

Love of God

July 5, 2026

The Love of God — Four Benefits That Change Everything

*“Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” — Romans 5:5 (NKJV)*

Highlight key: = grace / apart-from-works truth · = the precious gift · **bold** = key terms

In His Presence There Is an Answer for Everything

When you come into God’s presence with **thirst**, He fills you. When you come as a **need**, He fulfils the need. When we call upon Him, He answers. In His presence there is **healing** — that is why we gather: where two or three come together, He is in our midst.

Where people often go	Where the answer actually is
Worldly people and worldly ways	The presence of God
Running after the world for every problem	The word — whoever had a need came to Jesus and it was met

- When they were **stressed**, they came to His presence and were healed.
- When they were in **pain or sorrow**, they came to Jesus and were redeemed.
- Jesus is very close to the **broken-hearted** and those in need.

You are privileged: God has opened your eyes to follow the One who has the solution for every problem.

Psalm 23 — Leading in Green Pastures, With You in the Valley

Psalm 23 shows how God leads: “*I will lead you in green pastures... beside still waters... in paths of righteousness.*” **Leading** means the shepherd walks *in front* — you follow behind, as Israel’s sheep followed their shepherd. In ordinary days, God goes ahead of you.

Season	Where is God?
Green pastures & still waters	Leading — just in front of you
Valley of the shadow of death	With you — He does not leave; He stands beside you

Worldly people often leave when trouble comes — when wealth fades or skills run out, crowds drift away. God is the **opposite**: when you say, “*God, I have nothing — I need guidance, help, a solution,*” and you come to His presence, He is closer to you than anything else.

Shadow of Death — Introduction (Not the Main Message Today)

Stop on every word: *valley of the **shadow** of death*. What is a shadow? A shadow dog cannot bite you. A drawn chilli in the pot adds no flavour — it is only a shadow. For God’s children, death’s power is a **shadow**, not the real dog. For the world, sickness, pain, and sorrow feel very real — and when we stand among thousands who see real death, we can forget. But Scripture says: it may look like it is there, yet it **cannot bite you**.

Tell someone next to you: “*It’s just a shadow.*” — for you, in Christ, it cannot affect you the way it affects the world.

That shadow teaching is an **introduction**. Today we go deeper — into **Romans** and the **love of God**.

Romans — Faith, Hope, and Love (The Greatest Is Love)

Romans is the base of the Christian life. Understand Romans and you understand your purpose and what you are becoming. Three threads run through the book:

1. **Faith**
2. **Hope**
3. **Love** — and among these, **love is the greatest**

Most chapters reflect one of these. Love can **transform your whole life** — not by striving to “do something about love,” but by *knowing* the love of God. Grace and peace are **multiplied** through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. In Greek, *peace* (*shalom*) means **fullness, completeness**. The simplest thing you can do: sit, listen, and increase that knowledge.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God — not hearing **once**, but again and again. The Israelites took forty years to reach Canaan because they did not keep hearing the word. Don't hear once; hear again and again.

Whether you need healing, breakthrough, or direction — the key is **love**. Sit and know about love. That is the easiest thing in the world. Even if faith feels weak, just sit and listen.

Romans 5:5 — Core Verse for This Study

“Now **hope does not disappoint**, because the **love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the **Holy Spirit** who was given to us.” — **Romans 5:5 (NKJV)**

The greatest thing is **love** — and the first time *love of God* appears in Romans, the **Holy Spirit** is mentioned too: the Spirit *pours* love into us. You cannot manufacture love by willpower; only the Spirit pours it.

Recap: Four Benefits of Knowing the Truth

Remember what we learnt about **real truth**? Knowing truth sets you free — it does not say *doing* something; it says **knowing**. Four benefits:

#	Benefit
1 □	Exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond — more than you ask or think
2 □	Reigning in life — reign over sickness and problems
3 □	All things added
4 □	Greater glory

Most teaching stops at: God will say yes, no, or wait. Scripture goes further — God gives **exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond** more than we ask *or even think*

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“Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us...” — **Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)**

Low-level thinking	What Scripture actually says
Ask for £1000 — maybe get £500	Even if you <i>think</i> £1000, He gives beyond thought
God answers only what you ask	He is not limited to your asking — even your thoughts trigger overflow
God can’t bless you more than your faith	Raise faith by hearing high-level truth again and again

Tell someone next to you: “*God can’t bless you more than your faith.*” — low faith caps God’s move; bring faith to the level of **exceedingly abundantly**.

Talk with someone for five minutes and you can often see where they will be in five years: boring talk breeds a boring future; declare “*In Jesus’ name I have everything*” or “*By His stripes I am healed*” and watch faith reshape the path ahead. Worldly people believe in words too — we have a **greater** promise.

Israel faced a sea and mountains — impossible for humans. Most said Canaan was unreachable; only **Joshua and Caleb** had a different spirit. Are you thinking like the world, or seeing **God behind the situation**? God makes impossible things possible.

*“That He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with **might** through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the **love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” — Ephesians 3:16-19 (NKJV)*

How do you receive exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond? **By knowing the love of Christ.** Not doing — **knowing**. How easy is that?

Tell someone next to you: “Knowing the love of Christ.”

4☐ Benefits + 2☐ Questions — Road Map

Today: **four benefits** of knowing the love of God — plus **two questions** we answer at the end. Six parts total. Ready?

1. Hope shall not disappoint
 2. Exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond
 3. Intimacy with God
 4. Not being worldly
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Question 1 — Why Only John, “The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved”?

*“Now there was **leaning on Jesus’ bosom** one of His disciples, **whom Jesus loved**.” — John 13:23 (NKJV)*

Jesus had **twelve** disciples — yet only here does Scripture name one as “*whom Jesus loved*.” Why only John? Was it a special mission? Because he was close? Because he wanted to know Jesus more? John leaned on Jesus’ **heart** — heart speaks of Christ’s

love toward him. We will answer fully at the end; hold that thought.

Question 2 — Peter's Love vs John's Love

*"Peter said to Him, **"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"** And so said all the disciples." — Matthew 26:35 (NKJV)*

Two pictures of love:

John	Peter
Leaning on Jesus' bosom — resting in His love	"Even if I must die, I will not deny You" — showing his love
Knows the heart of Jesus	Ready to prove loyalty by action

When you know the difference between Peter's love and John's love, you will know the **true love of Christ** — and then exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond opens up.

Second part of Question 2: After the resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times, *"Do you love Me?"* Peter answered each time, *"I love You."* Why repeat? Because Peter **denied three times** — Jesus restores him. But go deeper: **why ask at all?** Peter was trusting **his own love**. We answer this fully at the end.

*"So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me** more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that **I love You.**" He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**" ... He said to him again a second time... "**Tend My sheep.**" ... He said to him the third time... "**Feed My sheep.**" ... Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, **You know all things**; You know that I love You."" — John 21:15-17 (NKJV)*

1☐ Hope Shall Not Disappoint

How many want hope that **never disappoints**? Biblical hope (*elpis* in Greek) is not worldly wishing — it is **confident expectation of good**: 100% expectation that what you hope for will come, and it will be good.

Tell someone next to you: “*Confident expectation of good.*”

Worldly hope can fail; people’s hope can fail — **Bible hope does not disappoint**. And you receive more than you hoped for, because the love of God has been **poured** into your heart by the Spirit. You cannot love others by sheer will — the Spirit must pour love. When you *know* the love of God, what you hope for **will** come: health, solutions, light, wisdom.

“Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.”
— **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)**

You may have huge faith — faith to move mountains — but without **hope**, faith has no substance. Like expert musicians who never play: talent unused achieves nothing. Faith is the substance of what you **hope** for.

Worldly hope	Biblical hope
Earn £1000 → hope for £1500 next month (what you <i>see</i>)	Hope for a million while trusting what you <i>don’t</i> see — Christ took your pain at the cross
See sickness → speak sickness	See sickness → say: “ <i>You took all my sickness; I have a sickness-free life</i> ”
Small job → small hope	Hope to employ thousands — giving hundred houses, not merely buying two

Maybe we stay in the same situation because our hope is **too small**. Tell someone: **have big faith, big hope** — not securing one job but giving a thousand people jobs. The height of your hope and faith shows how big you think your God is.

Father and son picture: If a father earns £1000 and the son truly knows his father’s worth, he won’t ask for a £10 toy car — he’ll expect at least what matches

the father’s ability. Your **dream reveals how you value your heavenly Father**. He didn’t create you to live an ordinary life and die unnoticed — He wants you a **testimony** so neighbours say, *“God is definitely with them.”*

2▯ Exceedingly, Abundantly, Above and Beyond

When you know the **love of Christ**, blessing flows **according to His riches and glory** — not according to how small you think. (We unpacked this in the Truth recap above; the key stays the same: **knowing**, not striving.)

3▯ Intimacy with God

If your friend’s father is the school principal, you gain access through friendship. How much more when the **Creator of heaven and earth** is your close friend — the very fact you breathe today is privilege. John leaned on Jesus’ bosom because he knew one secret: the **love of Christ toward him**.

*“**Simon Peter** therefore **motioned to him** to ask who it was of whom He spoke.”*
— **John 13:24 (NKJV)**

Peter had love — but to ask Jesus a question, he lacked boldness. He told John: *“You ask Him.”* By knowing the love of God, you gain **intimacy** — you can know the heartbeat of God; people will ask you what God thinks.

Voice	How they speak of Jesus
John — man of love	<i>“In Him is no sin”</i>
Peter — man of action	<i>“He did no sin”</i>
Paul — man of intellect	<i>“He knew no sin”</i> — yet He took your sin so you become righteous

*“A **new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.”* — **John 13:34 (NKJV)**

4 Not Being Worldly

Can saying “love, love, love” really turn you from the world? Or must we use fear — “*God will punish you unless you behave*”? Scripture points elsewhere: when the **love of the Father** fills you, worldliness loses its grip.

“Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him.” — 1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

“For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is **not of the Father** but is of the world.” — 1 John 2:16 (NKJV)

People drift toward the world because the **love of the Father is not in them**. Everything points back: know the love of God → hope won’t disappoint → overflow blessing → intimacy → freedom from the world.

The Plot Twist — Love of God vs Love for God

Here is where many get confused. Peter had love. John had love. But one thing was missing in the fight: distinguishing **love of the Father** from **love for the Father**. In English grammar (harder to see in Tamil), the Bible uses both — and they are not the same.

Love of God / Father	Love for God / Father
How much He loves you	How much you love Him
Knowing <i>His</i> love toward you	Trusting <i>your</i> love toward Him
Transforms life	Peter’s path — failed when tested

- Knowing how much He loves you → hope won’t disappoint.
- Knowing how much He loves you → exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond.
- Knowing how much He loves you → intimacy.
- Knowing how much He loves you → not worldly.

Two messages compete in Christianity: “*Know the love of God*” (life-changing) vs “*Love God with all your heart*” as self-effort (Peter’s failure). Peter swore **agape** loyalty — then denied Jesus with cursing, three times. His **own love failed**.

“**This is love**: not that we loved God, but that **He loved us** and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” — **1 John 4:10 (NKJV)**

Can a son equal a father’s love? If you claim you love God with all heart, mind, and strength *by your strength*, you indirectly claim equality with God. We are not saved by **our** love or deeds but by **His**.

“As it is written: “**There is no one righteous**, not even one;” — **Romans 3:10 (NKJV)**

“Therefore **no one will be declared righteous** in God’s sight by the works of the law...” — **Romans 3:20 (NKJV)**

“And you shall **love the LORD your God with all your heart**, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the **first commandment**.” — **Mark 12:30 (NKJV)** — the top commandment under the **old covenant**; before the cross, the new covenant was not yet established. Questions people asked Jesus still came from the law.

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by **one Man’s obedience** many will be made **righteous**.” — **Romans 5:19 (NKJV)** — Adam’s disobedience brought sin, sickness, pain; **Jesus’ obedience** makes us righteous. Not your strength — **His**.

☐☐☐ **Greek Love Words — John 21 Answered**

English hides the dialogue. In Greek there are four loves: **agape**, **phileo**, **storge**, **eros**. Here, **agape** is sacrificial, divine love — the love with which **Jesus died for us**. Peter once claimed agape (“I will die for You”). Jesus asks: “*Do you agape Me?*” — the same level Peter claimed.

Round	Jesus asks	Peter answers
1st	Agape Me?	Lord, You know I phileo You — friendship love, smaller
2nd	Agape Me?	Again: I phileo You — I can't die for You; I love at my level
3rd	Jesus lowers: Phileo Me?	Yes — You know all things; I phileo You

Jesus meets Peter where he honestly is: *“Your small love is enough for Me to show My big love toward you.”* The same Peter who denied three times stood at Pentecost — **3,000 saved** through his preaching. Once he stopped trusting his own agape and received Christ's, he stood bold. *Peter* means wavering wind — after he understood he could not love God the way God loves us, he became stable in proclaiming that truth.

Answers to the Two Questions

Question 1 — Why only John?

John wrote about **himself**: *“The disciple whom Jesus loved.”* No one else recorded it that way — **he said it of himself**. What you write about yourself in your heart matters. Practice saying: *“I am the one Jesus loves.”* That humility — receiving His love — is greater pride than boasting your love for Him. Most disciples were martyred; tradition holds John lived to old age — receiving His love, not performing yours, marks a different path.

Question 2 — Why three times?

Three denials → three restorations. But deeper: Jesus exposed that Peter trusted **his own love** (agape he could not sustain). In Greek, Peter finally admits **phileo** only. Jesus accepts it — and pours agape *from Himself* onto Peter. That is the gospel fight: **love of God wins** over love for God as self-trust.

The Takeaway — Four Benefits Recap

1. **Hope shall not disappoint** — biblical *elpis* = confident expectation of good; faith needs hope as its substance (Hebrews 11:1).
2. **Exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond** — according to His riches, not your ceiling (Ephesians 3:20).
3. **Intimacy with God** — lean like John; know Christ's love toward you (Ephesians 3:16-19; John 13:23-24).
4. **Not worldly** — the love of the Father drives out love of the world (1 John 2:15-16).

Know the love of God poured into your heart by the Spirit — not strive in love *for* God as Peter did. Write on your heart: *I am the one Jesus loves*. Allow Him to love you, bless you, and transform you.

Scripture-based study on Romans 5:5 and the love of God. If it strengthened you, share it with someone who needs to rest in His love today.
