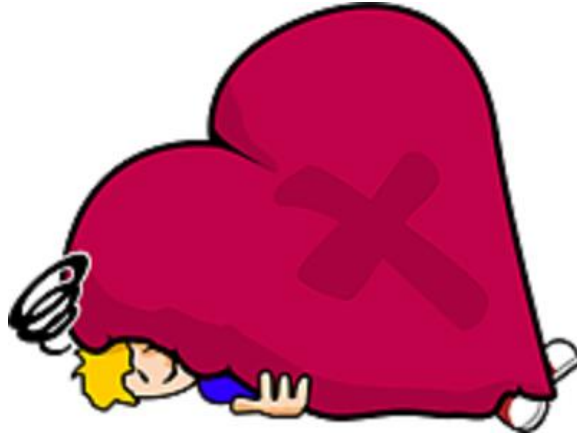


Bask in God's Love

2-24-2023



Psalm 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His
steadfast love endures forever.

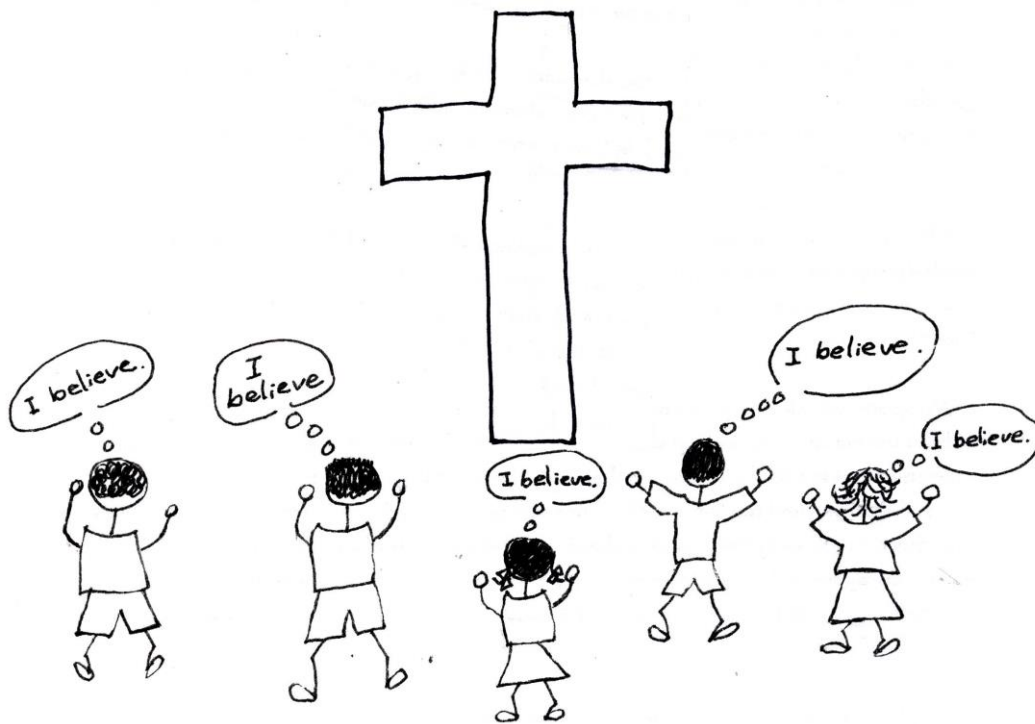
Bask means to lie in pleasant warmth or to take great pleasure. Sometimes when it has been a rainy, snowy or just a bad weather day, when the sun finally comes out we bask in it's warmth. It is very relaxing! When we are anxious or feeling down, we can think about how God completely loves us. We can bask in the warmth of His love. This is the most relaxing! It takes away fear and anxiety.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect (mature) love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected (matured) in love.



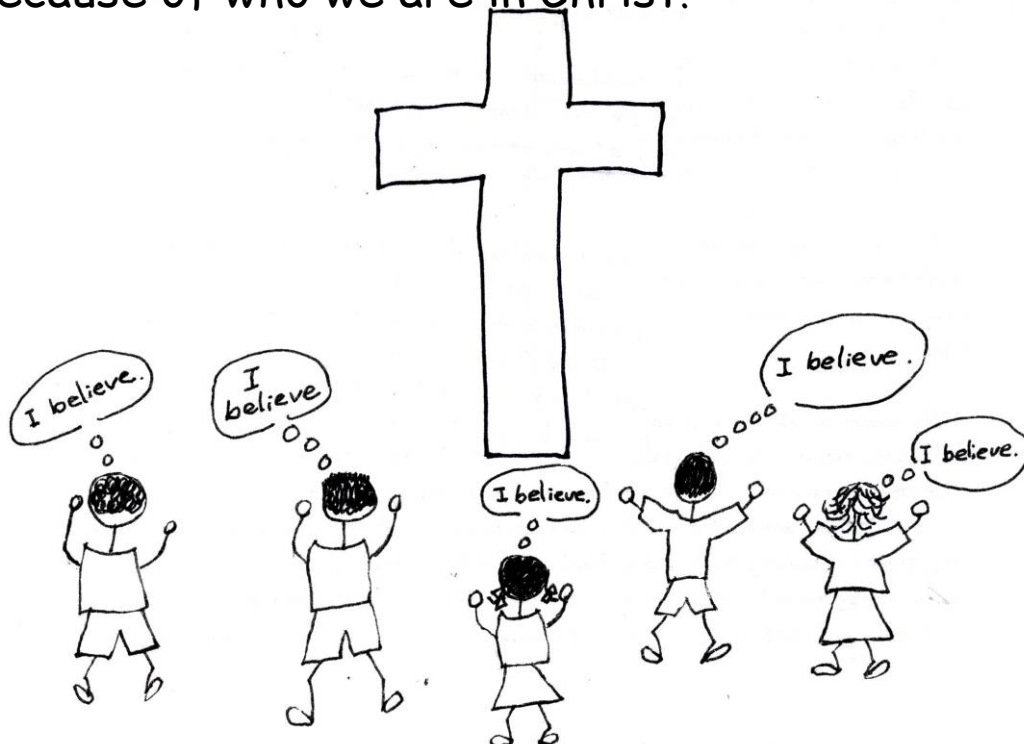
Understanding this love, which is not like the world's love, does not happen overnight. It takes time for the Holy Spirit to teach us. For some of us this takes a long time. We may never have learned real love, the love that God wants us to have and comes from His love. God needs to teach us about His love and how to love others. We are able to love because God first loved us. Once we see how God so loves us, we can love others.

1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.



John 3:16 God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall never perish but have eternal life.

Before our salvation, God loves us because of Who He is. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son". Jesus Christ took care of the sin issue for everyone! God wants us to know that and believe what Jesus did for all mankind. We just have to realize that we are sinners in need of a savior. That Savior is Jesus Christ. He was crucified, died, was buried and rose from the dead. He is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. "Whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have eternal life". We need to believe that so we can be with Jesus Christ in heaven! After salvation, God also loves us because of who we are in Christ!



Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Once we believe in Jesus Christ, nothing can "separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". Jesus Christ comes to live in us. That in itself is amazing. He brings with Him His divine love. The Father sees His Son in us and He loves us with His divine love, because of Jesus Christ. God the Holy Spirit is indwelling us and He throws His divine love in there too! And nothing separates us from God's love! We can choose not to abide or live in it, but it never leaves us.



Romans 5:5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

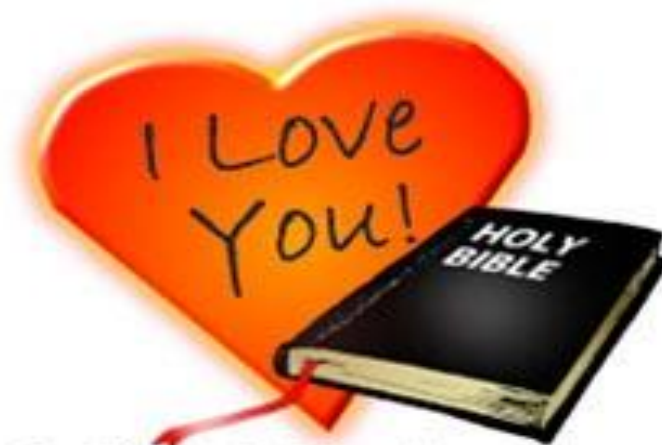
1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (John is talking to believers during his day.)

We are to abide or live in God's love. This means having Christ's thinking in our minds! The Holy Spirit directs our lives through Christ's thinking. Therefore, we can trust and obey what God is telling us through Christ's thinking in the Bible. We can come to know and believe the love which God has for us. The world will do everything to take us away from this kind of thinking - this kind of love and joy! However, God will give us the guidance, grace and strength to abide in His love!



1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

We are to treat others with God's love, with the thinking of Christ. We can only do this through the power of God the Holy Spirit. He will use the Word of God that we have stored in our minds. That is why it is so important that we read and study the Bible. The Holy Spirit has to have something with which to work! The more we learn about God through Scripture, the more we will learn about His love for us. We will never completely understand God's love because it is immeasurable - it is beyond what we can understand in our finite or limited minds. Even when we are in heaven we will be learning about the love of God. God's love is infinite - not limited, no bounds!



The Bible is God's love letter to us.

Luke 6:31-32 Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

We all want to be treated kindly. This is how we are to treat others. Even when we don't like the other person, we are to be considerate of him or her. It is easy to love those who love us. But it is difficult to love those who don't love us. However, with the power of God the Holy Spirit we can show kindness and consideration to them. In fact, during times of being with difficult people, the Holy Spirit will give us the power to be at peace. This is amazing grace! We can't do it on our own. It is so much better than getting upset with the person. When we get upset we are really not being kind to ourselves or the other person.



Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

God called us to freedom from the Law of the Old Testament by the work of His Son. We don't have to sacrifice a bull, a lamb or any thing for our sins. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed on the cross as our substitute for sin. We, as believers in Jesus Christ, are no longer condemned to the Lake of Fire. We will live forever with God in heaven*. By believing in Jesus Christ's work on the cross, His death, burial and resurrection, we are free to live life in Christ. All Christians are the body of Christ with Jesus Christ as the Head. We are to serve one another - encourage each other as Jesus did. *Read Romans

8:1-3.



1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect (mature) love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected (matured) in love.

When I am afraid I think of God's love for me. You can do this too! You can think about how big God's love is - it has no boundaries! It will take your mind off of your fear and onto God's love for you. God loves us soooo much that He will always do what is best for us. We have to be willing to accept God's love and obey His commands found in the Bible. Therefore, to grow in His love we need to keep our noses in the Bible and let the Holy Spirit direct us.



1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God's love is infinite - we can't measure it! We will spend a lifetime learning about the love of God and how to love, serve and encourage each other as Jesus did. However, it is worth every minute of time to gain the knowledge of this love. Every second we spend living in God's love will bring us peace. We can know that we are completely accepted by God and He will NEVER reject us! Through the power of God the Holy Spirit, this will get us through the difficult and easy times. We can know that we are loved by God and bask in His love. Ahh! Peace!!

