

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NLT2)

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.

If you don't feel like God loves you, that's not God's fault.

Some of you reading this may be struggling with God's love for you. But let me remind you that God is the image of love, He is love and apart from God there is no such thing as true love, because God loves us with a love that we cannot, in our human minds, truly understand or comprehend. But it's never changes based upon what we do or say, or don't do or say. God's love is perfect, which means He has shown the world that He loves each and every person. So, if they choose not to accept or believe that love, that's their own fault, not God's!

We all know this next verse, which is probably the most quoted and well known verses in the bible.

† **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

God loves so He gave, which sounds simple because we all give things to those we love. But God did not give a "thing"; He gave His all, His everything, His only begotten Son, He gave Himself. With our puny little minds we try to understand that, but we truly don't, because if we did, we would not sleep until we told the whole world about God's love for everyone. But we don't because we don't truly understand God's love. Yet even though we don't understand it, that doesn't mean that it's not true or that God is not showing His love.

Just like I have no idea how water evaporates and floats up into the sky in such a way that I can not see it happening. Then these drops of water are contained in these fluffy things in the sky we call clouds, and later it falls out of the clouds that are floating in the air, back to the ground. But even though I don't understand it or see it happening, does not make it untrue.

It's the same with God's love. We are always looking for a visual of God's love or even a feeling of God's love, and there are times when we get those things, but really not all the time. We simple walk by faith knowing that He said that He loves us and we take it at face value for what God says.

It's like in a marriage, you don't say I love you every second of every day to your spouse. Sure there are those times when you express it with words or gifts or actions, but in a marriage, it's not needed, because you know your spouse loves you.

Jesus does not need to be crucified over and over to remind you that He loves you, He died once and for all to prove His love for you and everyone.

Here's an example of how we don't understand God's love in the bible. Remember the story of Lazarus, you know, the guy who was Jesus' friend and died, and when Jesus found out, Jesus waited a four days before He went to where they had buried Lazarus. You would think, how could Jesus love Lazarus, He just let him die and didn't go running to help him? Once again, it's because we do not understand God's love.

When Jesus got to the town that Lazarus had lived in, it says that ***Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"*** **John 11:35-36** That's love, even though Jesus knew that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, still He wept over the death of His friend, Lazarus, and that showed that He loved him. And even when we read this story, we honestly still don't get it, but it doesn't mean Jesus did not love Lazarus, it means that He did, whether we understand it or not.

But it's more than just an emotion, love is wanting what's best for others. Jesus did not feel all ooey gooey with butterflies in His stomach when He was dying on the cross for you, or even when He was thinking of us as He was about to go to the cross.

So, if that is what you are looking for, then no wonder you don't feel like God loves you. Love is not skipping down the street, holding hands with Jesus, or looking for fireworks every time you think about Him. It's not presents or flowers or jewelry or chocolates. That's how the world defines love, and God does not love as the world does. God loves as God loves!!! I don't understand it, but I experience it everyday, just by knowing God as my Savior. Oh, and if I ever doubt God's love, it's not God's fault, it's mine!

✠ **John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***