

**7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

**9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who **corrected** us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily **be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

**10** For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, **but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.**

**11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable **fruit** of righteousness to those who have been **trained by it**.



3B. He trains and corrects primarily through the **Word of Life**.

**2 Timothy 3:16** (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting** and **training in righteousness** ...

**Isaiah 55:11** So shall **My word** be that goes forth from My mouth; it **shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

3C. The consequences of disobedience comes from the **Laws** and **Principles** of **Life**.

e.g.1 **Proverbs 16:18** **Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

e.g.2 **Genesis 31:38-41** **every Jacob will find his own Laban.**

e.g.3 **Proverbs 29:1** **destruction and loss to the un-teachable.**

3C. The consequences of disobedience comes from the **Laws** and **Principles** of **Life**.

|  |  |                       |            |
|--|--|-----------------------|------------|
| Relationships                            | Marriage   | Finances              | Parenting  |
| Attitudes                                | Sex  | The Tongue            | Doing Good |
| Guard the Heart                          | Fearing God                                      | Work Matters          |            |
| Fleeing Sexual Temptation                | Do not give the evil one a foothold in your life | Do not love the world |            |
| Matthew 6:33 [CNY Service] - Honour God! | Growing Up and Maturing                          | The Immoral Women     |            |

4A. He desires for each of us to first **experience** His love i.e. connect with Him as the **source** of love.

**1 John 3:1** Behold **what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us**, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

4A. He desires for each of us to first **experience** His love i.e. connect with Him as the **source** of love.

**1 John 4:10** In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

4B. As we experience His love, He desires for each of us to have a **conviction** of His enduring love for us.

**1 John 4:16** And we have **known and believed the love that God has for us**. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

4C. We can only love Him because He **first** love us.

**1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us.

4D. In His love, He gives **good** and **perfect** gifts.

**James 1:17** (NIV) Every good and perfect gift is from ... the Father ...

**Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

4D. In His love, He gives **good** and **perfect** gifts.

**Luke 11:11-13**

**11** If a son asks for **bread** from any father among you, will he give him a **stone**? Or if he asks for a **fish**, will he give him a **serpent** instead of a fish? **12** Or if he asks for an **egg**, will he offer him a **scorpion**? **13** If **you then, being evil**, know how to give **good gifts** to your children, **how much more** will your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him!"

4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

**Romans 2:4** ... the **goodness of God** leads you to **repentance**

4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #1 -

**2 Chronicles 33 - King Manasseh**

**2** He **did evil** in the eyes of the Lord ...

**3** He rebuilt the high places

- ✓ erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles.
- ✓ He bowed down and worshiped all the starry hosts

4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #1 -

**2 Chronicles 33 - King Manasseh**

**6** He sacrificed his sons in the fire

- ✓ practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft
- ✓ consulted mediums and spiritists
- ✓ He did much evil

4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #1 -

**2 Chronicles 33 - King Manasseh**

9 did **more evil** than the nations ...

12 **In his distress** he sought the favor of the Lord is God and **humbled himself greatly** before the God of his fathers.



4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #1 -

**2 Chronicles 33 - King Manasseh**

13 And when he prayed to Him, the Lord was **moved** by his entreaty and **listened** to his plea; so he **brought him back** to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.



4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #2 -

**Luke 15 - Parable of the Prodigal Sons**

17 When he **came to his senses** ...

- That is the **DEFINING POINT** -



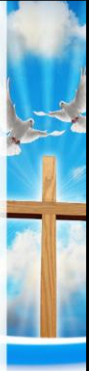
4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our **last breath**.

Example #2 -

**Luke 15 - Parable of the Prodigal Sons**

20 ... while he was still a long way off.

- ✓ his father saw him.
- ✓ filled with compassion.
- ✓ ran to his son.
- ✓ threw his arms around him and kissed him.



5A. The love of God is unconditional **only** in the sense that He continually reaches out to every person on earth to be reconciled to Him.

**Romans 5:6, 8**

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the **ungodly**.

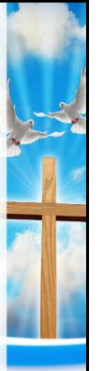
8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still **sinner**s, Christ died for us.



5A. The love of God is unconditional **only** in the sense that He continually reaches out to every person on earth to be reconciled to Him.

**Romans 5:10** For if when we were **enemies**

we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.



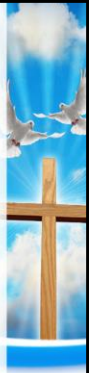
5B. The love of God is **abounding** to man, for man to **respond** during the days of his life on earth up to his **last breath**.

**Psalm 103:8** (NIV) The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, **abounding in love**.



5C. The love of God is conditional in the sense that for man to experience His love, man must **call on** the Lord.

**Romans 10:13** For "whoever **calls** on the name of the LORD shall be **saved**."



5D. To call on the Lord is:

- i. To come to our **senses**.
- ii. To **repent**.
- iii. To **humble** ourselves.
- iv. To **acknowledge** God.
- v. To **seek** Him.

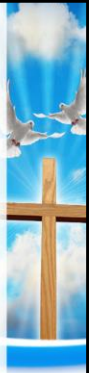
**James 4:6** But He gives **more grace**. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**."



## Conclusion

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

**17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **width and length and depth and height**— **19** to know the **love of Christ which passes knowledge**; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



## Conclusion

**Ephesians 3:20** Now to **Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us

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