# 21 Days in the LOVE OF GOD

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Pastors Emma and
Cathy King Mukisa

WOT PUBLISHING

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# Introduction

Beloved, the Father loves you. Before you consider how well you have responded to Him, give attention to what He has done in Christ. He gave His Son for us. Through the new birth, the believer belongs to His family. His love is the foundation from which we approach Him and the life we are called to express towards others.

These twenty-one readings begin there. The first seven give attention to the Father's love, your place in His family and the assurance with which you can pray. The next seven bring that truth into daily relationships: patience, marriage, speech, friendship and service. The final seven address forgiveness and the practical work of dealing truthfully with an offence, accepting responsibility and pursuing peace.

Notice the order. You receive what the Word reveals about the Father and about your life in Christ, and you act from that reality. Romans 5:5 tells us that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is given to us. As a believer, you can give that love expression. Let the Word govern what you say when you are disappointed, how you respond when someone needs help and the way you treat those closest to you.

## Read with understanding

Take one reading a day, with your Bible open. Read the key Scripture and, where possible, the surrounding passage. Give attention to what is being said and to the people being addressed. Then consider the principal thought in the devotion and the response it calls for in your own life.

Speak the confession with understanding. Give an honest answer to the reflection, pray to the Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus,

and take the practical action seriously. The further-study passages give you somewhere to continue. A few brief word studies clarify particular expressions; their sources are identified in the notes near the end of the book.

You may read alone, with your spouse or with a small group. Some readings use family and marriage examples. If you are not married, receive the instruction about Christ's love and apply it appropriately in the relationships entrusted to you. In a group, give people room to reflect without requiring them to disclose a private hurt.

## Love expressed in truth

The readings on forgiveness call you to act from what you have received in Christ. They also give attention to responsibility, wise boundaries and the rebuilding of trust. Where you have wronged someone, acknowledge the wrong and change the conduct. Where you have been harmed, forgiveness does not require you to hide the truth or return to danger. Seek appropriate help where it is needed.

Let these days bear fruit beyond the reading time. Give the Father thanks for His love. Recognise who you are in Christ, and act on His Word in the conversation, decision or responsibility before you. Walk in the love you have received.

DAY ONE

# The Father Loved You First

*"We love him, because he first loved us."*

1 John 4:19 (KJV)

Before you ever reached out to God, His love had already reached toward you. John tells us, "We love him, because he first loved us." The beginning of your relationship with the Father is not the strength of your search for Him. It is His love, revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a foundation for your faith!

The Bible says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). Love was not merely a thought in the heart of God. It was revealed in what He gave. When you look at Jesus, you see that the Father has acted to bring men into life through Him. You do not have to persuade God to begin loving you; His Word has already declared His love.

Beloved, let this truth settle in your heart. When you come to the Word, come with the consciousness that the Father loves you. When you pray, remember that the Father Himself loves you (John 16:27). Let His love, rather than fear, shape the way you respond to Him today. You are loved, and His Word is your assurance!

## CONFESSION

The Father loves me. His love was revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Word is my assurance. I respond to Him with confidence and thanksgiving. Hallelujah!

## REFLECTION

What changes in the way you approach the Father when you remember that He loved you first?

## PRAYER

Dear Father, thank You for loving me and for giving the Lord Jesus. I receive the assurance of Your Word and live today conscious of Your love. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, amen.

## PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read 1 John 4:9–10 and 19 aloud. Thank the Father for the love He has shown you in Christ.

## FURTHER STUDY

John 3:16; 1 John 4:9–10, 19; John 16:27