

ENJOY THE BLESSING OF A CONNECTION TO GOD



DECEMBER 2019

The holiday season is here, and Taffi and I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying yourselves. This is a great time to celebrate Jesus and all that He has done for you. Life is a gift from God, so we might as well unwrap the gift of life and enjoy it to the fullest!

This has been an awesome year for Taffi and me. We've experienced great things in our personal lives and ministry. We are growing more in love with each other every day; and most importantly, our love for God is growing. He has truly been good; and we are not surprised—because that's just how He is. He is a loving Father who cares for His children. God loves you, and He wants you to know and experience the

fullness of His love. He also wants every member of your household to enjoy the blessing of a connection to Him. So don't stop praying for your unsaved loved ones. Continue to pray that they come to know the love of Christ and walk in God's divine purpose for their lives. Taffi and I are in agreement with you and believe God for quick results and household salvation!

My father, Creflo Dollar Sr., had an opportunity to get born again before he passed away. I prayed for his salvation, and I thank God he finally made the right decision. My dad was a hard-working, tough-as-nails police officer—a straightforward man who didn't play games. He was a good man; however, he

wasn't the type of guy who said "I love you" very often. He demonstrated his love for my sisters and me in his own way. He wanted the best for us.

My relationship with my natural father reminds me of my relationship with my heavenly Father. He is a loving Father that wants nothing but the best for His children. He is by no means a wrathful God who is waiting for the opportunity to strike us down in anger. I believe that if God really wanted to get rid of us, He would have done it already. The heavenly Father whom I've come to know is full of love and compassion—not wrath.

Perception is the issue—our relationship with God is

affected by our perception of Him. If we perceive Him to be mean, then our relationship with Him will be negatively impacted. That is the case with many people. They may have the wrong perception of God, and consequently don't choose to have a firm relationship with Him. Some people believe that God expects us to be perfect, and that's not true. Yes, He wants us to strive toward perfection; however, He knows we make mistakes. That is why He has equipped us with His Word and the Holy Spirit, so we can live in a way that pleases Him. What an awesome expression of His love!

Think about it: despite all of our mistakes, God *still* loves us. When we make bad decisions or disobey His instructions, He *still* loves us. I am convinced He can't help but love us, because He *is* love (1 John 4:16).

Some people refer to First Corinthians 13 as the "love chapter." In my Bible, the words "The way of love"

are written as a header just above this chapter. Because God is love and First Corinthians 13 talks about the way of love, I believe that this chapter describes the Father, Himself, and His love toward us. In *The Amplified Bible Classic*, we learn that love (God) is patient, kind, never envious, jealous, or boastful. Love (God) is not conceited, arrogant, or inflated with pride. Love (God) is not self-seeking, touchy, fretful, or resentful. Love (God) pays no attention to a suffered wrong. Love (God) *never* fails!

Jesus, through His lifestyle, described to us who God truly is. Jesus once said, "*If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him*" (John 14:7).

Begin to cultivate your love for God: make that your primary goal. Now I'm not talking about an emotional, religious kind of love. I am talking about a commitment to remain loyal to Him

and to live by His Word. Think of it as your "love development plan." Start by studying First Corinthians 13 and First John 4. These are excellent Scriptures that describe the heartbeat of God's love for us. This is important in order to prevent your love toward Him from becoming dormant, cold, and inoperative.

Love is more than just a feeling; it is a *demonstration*. It's an act of your will. According to John 14:15 and 21, and John 15:14, Jesus said that to love Him is to keep His commandments. He also said, "*...Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment*" (Matthew 22:37, 38).

We must strive toward loving God with our entire being. We must love Him more than we love our family and friends; more than money, success, and fame. He has to be number one!

So, become passionate

about expressing your love toward God. Allow your passion for the things of God to be fueled by your faith. Have faith in His love; He will *never* let you down. He loves you unconditionally, which means there is absolutely nothing you could ever do to stop Him from loving you (Romans 8:38, 39).

Taffi and I encourage you to continue developing your faith in the love of God. Be sure to tell others about your faith and commitment to living for Him. As they witness the positive results of your relationship with God, they will want to know Him, too. Remember, Jesus is Lord, and "...In all your getting, get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7, NKJV).

In Expectation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Creflo Dollar". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Creflo" and last name "Dollar" clearly legible.

P.S. The more time you spend cultivating the love of God, the deeper your love for Him will grow. I would love for you to have this month's teaching resource, *Mastering Your Emotions with Joy*. I know it will help you, so be sure to download

Mastering Your Emotions with Joy

<https://bit.ly/2l7tesJ>

We appreciate all that you do!

"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" (1 JOHN 4:16, NKJV).

2019

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- Monthly Confessions
- Monthly letter written by Pastor Dollar

LIVE BY GOD'S WORD

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I AM DEVELOPING MY FAITH IN THE LOVE OF GOD. (1 JOHN 4:16)

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