



## Our Stunning God is For Us!”

**Listen up!!** God is love. Really? What does this mean? Does He bring me flowers?

**Seriously:** What does it even mean, “God is love,” and what does it mean for me?

**First, God is love by His nature—an unconscious ease from inside of Himself.**

- 1 John 4:8:

**Second, God loves us emotionally—He feels affection for us.**

- Zephaniah 3:17:
- 1 Peter 2:9, 10:

**Third, God loves us compassionately—wellbeing matters to Him—He is for us.**

- Romans 8:31, 32, John 3:16 and 1 John 4:9:
- Jeremiah 29:11-14 and Psalm 27:10:

**Fourth God loves us intentionally and volitionally—He chose to love us.**

- John 3:16, 17 and John 15:16:
- Ephesians 2:1-9:
- Based on His decision to love us God *continually acts for our wellbeing*.
  - He acts:
  - He acts continually:
  - He acts continually for our wellbeing—it is vital to Him:

**Core Truth:** Our stunning God loves us—He intentionally and continually acts for our wellbeing...and so must we, toward Him and toward others.

**So what?** We must love like God loves! We must say, “I am for you and I will live into that decision by continually acting for your wellbeing.”

- Love God with all that we are. Matthew 22:37
- Love others as we love ourselves. Matthew 22:38, 39
- Love yourself well. Matthew 22:38, 39
- Love your wife as Christ loved the Church. Ephesians 5:25
- Love your husband by respecting him. Ephesians 5:33
- Love your children by training them and not exasperating them. Ephesians 6:4
- Love your parents by obeying them. Ephesians 6:1-3
- Love the lost by sharing with them. 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21
- Love your enemies. Matthew 5:44
- Love strangers. Romans 12:13 and Hebrews 13:2

**So we must always ask:** What does this person need at this moment? Then, if I have that will I give it?

# “Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.*

**Core Truth:** Our stunning God loves us—He intentionally and continually acts for our wellbeing...and so must we, toward Him and toward others.

**First, will you please commit to the 300 second challenge each day?**

**“The 300 Second Challenge”:** For 300 seconds every day will you commit to pursue God through reflection and prayer around this question:

*“Father what are You saying to me and where are You leading me?”*

The idea is to *know* God and to *draw near* to God and to *experience* God and *submit to personal transformation*.

**Please remember:** God is not the *distant Prescriber of your behavior*, rather *He is the intimate Leader of your life*.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas. A spiritual journal would be an excellent way to record your thoughts and prayers:

- **Today.** Please read 1 John 4:8. What difference does it make that God is love by His very nature?
- **Monday.** Please reflect on the reality that God has great affection for you. Zephaniah 3:17; 1 Peter 2:9, 10. Does this match your idea of how God feels about you?
- **Tuesday.** Please reflect on the truth that God is committed to your wellbeing. Jeremiah 29:11-14; Psalm 27:10. What does this mean for your own life?
- **Wednesday.** Please read and reflect on Romans 8:31, 32; John 3:16 and 1 John 4:9. What is the common denominator in these three passages? So what?
- **Thursday.** Please reflect on this truth: God loves us—He intentionally and continually acts for our wellbeing—this is all based on a decision inside Him.
- **Friday.** Please ask God if there is someone who needs you to act for their wellbeing. What do they need? Do you have that? If you have it will you give it?
- **Saturday.** Please read and reflect on Matthew 22:37-39.

**Note for Connection Groups:** The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.