

31 DAYS OF SUBMERSION INTO HIGHER LEVEL CHRISTIANITY

I LOVE

I LOVE GOD MORE

The Answer To Temptation

GOD
MORE

James 1:12

THE ANSWER TO TEMPTATION

John Cappetto

I LOVE GOD MORE

The Answer To Temptation

John G. Cappetto



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First Edition: July 2017
Printed in the United States of America
ISBN: 1947519018

*To all those who want more than
religion and who thirst for intimate
relationship and fellowship with God.*

Preface

The Bible has a lot to say about OUR LOVE FOR GOD! 1 John 4:19 says, “**We love Him because He first loved us.**” If you are hearing and receiving the *truth* about God’s love *for* you, you are going to *want* to find all the Scriptures you can about LOVING HIM back! You are not *only* going to want to hear sermons on, “God loves ME,” which are great, but you are *also* going to have a desire to hear Scriptures on “Loving God!” “We **LOVE HIM** BECAUSE He first loved us!”

In the Garden of Eden, Adam knew *firsthand* of God’s great love for him, yet that was not enough to keep him from blowing it! Adam’s LOVE FOR GOD needed to kick in! Adam needed to say: “Eve, we are not going to disobey the One *who loves us*, and because of *our love for Him* we will not eat of the tree He told us not to eat of!”

Adam loved Eve MORE than God at the time of temptation, and now the entire world is reaping the consequences. Loving others MORE than God distances us from total victory flowing from God to ourselves, and through us to others!

“I Love God More” is an answer to many of life’s challenges, as well as a powerful reason to say, “NO” to temptation!

This book is designed to STUDY, not just to read. You’ll find note pages in the back of this book to journal what the Spirit of God is saying to you in your heart. It’s the “engrafted Word” that saves, so as you make this revelation of, “I LOVE GOD MORE,” a part of you, life will be wonderfully different!

John Cappetto

DAY 1

Why Live Right?

Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who LOVE HIM.

James 1:2 TLB

Notice how loving God is connected to refusing to give into sin when it comes knocking. Refusing to give into the pressure to sin is not about being a “goody, goody” Christian nor is it only about the rewards; it’s about LOVING GOD! The reason we say “No” to the pressures to sin is because WE LOVE THE LORD! It’s not because our pastor told us to say no, nor is it because it’s our religion to say no. This is a “love” issue! We love Someone so much that we stand against all temptation and declare, “I Love GOD More!” That Someone is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Don't be ashamed to turn down invitations to do things you know are *not* the will of God for you! Let them know that it's not because of some church policy or some religious set of rules that you are saying no. Let them know it's because you **love God** and you love pleasing Him more than anything.

Jesus loved His Father and He loved all of us so much that He overcame everything that came against Him to trip Him up! His love for *us* is clearly seen in His willingness to say "No" to all temptations to veer off!

BOLDLY SAY – God's love for me and my love for Him means more to me than all desires to do wrong! I will grow in my love for God and it will be seen in my commitment to live free from sin!

DAY 2

Empowered to Love

We LOVE HIM because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Our love for God starts with knowing and believing in His great love for us! “We love Him BECAUSE...” After seeing and experiencing God’s love for us, we become empowered with ability to LOVE Him back! Jesus said: “If a man loves Me, he will keep My words.” You don’t have to be prodded to do the works Jesus said to do when you love Him. You WANT to do His will after experiencing His great love for you!

Sure there will be opposition from the flesh and the devil trying to get us to go astray, but as we *remind* ourselves of Gods love for us **and** *our love for Him*, we will have the advantage, and we

will overcome!

Loving God is not something we do in our own power. Like everything else in our Christian walk, we have *grace* to do what we are called to do! When our love for God is the *reason* we are doing His will, the grace of God will also be there to help us live right, resist sin and please our Lord! When living right becomes a “I love God More” issue, living right won’t be such a drag.

When people realize that obeying God is loving God and loving God is obeying God, Christianity will be a joyful love experience instead of a duty thing only!

BOLDLY SAY – I receive God’s great love for me! I believe He loves me forever! I WANT to love Him back! God’s love in Me empowers me with a willingness and ability to live separate from sin!

DAY 3

Remind Yourself

I will love You O Lord my strength.

Psalm 18:1

David CHOSE to love the Lord! “I WILL” is the key. Loving God is a *choice* more than it is a feeling. Sometimes we are going to need to say it right out loud, like David; “I love You O Lord my strength!”

Because we live in a world of temptation, lust and demon influence, we are going to have to remind ourselves often that the reason we are going to live right and resist the temptation to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, is because WE LOVE THE LORD MORE! Our love for Jesus means more to us than anything and anyone!

We are admonished to *remember* many things in the New Testament: “REMEMBER from where

you are fallen and repent.” Revelation 2:4-5. Jesus was referring to church people leaving their *first love*! Even married people wear a ring to REMIND them of their love covenant with each other! Sometimes its good to have things in the natural to remind us of our love for God! (See Numbers 15:37-40)

The devil wants you to think that living right and saying no to sin is just some kind of religious duty and that it’s not that big of a deal, because, “Hey, you can be forgiven anyway.”

REMEMBER, living right is way more than duty, and that it’s actually a love issue between you and your Lord! This will give you power to live a righteous life beyond just obeying out of duty!

BOLDLY SAY – I will love You O Lord my strength! Feelings or no feelings, I love my Lord Jesus Christ! In the midst of temptation, I say: “I Love God More!”

DAY 4

Relationship Results

We LOVE HIM because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

When you are in a love relationship with someone, it's no longer "works" to do those things that please the one you love. The tendency is works when there is no relationship. When we are acutely aware of the *love relationship* we are in with the Lord Jesus, not only will we be recipients of the good things He does for us, but we will also be joyfully passionate about doing what pleases Him. "We love Him BECAUSE, He first loved us!"

If doing what pleases the Lord becomes a "works" thing, then it's time to *remind* yourself of His great love for you and your love for Him.

Take some time and meditate on your love relationship with the Lord. Remind yourself of how much God loves you and that your love for Him means more to you than anything and anyone!

If you feel that your good deeds done are somehow a necessity to earn God's blessings, then go back to "why" you are doing those good deeds and get back into "Relationship Results" instead of works only!

BOLDLY SAY - I am in a love relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Jesus is my forever first love! His love for me and my love for Him means more to me than anything and anyone! My love for others is greatly enhanced because of my love connection with God first and foremost!

DAY 5

True Love

Grace be with them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Ephesians 6:24

Just *doing* what we are instructed to do in the New Testament is not enough. Paul said that doing good things could be done without love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). There is a love that is really not love at all, though it sounds like it from a distance. Loving our Lord Jesus Christ starts in the heart! It begins as we see His amazing love for us, but it doesn't stop there! Sincere love for God will eventually show up in the actions it prompts.

Don't just try and live right because you are supposed too! Connect living right, serving in the church, resisting temptation and all other good works to your love relationship with Jesus! Then your good works will be sincere!

Why would the Holy Spirit, through Paul, say to love the Lord Jesus Christ IN SINCERITY? Why not just say “Love the Lord Jesus Christ?” Our love for Jesus and God can’t just be heart or action only! There must be both if it is to be a sincere love!

Only you, I and God know “why” we are putting forth the effort to resist temptation and live a righteous life. If we are serving the Lord by His grace and love for us, and our love for Him, then we are loving Him in sincerity!

BOLDLY SAY – I love My Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity! It’s not an “action” thing only! I really do love the Lord and it’s my delight to love Him back! I love Him BECAUSE He first loved me!

DAY 6

Love Opens Us Up

For whatever a man may know, he still has a lot to learn, but if he loves God, he is opening his whole life to the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 8:3 J.B. Phillips

After we start to know and believe in God's love for us, we will be wanting to love Him back. When we do begin to love the Lord, by what the Amplified Bible calls: "Affectionate reverence, prompt obedience, and grateful recognition of His blessing," we open up our *whole* life to the Spirit of God!

The King James version of 1 Corinthians 8:3 says, "But he who loves God, the same is known of Him." The word "known" is a word also used to describe intimacy between a husband and

wife. “Adam KNEW his wife Eve, and she conceived” (Genesis 4:1). If people want more intimacy with God, they need to check up on their LOVE FOR HIM. God will reveal things to us based on our love for Him, not only His love for us!

Knowledge of the Word of God is great, but knowing a thousand times more than we presently know can't take the place of loving God more. Many Believers need more revelation of the Bible, but knowing more can't take the place of LOVING GOD! “But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”

BOLDLY SAY – I am growing in knowing that God loves me! I am also learning to love God with every area of my life! My WHOLE life is open to God's blessings!

DAY 7

More Than a Feeling

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

The chiefest expression of love is “Giving!” God so loved the world that He gave! The above verse did not emphasize any feelings on God's part when it came to His love for us in sending Jesus to die for us. I’m sure there were some feelings in God's heart, but the emphasis was on His loving *act* of “Giving.”

When it comes to our love for God, there does NOT have to be a waterfall of feelings every time we give to Him our devotion and service. Sincere love for God is more about devotion than

emotion! We will have feelings in our love for God, but true love goes deeper than feelings. Even when feelings are not wanting to obey God or resist temptation, our deep love for God will still prevail! Love for God goes deeper than all feelings and emotions.

We should not think that we really don't love God if we are not "feeling" some emotional high in our acts of love for Him. Sometimes we will feel the love; other times we may not feel it, but what matters is we sincerely do love the Lord, and our commitment to do what pleases Him will remain strong! If love was all about what we feel, then love would only be as strong as what we feel.

BOLDLY SAY – Feelings or no feelings, I love God! My love for God goes deeper than my emotions! Thank God for feelings, but feeling or not, I LOVE GOD MORE!

DAY 8

Call It What It Is

He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. and he who loves Me will be loved of My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

John 14:21 NKJV

One of the clearest ways we can tell our level of love for the Lord, is by our willingness and obedience to what He tells us to do. It is possible to love the Lord, yet love something else *more* than Him. What we consistently do with our time and energy shows our “love priorities.” Jesus said that love for God is *doing* what He says.

When a person chooses a path other than what they know the Bible says, it's called violation of love toward God! Let's call it what it is so we can get it fixed! If people never acknowledge what disobedience is, then the root

problem will still be there. Saying, “I’m sorry for the strife I got into when I knew better,” is not just a strife problem; it’s a violation of love-for-God problem too! If the strife is the only thing a person acknowledges as sin, then what about John 14:21? Shouldn’t there also be an acknowledgement of some violation of love toward God after what Jesus said?

Let’s keep our obedience to living right in the “Love” zone, and then, it will be more than a “duty” thing only! Love never fails!

BOLDLY SAY – I acknowledge that I have violated love FOR God at times! I will not condemn myself, but I remind myself that I DO love God, and therefore I will live right!

DAY 9

Why Obey?

Yet while Christ was here on earth He pleaded with God, praying with tears and agony of soul to the only One who would save Him from premature death because of His strong desire to obey God at all times.

Hebrews 5:7 TLB

Jesus' love for the Father meant more to Him than anything! His love is seen in His strong desire to obey God at all times even when it was agonizing!

Our love for the Lord is also seen in our willingness to suffer through any and all temptations to veer off into lifestyles we know are not His will for our lives. What is our answer to those who question our Christian convictions and commitments? We flee sex outside of marriage **because** we love the One who said to flee! We gladly stay sober in this natural world

because we love the One who said, “Be sober!” We forsake not the assembling of ourselves together **because** we love the One who said, “Don’t forsake church meetings!” We pray, read our Bibles, go to church, serve in the church, witness to others, tithe, give, etc. **BECAUSE WE LOVE THE ONE** who is pleased when we do these things!

Our obedience to God is based on His strong love toward us! He gave us His all so we could be free! Now, is it any wonder, that we want to give our all for Him?

BOLDLY SAY – Jesus is my example! His love for the Father gave Him strength to obey even when it was tough to do so! My love for God is growing! I also will overcome!

DAY 10

Lovers of Pleasure

...lovers of pleasures MORE THAN lovers of God.

2 Timothy 3:4

Pleasure has become way too important in our time. Notice that Paul *was* talking to people who did love God, but they loved pleasure MORE than God. Even believers must be on guard for loving pleasures *more* than God!

Many people have God *in* their lives, but He's not really FIRST in their lives. Our love for God should supersede everything else. Sure there are some good pleasures in life that God wants us to enjoy, but when those pleasures become more important to us than doing the will of God, we disqualify ourselves from God being able to add those good things to us and we start slipping in our love for Him.

The less *things* mean to us; the more God is

able to add them to us. It's when the things of this world become the *love* of our life that we have a problem. God wants us to *have* good things, but he does not want us to *love* them. He even said He'd give us good things! “...***God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy***” ***1Tim. 6:17.***

God not only wants to meet our needs; He also just wants to give us things for the sole purpose of enjoyment! As long as those things don't become a love of our life, we will qualify for more, and God will be able to add them to us!

BOLDLY SAY - I am thankful for the good things of this world, and I enjoy what God has given me, but I will never put them above God! I love God and His will for my life more than anything!

DAY 11

Love Not the World

Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15

We should never again say “I love my new car,” or “I love my new house,” or “I love chocolate!” According to our Scripture text, we should never again say we love anything in this world! Love is holy and precious and should only be reserved for God and other people. What should we say when it comes to the good things of this world? How about, “I am thankful for my new car,” or “I’m so pleased to have such a beautiful new home.” Using the phrase, “I love” referring to things other than God and people, is unscriptural!

Love is more about commitment than how we feel. Keeping the words, “I love” in the context of how we are toward God and other people will actually strengthen us in our love for God and others. The stronger people are in their love for God, the less they will be loving the things of this world, and that is a huge step in overcoming abnormal pulls and temptations toward them.

Enjoy good things and be thankful for what God has given us in this world, but never love them, and never *say* you love them.

BOLDLY SAY - I love God! I do not love the world or the things of this world! My love is reserved only for God and people! I do not *love* this present world! I am thankful for the good things the Lord has given me, but I do not love those things! I love God!

DAY 12

For Those Who Love God

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Paul did not say that there are things God has prepared “for those whom God loves!” He said there are some things prepared by God for those WHO LOVE HIM! When we choose to love the Lord in sincerity, we put ourselves in a position where God CAN do things for us that He can’t do for those who don’t choose to love Him. Just like you can’t do for someone you are not married to things you can only do for the one you *are* married to. Loving God gives us access to many amazing things that God has prepared for those

who LOVE HIM!

As we fellowship with God every day and spend intimate time with Him in worship, we are going to be able to see and know these precious things that no eye has seen or ear has heard of. God has some very intimate and precious things prepared for those who love Him!

Let's find out what these awesome things are by resisting temptation and serving Jesus as we love Him in sincerity!

BOLDLY SAY - God has some wonderful things prepared FOR ME! I thank God the Lord loves ME, but I also LOVE HIM! I expect to see and experience some amazing things as I walk on in my love for the Lord!

DAY 13

Things Prepared

But as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM.

1 Corinthians 2:9

HAPPY IS THE MAN who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those WHO LOVE HIM.

James 1:12 - TLB

Happiness is one of those things God has prepared for those who **love Him!** True happiness comes to those who say “No” to what the devil and the flesh says will make you happy! We will only be TRULY happy when we do what the Lord wants us to do, and He wants us to RESIST temptation when it comes! This is how

we will be *truly* happy!

There may be some temporary, fleshly pleasure in sin, but true lasting happiness only comes from doing God's will! People in the world are paying a great price to find more of it, but TRUE happiness comes only from the Lord!

James 1:12 says that loving God has a lot to do with resisting temptation when it comes. The devil is still trying to deceive people into believing that if we don't partake of certain sins, we will not be happy. That's a LIE!

BOLDLY SAY - I'm not stupid! By the grace of God, I will not fall for the devil's lie! God personally makes me happy! One of the things He has prepared for those who love Him is TRUE HAPPINESS! Thank you, Jesus, for making me happy like nothing else can!

DAY 14

All Things Work for Good

“And we know that all things work together for good TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

Many people quote the first half of this verse and try and make it say, “EVERYTHING works out for good for every person.” Paul did not say that! Paul made it very clear, by the direction of the Holy Spirit that, “All things work together for good TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD and those who are called according to His purpose.” People can’t just love whatever they want and live any way they want and expect the trouble they get into to somehow work out for good. Now if people truly repent and begin to walk in the light of loving God, they can get back into this

blessing.

Yes, all things work together for good TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE!

Believing in Jesus is a *part* of loving God, and as we continue to love Him, which includes doing what He said, we can expect all things to work together for good for US! Loving God is powerful!

BOLDLY SAY - All things work together for good to ME! I do love God! My heart is to do His will! I say, like my Lord Jesus: "Not my will, but Yours be done!" I Love God, therefore, even bad stuff that's happened will work out for good!

DAY 15

Protection in Loving God

*Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will
rescue him; I will protect him, for he
acknowledges my name.*

Ps 91:14 NLV

God WANTS everyone blessed, but not everyone is in position to *receive* the blessings! God is not able to do for everyone what He can only do for those who love Him, just like you can't do for strangers what you can only do for your spouse or children. There has to be an open door for God to be able to help people. A part of that open door is: LOVING GOD!

**The Lord protects all those who love him....
Psalm 145:20 NLT**

God does not command us to love Him for His

sake. Let's face it, we are getting way more out of this love relationship than God!

It is very difficult to *receive* blessings from the Lord when you are going to use those blessings on something or someone you love more than God!

The blessing of protection as well as every blessing becomes a "must" because our lifestyle of loving God "must" continue! Lovers of God MUST be protected!

BOLDLY SAY - I have no fear of bad things happening to me! God loves me and I love God! God promised He'd protect me! I am His child and He is my Father! I love my Heavenly Father more than anyone and anything! I am always under His protective wings! I refuse to stray into loving other things or people more than Him!

DAY 16

Do You Love Me?

He said unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me...?

John 21:17

Most believers really do love the Lord, but the problem has been that when temptation comes barreling in, some have forgotten their love for God! Before they realize it, they are falling again for something they really don't want to fall for. We all need to slow down when temptation comes, take a breath, and remind ourselves that WE LOVE GOD MORE! More than what our flesh wants and more than what peer pressure wants us to indulge in.

Don't feel scolded or put down when you realize that your love for God was not where it should have been. Just *remind* yourself when temptation comes that you do love the Lord! Say it out loud and let the power of your faith

confession, and the grace of God working in you, help you to successfully resist.

Remind yourself daily of your love for God, and it will help you to endure all pressure to veer off. If you have blown it time and time again, just *remind* yourself that you DO love Jesus more than ALL, and you will sense additional power coming on you to successfully resist!

BOLDLY SAY - I remind myself daily that I LOVE GOD! My love for Jesus keeps me strong in the resisting of temptation! I will say it a hundred times a day if I have to! I LOVE GOD MORE! God's love for me and my love for Him means more to me than anything!

DAY 17.

What If There Was No Hell?

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Mark 12:30

How many believers would party down and get all the worldly satisfaction they could find if there were no consequences for doing so? Are we living right only for fear of negative ramifications? Are we living right only for the blessings that accompany living right? Thank God for the protection we can claim while living right, and thank God for the ability to receive all the blessings of living right when we do live right, but what should be the number one reason for living right? BECAUSE WE **LOVE** THE ONE

who is pleased when we do live right!

Ask yourself the question; “Would I continue to stay out of sin and fleshly pleasures even if there were no negative consequences?” If we truly love the Lord, we will be just as committed as ever no matter what the consequences or rewards. It’s our love for the Lord that will keep us unspotted from the world in these last days, and keep us fully committed to His perfect plan and purpose!

BOLDLY SAY - I live right because I LOVE GOD! My lifestyle is first and foremost controlled by my love for the Lord, even above the negative consequences that accompany living in sin, and the rewards that are promised for living a righteous life!

DAY 18

I Will Love the Lord

I WILL love thee, O Lord, my strength.

Psalm 18:1

David *said*, “I WILL love You, O Lord.” Loving God is a CHOICE! Many people think love is first and foremost a feeling or emotion. Love is a sincere CHOICE! When we CHOOSE to love the Lord, we are doing something our flesh and soul may not always want to do. Love originates from the spirit (heart) of man, not his soul or feelings (Romans 5:5).

Love is something we CHOOSE to do as we grow and mature. Growing up has a lot to do with making choices that are pleasing to God versus what’s pleasing to us. We want to bless the Lord and make sure He is pleased with our

progress in Christ!

Why do people keep falling into lifestyles that they know are displeasing to God? Most probably because they have not yet reached a place of spiritual maturity where pleasing God is more important to them than fulfilling personal desires. They are not “bad” people, just people who may need to grow some more in the Lord. As we grow, we will be able to say more and more like David: “I WILL love You, O Lord, my strength!” And we will have the lifestyle that backs it up!

BOLDLY SAY - I WILL love You, Lord! My greatest desire and passion is to please You! I CHOOSE to love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Feeling or no feelings, I Love the Lord! I am maturing spiritually!

DAY 19

Love - The Cure for Rebellion

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 14:21

Our love for the Lord is a major key to overcoming bad habits and addictions! If believers would simply *remind* themselves of God’s love for them and their love for God, they would have more power to obey Him every time temptation comes their way. There is no stronger reason to say “No” to sin and “Yes” to the commandments of God than love FOR God! Duty alone will not be a strong enough reason for saying “No” to all the pressures to sin.

Why live right if you can be forgiven and still go to heaven when you die? BECAUSE WE LOVE THE LORD! We are not wanting to see how much world we can indulge in and still be forgiven, and still go to heaven when we die! That is immature and childish!

Little children receive all the love they can get from their mother and father, but they have little or no comprehension of what it means to love them back. And that's not a terrible thing, IF YOU ARE A BABY!

BOLDLY SAY - My love for Jesus is SEEN in my love for His commandments! I say "No" to temptation because I love the Lord! It is not just my duty to resist temptation! I resist temptations to compromise BECAUSE I LOVE THE ONE WHO SAID TO RESIST!

DAY 20

Grace for Living

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Romans 6:1

Think about this: Why live right if we can be forgiven? Why resist temptation if we can be forgiven? Why obey any Word from God if we can be forgiven? How about: BECAUSE WE LOVE THE LORD? Praise God for forgiveness! Praise God for grace and mercy to restore after a fall, but did you know that grace and mercy are also supposed to empower us to willingly live a life of purity and holiness?

Paul said that the mercy he received from the Lord helped him TO BE faithful! 1 Corinthians 7:25. Paul also said that grace teaches us TO LIVE sober, righteous and godly lives in this present world (Titus 2:11-12). If we are receiving proper teachings on mercy and grace, we will be WANTING to, and actually delighting in,

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righteous living!

God's love and grace will not MAKE anyone live right! We still have to *choose* to do things, and not do things, that may entail some suffering at times. "He that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin" (1 Peter 4:1). Proper teachings on God's love for us and His grace toward us will empower us with a willingness and ability to always do those things that please Him! Know the love God has for you! Believe in the love He has for you, and then let your life of obedience be a love issue toward God!

BOLDLY SAY – Thank God for forgiveness for all my sins! Thank God for His mercy and grace to empower me to live a righteous and godly life in this present world! I live right because I am empowered to do so and because I love God more than anything!

DAY 21

More Than Me?

*He that loves father or mother MORE THAN ME
is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or
daughter MORE THAN ME is not worthy of Me.*

Matthew 10:37

Many believers love the Lord, but it is possible to love something or someone MORE than the Lord! Jesus didn't say that those who love mother or father or son or daughter MORE than Him didn't love Him at all!

One thing that will help believers to keep their love priorities right is simply realizing it is possible to love God, and at the same time, love something or someone MORE than Him! Sure you can love the Lord, but the issue is: do you love something or someone MORE than Him?

I LOVE GOD MORE is a revelation to help keep us all steady when other things and people

try to become *first* in our lives.

Our love and help *toward* others is directly dependent on *our* putting God first! Many families have been destroyed for this one thing: Loving family MORE than God! When this happens, there is little or no power from God that can reach those people so that they *can* overcome their marriage and family problems. God is not in position to pour His full help into the family who doesn't want Him first!

BOLDLY SAY – I not only Love God! I Love Him MORE than anything and anyone! I will guard my love-walk and make sure I never put another person in a position that only God can handle! I love my family very much, but I love Jesus more than all!

DAY 22

Why We Live in A Fallen World

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:6

The world we live in is in a fallen state because a man (Adam) loved his wife (Eve) MORE THAN God! It's dangerous to put anything or any person above and before the Lord! Many family and marriage problems exist because of this one thing: loving each other MORE than God!

When loving God is *first* in the home, then a full lifeline of God's power is also there!

To love anyone more than God is dangerous! What happens when the one you pour your first and foremost love into leaves or decides to be unfaithful? Crash! Many have never recovered from such scenarios. God is the only One who we can trust with our entire life! He is the only One worthy of and qualified to be our first and foremost love! God will never leave you nor forsake you! Hebrews 13:5.

Just remember the affect Adam had on this entire world for the past 6,000 years when he decided to love his wife MORE THAN God!

BOLDLY SAY – As much as I love my family, I love God more! I will not fall apart, no matter what man does, because I love God first and foremost, and God will never let me down!

DAY 23

Don't Drift

Yet I have this against you – that you no longer love Me as you did at first.

Revelation 2:4 Weymouth

Believers in Jesus do not automatically stay in a place where they love God as much as they once did. Jesus was addressing a local church made up of born-again believers, and He corrected them for leaving their first love! The good news is they could repent and get back to doing the first works that they were never supposed to leave.

It is also important to note that their first love was what they originally were DOING for the Lord! Their first love was not just a feeling or emotion! It was a “DOING!”

It is very important to constantly go over “Loving God” Scriptures and to constantly

remind ourselves that it is our love for the Lord that motivates us to live for Him. Slipping in our Christian duties and commitments is more than just slacking off! Jesus said it can be translated into “leaving” our first love!

Obviously these believers in the book of Revelation forgot how they used to love the Lord! They drifted and slipped from their original place of love for Jesus, and it showed up in their lack of doing the original works they once did for the Lord. The way back into our first love if we slipped is to “Repent, and do the first works.” Revelation 2:5.

BOLDLY SAY – I will not slip in my love for the Lord by slipping in my DOING of what I know He’s called me to do! Jesus is my first love and I love Him with all of my heart!

DAY 24

Repentance Is a Blessing

Remember therefore from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works.

Revelation 2:5

Jesus admonishes the *church* at Ephesus to REMEMBER how they used to love Him! Loving Jesus is more than something we feel in our emotions. Loving Jesus is doing His will. Don't worry about being perfect, just keep close to Jesus and keep moving forward in His plan for your life. If you find yourself drifting from what you know is His will for your life-- Repent! You can come back to where you once were!

Many people look at repentance as a negative word, when it's actually a gift from God that will save and restore anyone from destruction! To

repent and get back to your first love is a BLESSING! No matter how far someone has drifted from their first love, they can come back through repentance and start doing what they were originally called to do (1 John 1:9)!

Getting away from loving the Lord is not an unfixable problem. Jesus said He will restore those who do decide to go another direction if they REMEMBER where they have fallen from and REPENT! Repent means to simply turn around and change one's mind. Remember, that it's because you *love* the Lord that you are going to get back to the first works!

BOLDLY SAY – Thank God for repentance! I choose to remember my first love! By the grace of God, I will remain steadfast in doing what I know the Lord originally told me to do!

DAY 25

Love Tested

Demas has forsake me, having loved this present world.

2 Timothy 4:10

Loving God shows up best when we are tempted to love something or someone else more than Him and we don't fall for it! When the pressure is on to do something we know is not the will of God, our love for Jesus is being tested. Demas, Paul's companion in ministry, ended up forsaking Paul and the ministry position he had because of a love for the present world overtaking his love for the Lord!

Here is a guy who saw miracles, and walked with a man who had visions and revelations of the Lord! How could he have slipped in his priorities of love? The same way anyone can slip: too much looking and hearing of things

that mess with our love for God! Loving God takes discipline to stay away from things that would try and draw us away from His perfect will for our lives.

Recognize *pulls* that try to get you away from loving God like you should. Recognize temptations to love other things more than the Lord that come your way. Stay away from everything that tries to *compete* with your love for God and His plan for your life! If Demas could be swayed to love the present world more than God, so can we! Keep yourself stirred up in God's love *for you* AND your love *for Him*!

BOLDLY SAY – I Love God More! This present world will not steal my love for Jesus! By the grace of God, I will stay on the road I know is God's perfect will for my life!

DAY 26

I Loved My Parents “More”

(By Carla Cappetto)

And he that sent me is with me: The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

John 8:29

As a teenager growing up in the 70's, I had many opportunities to “go along with the crowd” and do things that were wrong--sin. One reason I didn't go along with doing some of those things was because I knew it would *hurt* my parents' hearts. They raised me to know right from wrong, and it would hurt them to see me do wrong because they knew that in the long run, it would bring hurt to my own life.

I loved my parents *more* than my friends and

I loved my parents *more* than the fun I would have had doing some of the things those friends wanted me to do.

I said NO to the temptations and NO to the temporary pleasures those actions/sins would bring me due to the fact that "I loved my parents more." In the same way, we love God more--more than the pleasures of sin; and we love God more than anyone or anything. We should not want to do anything that would hurt Him.

BOLDLY SAY – Jesus is my first love! I don't want to do anything to displease Him! His love for me is precious! My love for Him is also precious! I resist the temptations to do anything that I know would hurt Him or displease Him! I Love God MORE!

DAY 27

Ouch

(By Carla Cappetto)

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:62

When I was 15 years old, I went with a friend of mine to the department store. I was the “look-out” while she proceeded to stick a handful of T-shirts under her coat and walk out of the store. Well, I wasn’t a very good “look-out,” because as soon as we attempted to leave the store, we were caught and escorted to a back room where police were called and took us to the police station. Our parents were called. The girl I was with told the police that I didn’t know anything about it, that she did it alone. I agreed with her lie and pled my innocence of knowing anything. When my mother walked into the station, she looked me in the face and said, “Did you do it?” I promptly answered “NO, I didn’t know anything about it.” My mother looked at the officer and said, “If

Carla said she didn't do it, then she didn't do it."

It brought such hurt to my heart to know my mom had such trust in my word. I was crushed to know that I was deceiving someone who had such trust and love for me. When someone loves you and believes in you so much, it hurts to let them down and lie to them.

Our Father God believes in us; He loves us unconditionally! I never want to treat my Father God in such a way, by doing anything that would disappoint or hurt Him. I love Him more than that!

BOLDLY SAY – I Love You Jesus! I Love You Father God!

DAY 28

A New View

Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! YOU CAN MAKE THIS CHOICE BY LOVING THE LORD YOUR GOD, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. THIS IS THE KEY TO YOUR LIFE. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-21 NLT

It's *not* easy to discipline yourself to do what you know is right when your only reason for doing right is “DUTY!” Yes, we have Christian duty in this life! Yes, we are to be faithful simply because it's right, but when we remember God's **love** for us and our **love** for Him, our motivation

for disciplining ourselves will be greater! There is no stronger motive for living in obedience to God than LOVE!

Living for God is loving God! Christians would benefit greatly in their walk down here on earth if they would connect their obedience to God with their love for God! If living right and resisting temptation to sin becomes more of a duty issue than a love issue, something has gotten off. It's not a burdensome chore to go out of your way and do something for someone you love. It's a pleasure to work hard for the one you love!

BOLDLY SAY –I choose Jesus! I choose to love Him and obey Him all my life! I will not be condemned because I have made some mistakes! I go on in my love for the Lord!

DAY 29

The Crown of Life

Blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive THE CROWN OF LIFE, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him.

James 1:12

The Good News translation of James 1:12 reads: "***Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward THE LIFE which God has promised to those who love him.***" There is a *quality* of life that we tap into every time we say no to temptation! "The Life" refers to much more than just existing. There is a "LIFE" that blows away any temporary pleasure that comes from yielding to sin!

God personally sees to it that His people are blessed with this "Crown of Life" when they

make the effort to endure temptation. James 1:12 also makes it clear, that when we endure under pressure to “flesh out” and refuse to give in, we are visibly loving God at that moment!

If believers knew what was waiting for them after resisting temptation and remaining faithful to the Lord, they would resist more often! There is nothing in this world like “The Life” that God has promised to those that LOVE HIM!

Remember, that loving God is more than a feeling. Loving God is enduring temptation and refusing to give in to it! Praise God for His forgiveness if we mess up, but let’s also praise God because we are growing in our love for Him too!

BOLDLY SAY – I believe that the crown of life is way greater than any pleasure of sin for the moment! I love God! I obey God!

DAY 30

Stay Balanced

We love Him BECAUSE He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

To say that “God loving us” is EVERYTHING, or to say that “Loving God” is EVERYTHING is out of balance. God’s love *for us* is first and foremost, but it’s not all that the Bible teaches. There are many references in the Bible, including the New Testament, that emphasize “Loving God!”

God’s love for us, and our love for God, are both important. When one’s pursuit of either starts to put the other one down; that’s extremism!

What would happen if all you took into your body were foods that had only vitamin B in them? You would get sick! You would overdose on vitamin B, and vitamin B is good! Just like our

bodies need more than one vitamin, our spirits need fed more than one subject!

We should never try and prove that one Bible subject is important and another is not. ALL the Bible is important! “We love God, because He first loved us!” This one verse says it so clearly! It all starts with God’s love for us, but it doesn’t end there!

When we *truly* start to see how much God loves us we will be looking for ways to obey Him and love Him back!

BOLDLY SAY – God Loves Me! He first loved me! Now I want to love Him! I am glad to do those things that please Him! I love God!

DAY 31

God So Loved

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

I have always been greatly blessed by the word “SO” in this verse. It shows the tender mercy of God toward all of mankind. This is where it all starts! God SO loved the world that He gave us His Only Son to take our place in the punishment we deserved!

Jesus is more than a good teacher: He is the Lamb of God who was slain for our sins! Jesus is our substitute so we don't have to get what we deserve! Jesus is the only way to the Father, and through faith in Him we are saved! This is love! This is where it all starts!

Look into the love of God toward you! See how much the Father and Jesus love you and

want to care for you!

Even in the area of healing and having all your needs met. God's love reaches to every area of our lives! ***He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us ALL things? Romans 8:32.***

God's great love for us is why we want to love Him back! Slow down and reflect on your love relationship with God! When pressure to sin comes your way, remember how much God loves you and how much you love Him! Go beyond duty only and live in the realm of love! You will be so blessed!

BOLDLY SAY – I believe in the love of God! I have no fear because I know I am loved! My love for God grows every day! I love You, Father God!

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THE ANSWER TO TEMPTATION

The present day church is needing a higher level reason to stand strong against all the increased temptations coming on the world. Instead of the church going into all the world with the Gospel, it seems the world has gone in to all the church with temptation to compromise! It's time for "Book of Acts" commitment once again! It is time for a trumpet to sound, and that trumpet is: "I LOVE GOD MORE; My answer to temptation!"

The reason to say "no" to all the pressures to sin is not that our pastor taught us to say "no," nor that it's our religion to say no! We say "NO" because we love God! We love God more than anything and anyone! No temptation can bring a man or woman, or boy or girl down who will rise up and boldly declare right in the face of temptation:

I LOVE
GOD
MORE



Carla and I have been in the full time ministry since 1987. Through much prayer, study of the Scriptures and 30 years of experience in pastoring Faith Heights Church, we have come to realize that God's great love for us and our love for God is what will keep us above the temptations and bondages of this world.

John Cappetto

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MINISTRIES
PUBLICATIONS

ISBN 9781947519015

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781947 519015

