



Scripture nugget – Our strength and inspiration is in God's everlasting love

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:11-13).

Holy love is the greatest force in the whole universe. Holy love is the force that moves God to do the humanly unthinkable. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* If we take love out of the perspective, and base our reasoning only on pure logic, then what God has done in sending His only beloved Son Jesus Christ to assume human flesh so as to have a body to suffer and die as a sacrificial atonement for all sinners most of whom are ungrateful, is absolute folly and madness. However, if we put love into the perspective, we can see how Almighty God find strength in His love for mankind to accomplish what must be to Him a great personal, painful sacrifice. In doing so, God sets the example for us on how to love. When Jesus came in the flesh He teaches us how to live our lives on earth: *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39). Thus, holy love is our mission, it is our way, it is our fulfillment. God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8). Anything done in love is pleasing to God. Anything done without love leads to sin. When God commands us to love, He does not expect us to depend solely on our limited human power but He gives all the graces we need to fulfill His will in all circumstances. It is the Holy Spirit Who pours holy love into our hearts (cf. Romans 5:5). Love is the force that can defeat evil as Christ has demonstrated mightily by His Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary, cancelling out the debt due to our sins.

Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me (cf. Matthew 25:40). Through the Holy Spirit, God lives in everyone, baptized or not baptized. Thus, only God can give us the powerful teaching that whatever we do to others, we do to God Himself. It is a profound teaching that gives us great strength and motivation to love even the people who make life difficult for us. Indeed, Christ exhorts us to love even our enemies. We are not asked to love others because they deserve it but for the sake of God Who gives us His commandments of love. The commandments of God lead us to perfection of our love for God and others, protect us from evil doing, help us walk on the true path, lead us to personal holiness and make us ready for a glorious eternity with our Heavenly Father.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, we love because You first loved us (cf. 1 John 4:19). We love because Your Spirit pours holy love into our poor hearts. May I love You as You love me! You said: if you love Me, keep My commandments (cf. John 14:15). Your commandments are based on holy love. I pray that holy love in my heart will dictate my every thought, every word, every deed, every desire. Governed by holy love, I am protected from evil. Thus, I do not fear even if danger surrounds me because perfect love casts out fear (cf. 1 John 4:18). When I come before You on my judgement day, I will be judged by only one criterion: the extent of holy love in my heart. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.