

The Power of Love
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Introduction: What is the greatest manifestation of God's power?

A. His wisdom and power in the creation should produce awe.

(Isa 40:15-18; Ps 33:6-9)

1. We are greatly benefited when we daily see and remember this.
2. From these truths I can understand the possibilities of anything God chooses to do. **(Lk 18:26-27)**

B. The greatest manifestation of God's power is His ability to change the heart of a man. **(Ezk 36:26-27)**

1. God can do this without forcing men as robots. We can choose and God's power can then be unleashed in our lives.
2. What does this power look like? It is called love.

I. God has always sought to reveal His love to man

A. Jacob knew God to have a steadfast love and faithfulness. **(Gen 32:10 RSV)**

1. Since there was not a written word at this time we know that Jacob had learned these truths from many sources.
2. Jacob knew God and His character. God identifies Himself to later generations as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **(Ex 3:6)**
3. This knowledge is where God's power to change hearts begins.

B. When God gave a written revelation His love was greatly proclaimed.

1. The powerful manifestation of God's power in the giving of the 10 commandments reveals God's love. **(Ex 34:6-7)**
2. The revealing of God's love also reveals other attributes of God's nature.
3. Man must humble himself before any of these truths can help him.

C. Over and over men are shown how His love can provide forgiveness as they struggle with their own sin. **(Psa 25:5-9)**

1. It is a shame that so many turn from God because they do not know Him.
2. The path to God must first begin with an admission of personal defeat!

D. Men can bear with injustice and evil because they know God's love. **(Psa 40:11-13)**

1. This knowledge takes time to learn.
2. A thoughtful reading and meditation on the scripture can help us see! **(Psa 119:41-42, 76-78, 155-157)**
3. As beautiful and powerful these passages are, there is a greater manifestation of God's love.

II. God sent His Son to demonstrate His love

A. There is a great power in hearing of God's love. There is a greater power in seeing God's love in His Son. **(Jn 1:14)**

1. What would it have been like to see Jesus on a daily basis?
2. Imagine the heartache and hopelessness of many He healed. **(Mt 9:27; 15:22)**

3. What is the greatest need of man and thus their greatest need of mercy?
(Lk 19:10; Mt 9:35-38)

B. How can a man die for his enemies? (Rom 5:6-8)

1. This teaches me that the love of God is not dependent upon what I have done!
2. Why would the creator of the universe make me the center of His love?
3. I know because He demonstrated it. Why did Jesus not just die a quick death?

C. If we really know God's love then we would always run to Him and not away from Him. (1 Jn 3:1, 4:9-10)

1. We live in a world where we often do not know who to trust.
2. God has defined His entire character by love. (1 Jn 4:8)

III. A world without love

A. It is sad to see the media and the world try to define Christianity.

1. There is a struggle for the hearts of men. Gullible people can be easily led.
2. Satan is a master deceiver. (Isa 5:20-21; Jn 8:44-45)

B. A world without Jesus is a world without love.

1. When men seek to push God away, what happens? (Rom 1:24-28)
2. What happens when the home is destroyed?
3. Those who seek "freedom from religion" find a world without Jesus.
(Titus 3:3-5)

IV. Choosing a world with love

A. Love will change our homes. (Mal 4:5-6)

1. The closest manifestation of the love of God should be found in the home.
2. There is a natural affection that even the world should see!
3. Many have turned to the Lord because of their children.
4. As a father my actions will be the first teachings to my child about what God is like! What does your child see? (Eph 6:4)

B. Love will change how we view and act towards others. (1 Cor 13:4-7)

1. Are we living in pride and deceit or is the love of God in our lives. We will be tested daily!
2. It is sobering to hear how Jesus described the religious leaders of His day.
(Jn 5:42)

Love is: Slow to suspect -- quick to trust. Slow to condemn -- quick to justify. Slow to offend -- quick to defend. Slow to reprimand -- quick to forbear. Slow to belittle -- quick to appreciate. Slow to demand -- quick to give. Slow to provoke -- quick to conciliate. Slow to hinder -- quick to help. Slow to resent -- quick to forgive.

3. How I act and think of my brethren is a choice! (1 Jn 3:14-18)

4. The pillars of false movements can be built when love is eliminated.

C. My first choice must be to be forgiven. (1 Jn 4:18-19; 2:1-2)

1. Do you know God and His love?
2. Love will always seek to see ourselves as God does.

Conclusion: Have you let this power into your heart?