

Let love reign:

1. Pre-prayer declarations:

- Psalms 118:24

This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

- Psalms 133

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

2. Scripture to meditate on

- **Mathew 5:23-24**

²³ "Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother or sister has something against you. ²⁴ Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with them. Then come back and offer your gift.

3. The Greatest Commandment

Mathew 22:36 – 40 ³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[c] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 John 4:20²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

4. Why is love so important.

1 John 4:16 God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

5. How is love defined in the bible?

1 corinthians 13:4 – 8 ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

6. Other scriptures about love

1 Corinthians 16:14

Let all that you do be done in love.

Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Ephesians 5:25 – Story for another day

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Ephesians 4:2

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

7. Why should we love:

1. God's commandments
2. There is a dimension / Authority that comes with abiding to this commandment. **1 John 4:7-8** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and **knows God**. Anyone who does not love does **not know God**, because God is love.*

8. Is loving everyone easy?

No. it is not easy to love other people because of their behaviour. However, if you are walking in the spirit God makes it easy for us.

We need help from God to be able to love other people.

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Jesus after going through suffering – He gave us the Holy spirit – Our Helper, our Advocate.

John 16:7 - ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you

John 16: 12 – 15¹² “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me

that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

- When we love we have to part with something!
- As believers we ought to exercise love in challenging situations in the family, work set-up, community in general

Examples

- Ruth
- Joseph
- Salvation. John 3:16

Prayer points

1. Forgiveness in areas that we have fallen short.
2. Discipline to not be quick to act or use our words aimlessly. Being fully aware that attacks will come anytime, and it is our responsible to decide how to respond.
3. Break the spirit of disunity among families and communities – We are not fighting flesh and blood.
Ephesians 6:10 - 12¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
4. As we meditate on these scriptures let us search our self and get to the secret place with God. Ask for instructions on how to deal with a particular issue that needs his intervention.