

# **HOLY VALENTINE**

**V** **VICTORY** - This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 4b-5

**A** **ABOVE ALL**, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

**L** **LOVE** - Jesus said, 'Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first Love.' Rev 2:4

**E** **EVERLASTING LOVE** - The Lord appeared to us, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. Jer 31:3

**N** **NO FEAR** - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

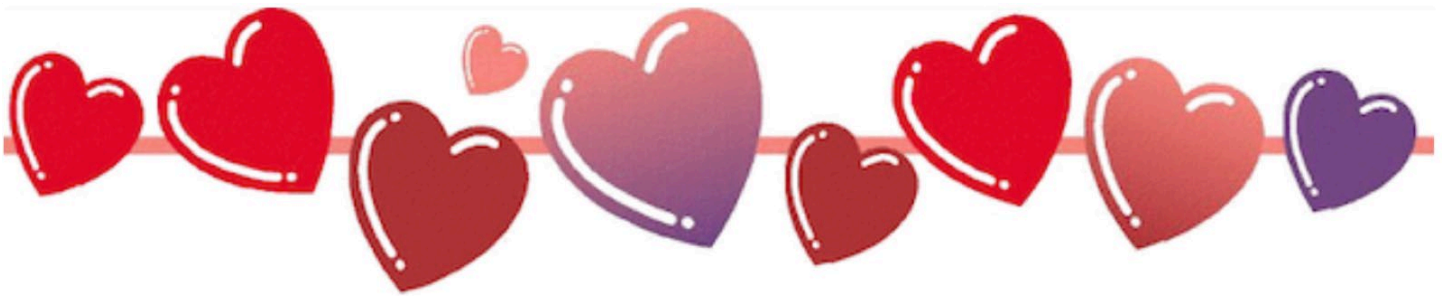
**T** **TENDERNESS** - ...if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Phil 2:1b-2

**I** **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS** - Jesus said, 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:20

**N** **NEVER FAILS** - Love is patient, love is kind...it is not self-seeking...Love never fails. 1 Cor 13:4-8a God is love. 1 John 4:8

**E** **ETERNAL LIFE** - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16





# HOLY VALENTINE

## *Be My Valentine*

**Every day of the year Jesus asks us if we would Be His Valentine forever!**

Individually and as couples we can add “Holy Love” to our Happy Valentine’s Day with “Holy Valentine.”

## V

### VICTORY

*“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the **victory** that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 4b-5 (New International Standard NIV)*

*Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. John 14:15-16*

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor (others) as yourself.’ (Parenthesis added.) Matthew 22:37-39*

Victory over the falsehood and trappings of the world is found by belief in Jesus Christ as Son of God and your personal Savior from all your wrongdoings. (To know Christ, go to [parentcompass.tv/know-Christ](http://parentcompass.tv/know-Christ) or [cru.org/us/en/how-to-know-god/would-you-like-to-know-god-personally.html](http://cru.org/us/en/how-to-know-god/would-you-like-to-know-god-personally.html))

As we see in the verses above the greatest commandment is to love God and a main way we do that is by keeping his commands. This is a way to overcome the world by doing what is right as God guides us. God wants us to not be quarrelsome, but kind, not resentful. 2 Tim 2:24

No matter what the problem or issue or circumstance in life, Jesus gives VICTORY. It may not be the way we think it should, but it will be more than we could ever ask for (Eph 3:20) as Jesus has conquered sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

# A

## ABOVE ALL

*“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins...*

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:8, 10-11*

*“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”  
Ephesians 5:1-2*

The Bible asks us to **ABOVE ALL** love one another deeply and then details how – that we should serve one another, from God’s strength, which we can ask for, and speak with godly speech and ways as taught in the Bible – the very words of God. How do we walk in the way of love? By following Christ’s example of giving up our selfish ways and serving others in love. Ephesian 5 goes on comparing marriage to Christ and the church with specifically the husband like Christ and gave himself up for her. But both husband and wife are to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21

Who is this Christ -your “Holy Valentine”? “He is **FAR ABOVE ALL** rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” Ephesians 1:21-22

*“The LORD is exalted over **ALL** the nations, his glory **ABOVE** the heavens.” Psalm 113:4*

# L

## LOVE

*(Jesus said) “Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first Love. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Revelations 2:4-5*

*“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

In our “Holy Valentine’s” message to the churches as told through the Apostle John in Revelation, Jesus tells us, we have done good things, persevered and endured hardships for His name and not grown weary, BUT we have forsaken our first love. It is very difficult not to be affected by the constant battle against the world pulling away at pure unadulterated love for God and each other. Christ says be honest with ourselves and repent. “If we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

To fully love with the love that comes from God we must continually reconsider and repent and be reconciled to our first love and “Holy Love”, Christ, and, also, each other.

# E

## EVERLASTING LOVE

*“The LORD appeared to us...saying: ‘I have loved you with an **everlasting love**; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.’” Jeremiah 31:3*

These are great things of God, love and kindness. God loves us with an everlasting love. His kindness is unfailing. We are to follow God’s example. Many times that includes forgiveness of others that can be very difficult for us. Forgiveness does not mean what was done was right. It offers grace and mercy to the other person and sets us free from bondage of bitterness and hostility. At times we may hold a grudge against others for things we may do ourselves and dismiss. Our nature may even be frustrated for things that may not be upsetting to God, but are, perhaps, unrighteous judgements on our part. The Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6 tells us we should pray for God to “forgive our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.” It ends by saying, “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” God is serious about us forgiving. We can even confess unforgiveness as a sin and ask God to help us forgive. When we ask God to forgive our sin, we can also ask God to show us any unforgiveness we have for others. Let us forgive others, confess our sins, ask forgiveness and not let anything come in the way of God’s everlasting love waiting for us to accept it.

# N

## NO FEAR

*“There is **no fear** in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*We love because he first loved us. 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.” 1 John 4:18-20*

Billy Graham’s daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, in her book, *Just Give Me Jesus*, writes a chapter on JESUS MAKES CHANGE POSSIBLE... *When Love Runs Out* about a nine-month period where she felt she no longer loved her husband, Danny. She prayed and prayed. It was the last verse above that convicted her and she felt the Lord say, “It you do not love Danny, you do not love Me.” Anne confessed her sin. God gave her His love for Danny and the later years of their marriage were better and more in love than the former. (Excerpts from Chapter 3 telling that story are at the end of this document.)

That “perfect love” that drives out fear is that “Holy Love” of our “Holy Valentine”. 365 times in the Bible we are told not to fear. Often the first thing the angels say when they appear in the Bible is, “Do not be afraid.” In fact, 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” If God does not give us a spirit of fear, who does? Satan gives a spirit of fear. The same Satan who is totally defeated by Jesus Christ! Give all your fears to God. Isaiah 26:3 tells us, “You (God) will keep in **perfect peace** those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” Give ALL that you worry about to God in prayer. “Do not be anxious about ANYTHING, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 With God’s perfect love we can walk in faith with no fear.

# T

## TENDERNESS

**Imitating Christ’s Humility**

**Philippians 2:1-16 NIV Life Application Bible**

*“Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any **TENDERNESS** and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one*

*mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!  
Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

## **Do Everything Without Grumbling**

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

***Do EVERYTHING without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.”*** *Philippians 2:1-16*

Tenderness is defined in the Oxford dictionary as the quality of being kind, gentle and loving. It can be a very difficult quality for us to be. But if, in humility, we surrender our selfish ways and wants to God’s will and authority, it is through His tender strength and permeating Holy Spirit power that we can follow His example achieving seemingly impossible great tenderness in our daily lives and relationships as well.

## **I** **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father*

*and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (of everlasting love or eternal value). John 15:5 (Parenthesis added.)*

*“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, **“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”** Hebrews 13:5*

One of the names of Jesus Christ is Immanuel, which means “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23) Jesus lovingly says, “if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” We are the ones that leave God. We are the ones that do not remain, but seek our own path or get diverted by the worries, wealth or pleasures of this world. (Luke 8:14) God has a best way. God has “the most excellent way,” (1 Corinthians 12:31) which is the way of love. (1 Corinthians 13) Notice how Jesus first says in Matthew 28:18-20 above to “teach to obey everything I have commanded you. And (then) surely, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. It is us who stray from God’s loving commands or instructions and walk away from him. He is there waiting for us to come back to him and gives us the free choice to do what God says so that it may go well with us. (Deut 6:3,18; Eph 6:3) Notice how first in Hebrews 13:5 it says, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, **“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”** It is us who by free will turn away from God and serve the love of money and discontentment with what we have. God never leaves us or forsakes us. Let us turn back! Let us confess where we have served the love of money or discontentment or disobedience taking our own way or the world’s way instead. Let us turn back to God making him Lord of our lives, our relationships, our families and our daily walk because He is waiting for us as He is with us ALWAYS.

# N

## NEVER FAILS

*“God is Love.” 1 John 4:8b “Love NEVER FAILS.” 1 Corinthians 13:8*

What is love?

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*Love never fails.”*

*“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8a,13*

*It is the love of God that NEVER FAILS. It is the EVERLASTING LOVE of God that leads to ETERNAL LIFE that NEVER FAILS. Call upon the one that can save you from sin and death. Call upon the one who can restore love of self in your life. Call upon the one who can restore your marriage and relationships.*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.<sup>[c]</sup>*

*<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

*<sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.*

*<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

*<sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*<sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

*<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields<sup>[d]</sup> with fire.*

*<sup>10</sup> He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”*

*<sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; Psalm 46*

# **E**

## **ETERNAL LIFE**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have ETERNAL LIFE. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people*



*loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. 1 John 3:16-21*

This Valentine's Day let us accept, perhaps once again, God's "Holy Love" offer for

*Jesus Christ to Be Our "Holy Valentine."*



“JESUS MAKES CHANGE POSSIBLE...

When Love Runs Out”

*Just Give Me Jesus*

By Anne Graham Lotz

Excerpts from Chapter 3

Ten years later, we had moved to a city where Danny practiced dentistry full-time. By then, we had three small children, I did volunteer work in the community, and I had established and taught a weekly Bible class that was attended by 500 women.

Without my noticing it, the busyness had overtaken me, and I woke one morning to the realization that I was in a marriage where the love had run out! I will never forget that panicked, trapped feeling as I knelt in prayer with tears streaming down my face, desperately pleading with the Lord for help. I knew there was no way out. When I had pledged my vows to Danny at the marriage altar before God and the assembled witnesses, I knew they were irrevocable. Was I condemned to live the rest of my life in a shell of a marriage relationship keeping up of superficial front for our children, friends, family, and the general public, while my heart felt lifeless? Would I ever get used to the heaviness and pain? How would I endure? How could I live a life of hypocrisy? What would happen if I was ever found out?

God, in His infinite mercy and love, allowed me to struggle for almost a year. During that time, it was not Danny's shortcomings God revealed to me, by my own.

Do you also feel trapped in a marriage where love has run out? Have you panicked, looking for escape in an illicit relationship or afternoon fantasies or romance novels or alcohol or divorce? Or have you resigned yourself to your fate, plunging into a demanding career or the lives of your children or church activities or community volunteerism in a desperate effort to manage the pain?

Praise God! There is hope for you just as there was hope for me. My marriage today bears testimony to the truth that Jesus makes change possible, even when the love runs out. The first step in starting over is to invite Jesus into your marriage...

The same God who performed a miracle at the wedding in Cana is our God today. But we have to give Him absolute authority and freedom to act.... Maybe one reason He has allowed you to be in your present crisis is to bring you to the point of complete submission to His will.

I believe that's what happened in my life. After I had been praying daily and continually for several months about my own marriage, I remember getting up early one morning for my quiet time, slipping down on my knees, and tearfully asking God once more what I needed to do and how I could fix the relationship with Danny. I asked Him to pinpoint areas in my life that needed change – even as I pointed out to Him things in my husband's life that I thought needed changing! As I got off my knees, I open my Bible to 1 John 4 and picked up where I had been reading for the past several weeks. As I meditated, God began to give me verse-by-verse, specific instructions on what I needed to do. And His instructions were not at all what I had expected. Listen as I try to recall His words to me from 1 John that morning long ago:

“You are to love Danny because I first loved you. If you say, ‘I love God,’ yet you don't love Danny, you are a liar. Because if you don't love your husband, whom you have seen, you cannot love Me, whom you have not seen. So I give you this command: if you love Me, you must – it's not an option – you *must* also love Danny. Dear Anne, love one another, for love comes from Me. Everyone who loves has been born of Me and knows Me. “

Through His gentle words, God laid out three very basic principles about my love for Danny. The first is that love comes from God. I don't have within myself the ability to manufacture love for someone when love has run out.

The second is that those who are able to love others, including their own spouses, are those who have been born of God. I knew I had been born of God when I received Jesus Christ as my savior. At the moment of conversion, God came to live within me, and since God is love, and He loved Danny, then I had love for Danny inside of me.

The third is that those who are able to love others, even when love runs out, are those who are not only *born of God* but who also *know God*. A distinction is made between being born again and knowing God. In other words, although God lived within me, His love for Danny was only available to me in proportion to my knowledge of Him. In case this last principal was confusing, He restated it: “if you are not able to love Danny, it’s because you do not know Me, because I am love.”

I realize that knowing God was more than just being saved or being born again, just as knowing my husband was more than just saying marriage vows at the wedding altar. Knowing God involves an intimate, personal relationship that is developed over time through prayer and getting answers to prayer, through Bible study and applying its teaching to our lives, through obedience and experiencing the power of God, through moment-by-moment submission to him that results in a moment-by-moment filling of the Holy Spirit.

As tears rolled down my cheeks and splashed on the Bible page, I knew God had given me the key for changing my marriage. I have been trying so hard to please, to adapt, to be the wife Danny seemed to want. I have been reading anything I could get my hands on that might help me in my marriage. But as I had tried harder and harder, the burden had gotten heavier and heavier, until I knew I was miserably failing. However, on that morning years ago, God gave me the key. *The key was not to focus on my relationship with Danny but to focus on my relationship with God!*

As I spend time with God, growing in my knowledge of Him through prayer, Bible study, obedience, and submission, He would fill my life. And because God is love and because He would fill me, His love would also fill me. Therefore, since God loved Danny, love for Danny would fill my life an overflow from God, through me, to my husband.

I cannot adequately express the relief and joy that swept over me that morning. The instructions were clear: “Get to know God. Spend more time with God. Grow in your personal relationship with God.” I knew what to do. And that morning I relaxed, resting in God’s power while I concentrated on obeying His instructions. Immediately I felt relief from the private burden I had been carrying. It would be weeks, even months after the moment before I could honestly say that the water had been turned wine, but I was no longer frustrated, tense, or worried. God gave me peace and joy within as I put myself in His hands, trusting Him moment by moment to infuse my life and my marriage with His love.

And looking back, I am so grateful I persevered in prayer for my marriage, even during weeks when I received no answer from God or encouragement from anyone else. I knew my marriage was in God’s will, it had His blessing, He had been invited to be the center of it long before the wind had run out, and I just had to wait for Him to tell me what to do...

While my marriage is far from perfect, it is living testimony to the power God has today. God's love in me and through me for Danny is so much deeper, stronger, richer, kinder, steadier than I ever had on my own.

Is that what you desperately want? Just a quiet miracle in your marriage or your home or even your ministry? Then invite Jesus to come in, inform Him of the problem, and invest Him with full authority. Jesus makes change possible even when the love has run out of your marriage... From your heart thank God for just giving you Jesus!

MY FATHER once received a handsome Swiss watch from some good friends. After he had worn and enjoyed it for a while, the watch stopped working. When my mother took it to the local jewelry store, the repairman said that he was very sorry, but he could not fix it. So Mother took it to another repairman and another. They all said the same thing, that it was beyond mending.

Not too long after that, my mother happen to be going to Switzerland, so she touched the broken watch into her bag. When is she arrived, she arranged for the watch to be sent to the company that had made it, explaining that it had broken and no one could fix it.

Within a short period of time, she received the watch in the mail, running like new. The company that it crafted it had no trouble at all and making it work again.

Marriage is God's idea. He "crafted" it. If your marriage is broken, all the "repairman" or counselors or seminars you take it to will be unable to fix it; take it to Him. The Creator who made it in the first place can make it work again. Which is why God has given you Jesus.

- Anne Graham Lotz. "JESUS MAKES CHANGE POSSIBLE...When Love Runs Out." *Just Give Me Jesus*, Thomas Nelson, 2009, Excerpts from Chapter 3.

For Prayer:

Email prayer requests to [prayer@parentcompass.tv](mailto:prayer@parentcompass.tv)

For conversation line about Christ click the blue button in the lower right corner of the parentcompass.tv website to CHAT or text or call 917-760-2643.

For Parent Compass call 214-628-1725 or [connect@parentcompass.tv](mailto:connect@parentcompass.tv).