

# I Love You, Lord!

Ps 116:1 I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice [and] my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon [him] as long as I live. 3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious [is] the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God [is] merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. 7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. 8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, [and] my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. 10 I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted: 11 I said in my haste, All men [are] liars. 12 What shall I render unto the LORD [for] all his benefits toward me? 13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. 14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD [is] the death of his saints. 16 O LORD, truly I [am] thy servant; I [am] thy servant, [and] the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. 18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, 19 In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

## Introduction:

1. Some people are hard to love and some are easy to love.
  - a. Some people are hard to love and you have to make yourself love them.
  - b. Maybe you are thinking of someone right now?
2. On the other hand, there are people who are easy to love.
  - a. Some people you love the moment you meet them.

- b. It is not difficult loving them. You do not have to make yourself love them. You can't help but love them.
3. The Lord is easy to love.
  - a. Mt 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
  - b. I have never quite understood why someone, who had been saved, did not love the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He is so easy to love.
4. That the Lord loves us is never in question.
  - a. God's love for us is plainly declared and perpetually demonstrated.
  - b. God's love is both personal and eternal.
  - c. It is repeatedly proclaimed in the Bible and repeatedly proven in our blessings.
  - d. We never have to wonder or worry if God loves us.
5. The question is whether or not we love the Lord! He loves us, but do we love Him in return?
6. There are times when I think the Lord must feel like the little four-year-old girl who walked up to her mom with a doll under each arm. She said, "Mommy, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back." Like the little girl and her dolls, the Lord loves us and loves us and loves us, but sadly, the case is often that we do not love Him back.
7. In Psalm 116 we find the Psalmist speaking of his love for the Lord.
8. As I read of his love for the Lord, I seem to hear him saying, "It is hard not to love the Lord."
9. I want us to look at the Psalmist's words and put our own love for the Lord to the test.

## **I. THE DECLARATION OF HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD**

### **1a I love the LORD...**

- At the very beginning of the Psalm, the Psalmist expresses and declares his love for the Lord. He begins by saying, "I love the Lord."

- Every believer ought to be able to declare without the slightest hesitation, ‘I love the Lord.’
- In the Psalmist’s words I see:

### **A. The Expression of Love the Lord Desires**

1. A group of eight-year olds were asked the question: “What does love mean?” Some of the answers they got were:
  - a) *Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.*
  - b) *Love is when you go out and eat and give somebody most of your French Fries without making them give you any of theirs.*
  - c) *Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.*
  - d) *Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, and then he wears it every day.*
  - e) *Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.*
2. Love means many things, but among them is saying, “I love you.”
  - a) *I understand that love is more than words, but sometimes what a person needs is for someone just to say, “I love you.”*
  - b) *Children need to hear parents say, “I love you.”*
  - c) *Husbands and wives need to hear each other say, “I love you.”*
3. Many wives would lose it if their husbands said, “I love you.”

Like the wife I read about. Her husband at work listened to one of his co-workers talking about how he did romantic things to tell his wife that he loved her. He told of how on one occasion, before he left work, he shaved and freshened up, put on some nice smelling cologne, and a clean suit. Then on the way home, stopped by the florist and bought his wife a dozen roses. When he got home, instead of just walking in, he rang the doorbell. When his wife opened the door, he held the roses out and said, “Honey, I love you.”

This husband thought to himself, “That’s a good idea.” So, before he left work, he put on some nice smelling cologne. Then on the way home he stopped and bought a dozen roses. When he got home he walked up to the door and rang the doorbell. His wife opened to the

door and he proudly reached out to her the roses and said, “I love you.” His wife just started bawling and then said, “It has been a terrible day. Joey woke up with a high fever. The commode stopped up and ran over. The washing machine broke down. The phone has rung all day along and now you come home drunk.”

4. Just as we need to tell our spouses that we love them, I believe that the Lord wants to hear us say, “I love You.”
  - a) *All through the day we ought to be saying, “I love You, Lord.”*
  - b) *He knows whether or not we love Him, but I believe He longs to hear us say, “I love the Lord.”*
5. In the Psalmist’s words, I not only think of the expression of love the Lord desires, but also:

## **B. The Expression of Love the Lord Deserves**

1. The Lord is deserving of our expressions of love.
  - a) *After all, He loves us and expresses His love in numerous ways all through the day.*
  - b) *In many cases, people earn our love.*
    - (1) They are deserving of the love and affection we show to them.
    - (2) There is no one any more deserving than the Lord.
2. He has saved us.
3. He has given us His Word.
4. He is there at every moment. He never fails us or forsakes us.
5. He meets our every need.
6. I think you would agree with me that He is deserving of our love.
7. There is the Psalmist’s declaration of his love for the Lord. Secondly, notice with me:

The Declaration of His Love for the Lord...

## **ii. THE EXPLANATION OF HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD**

- Once declaring his love for the Lord, he begins to give reasons why he loves the Lord. Notice three reasons that he gives.
- First, he explains that he loves the Lord because:

## A. **The Lord Has Heard Him**

1 I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice [and] my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon [him] as long as I live.

1. David will never hesitate to go to God in prayer.
2. As long as he lives, he will call upon the Lord. Why? Because the Lord has heard his prayers!
3. The Lord listened attentively to his prayers.
  - a) *Have you ever talked with someone and you knew they were not paying attention to what you were saying?*
  - b) *I read how on one occasion, President Roosevelt decided to find out at a White House reception whether anybody was paying attention to what he was saying. As each person came up to him with an extended hand, he flashed that big smile and said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." People would automatically respond with comments such as, "How lovely!" or "Just continue with your great work." The only one who seemed to pay attention to what he said was a foreign diplomat that simply responded, "I'm sure she had it coming."*
4. When the Psalmist called out to the Lord in prayer, He listened attentively to what was prayed.
5. The Lord listened affectionately to his prayers.

2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon [him] as long as I live.

  - a) *The word "inclined" means "to bend down."*
  - b) *It is almost like the Lord stepped down from heaven and sat down beside him and put His arms around his shoulders and listened to everything he had to say.*
6. One of the reasons the Lord is so easy to love the Lord is because He hears us when we pray.
7. He never says, "I don't have time to listen to your problems right now?"
8. When we call upon Him we did not get a busy signal or voice mail.

9. He is always available and treats us like we were the only person that mattered to Him.
10. The Psalmist explained that he loved the Lord because:

### ***B. The Lord Helped Him – vs 3-6***

3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious [is] the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God [is] merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

1. He described his troubles and trials, his sufferings and sorrows.
2. His circumstances brought him low. But, in his time of need, the Lord “helped” him.
3. Why did he find it so easy to love the Lord? In his dark and difficult hours, the Lord helped him.
4. He helps us and that is one of the reasons we find it so easy to love Him.
5. A fine Christian man died and the pastor went to the hospital to comfort the family. A nurse took the pastor to a family room where the family was. He sat down beside the wife and she laid her head on his shoulder and just cried. She had one of those cries that would rip your heart out. She said, “Pastor, what I am going to do. How am I going to make it without him?” The pastor met the family at the funeral home for the viewing. Again, she broke down and wept like a little child. The pastor put his arms around her, she once again said, “Pastor, what I am going to do without him?” At the funeral, in front of the church building, the widow made the same comment, “Oh, pastor, what am I going to do without him.” She cried all the way up the sidewalk but when she entered the church building she stopped crying. During the service she sat down at the front, smiled through the songs, and nodded her head as her pastor brought the message. When the service was over and they were walking out of the

building, the pastor was holding her arm. She suddenly stopped and looked up at the pastor and said, “I know how I’m going to make it. As soon as I walked into the House of God I knew I was going to be alright.” She paused a moment and then looked in the direction of the pallbearers carrying her husband’s body. Then she looked back up at her pastor and said, “The Lord helped me today.”

6. Thirdly, the Psalmist explained that he loved the Lord because:

### **C. The Lord Honored Him**

**7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.**

1. The Psalmist speaks of how the Lord had honored him, blessed him and done so much for him.
2. We can all say that God has been good to us
3. If I gave each of you a blank sheet of paper and asked you to write down all the things God has done for you and how He has blessed you, it would not be long before you would asking for another sheet of paper. God has been very good to us all.
4. When we think of how He has heard us and helped us, and then add to all that all the blessings He has brought into our lives, I ask you, how can we not love Him? It is so easy to love Him!
5. There is the Psalmist’s declaration and explanation of his love for the Lord. Thirdly, notice:

Declaration of His Love....

Explanation of His Love for the Lord....

## **III. MANIFESTATION OF HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD**

**12 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?**

- How do we respond to God’s goodness, His manifold blessings, His amazing grace?
- God’s blessings on us obligate us to serve the Lord
  - There is recognition - “All His benefits”

- There is responsibility - “What shall I render?”
- The Psalmist not only said he loved the Lord, he also showed that he loved the Lord.
- His love was more than words. It was manifested and demonstrated. How? First we see how:

### **A. The “I Will” of Practice - vs 9**

**9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

1. David spoke of himself as a servant.
2. His love is revealed in his service to the Lord.
3. His love was more than words. It was proven in his works.
4. It is easy to say we love the Lord, but we validate our words by our actions.
5. Our love is proven by our commitment to the Lord.
6. It is revealed in our service for Him.
7. You can’t tell me you love the Lord and will not live for Him or serve Him.

### **B. The “I Will” of Persuasion - vs 13a**

**13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.**

1. “Salvation” here is the classic Hebrew noun - “Yeshuah”
  - a) *It means deliverance, victory or help*
  - b) *It is the name Joshua or Jesus*
  - c) *It is plural here as though the psalmist had been delivered several times*
2. Bible scholars believe that the cup of salvation is the OT thank offering
3. The psalmist was thanking God for deliverance from a difficult situation - vs 7-8

**7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. 8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.**

4. “Take” is the word “lift up”
  - a) *This pictured lifting up the cup of the thank offering to the Lord*

- offering thanks and worship to the Lord*
- b) *The cup of wine would then be poured onto an offering that was being consumed on the altar of sacrifice*

### **C. The “I Will” of Prayer - vs 13b**

13b .... and call upon the name of the LORD.

1. God has delivered me in the past and so I will call on the Lord in the future
2. The psalmist will live a life of devotion because of all that the Lord has done for him
3. God’s blessings will make praying persons out of those who are blessed

### **D. The “I Will” of Performance - vs 14**

14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.

1. When people are in distress they often make vows to the Lord
2. Now the Lord has delivered him and the psalmist wants to make sure that he keeps his vows
3. Whatever these vows were they will be paid before other people  
*Ec 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?*
4. Chuck Swindoll told of a friend of his from high school. He was as mean and ornery as he could possibly be. A member of the football team, he was a fullback on offense and a middle linebacker on defense. He was a wild rebel and as tough as a boot. He owned a speed boat and loved to zing around the shores of Galveston at full speed especially in the middle of the night. One night, going at full speed, he hit a shallow reef and flipped the boat. He was in a mess, for a storm blew in and the only thing he had to hang onto was a

barnacled rock. The waves that night buffeted him up and down against the razor-like barnacles for several hours. Blood from his wounded body began to spread out in the water and he was terrified that sharks would be drawn to him. He fervently prayed "Oh, God, if You will get me out of this, I will serve you for the rest of my life. I'll make my life right, I'll do anything!" He even vowed, "I'll even be a preacher if that is what you want." God in his grace dispatched the Coast Guard and they picked him up.

A week later he had forgotten all about his vow. His body eventually healed and he was back at his old tricks again. Every time he took his shirt off he would see in the mirror the scars across his abdomen.

They were mute reminders of the vows he had made to the Lord. He just put them out of his mind. He would shower and dry off quickly with his back to the mirror because those scars haunted him.

Several months later, he was involved in a head-on collision. It was a miracle that he wasn't killed. He now bore a scar across his face and forehead along with those on his body. He lost part of the use of one arm. Guess what he is doing today. He's preaching the gospel, scars and all. He says, "Every time I shave I'm reminded that promises to God are to be taken seriously."

### **E. The "I Will" of Praise - vs 17**

17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. 19 In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

1. The psalmist would always be thankful for all that the Lord had done for him
2. He would show that thanks by calling on the name of the Lord
3. The psalmist would be found in the Lord's house

Conclusion:

1. Can you say along with the psalmist - "I love you Lord."
2. What has He done for you?
3. Are you serving Him?