

# MATCHLESS ATTRACTION

## Accessing The Transforming Influence of God's Love

THE CROSS OF CHRIST, when seen and believed, ignites within the human soul the most powerful reality in the universe—the power of God's love, by which He attracts us to Himself without coercion. Upon the Cross God in Christ demonstrated that He actually loves you and me above and before Himself. He literally would rather cease to exist than to stop loving us. When the vision of this selfless love finds access to our hearts, it arouses within us a like, responsive love. We become voluntary captives who willingly, passionately give all that we are to Him. "Love is power."

### Only By Love is Love Awakened

**Hosea 3:1**—Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel."

**Hosea 2:13-14**—**13**"She . . . went after her lovers; but Me she forgot," says the LORD. **14**"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her."

**Hosea 2:16**—"And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me *My Husband*, and no longer call Me *My Master*."

**John 12:32, AB**—I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**—**14**For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge [discern] thus: that if One died for all, then all died; **15**and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

### The Power of The Gospel

**1 Corinthians 1:18**—For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Romans 1:16**—For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

**Galatians 5:5-6, KJV**—**5**For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **6**For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

**Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 135**—Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. . . Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens and extends it. Love will gain the victory.

**NOTE:** "I will win her back with words of love" (TEV).

**Sons and Daughters of God, p. 233**—As soon as Christ is revealed to the soul, the sinner feels that his only hope is in the Lamb of God as the propitiation for sin. As Christ begins to open his love before him, watch the effect, and see what it is.

**The Desire of Ages, p. 478**—The contemplation of the love of God manifested in His Son will stir the heart and arouse the powers of the soul like nothing else can.

**The Desire of Ages, p. 493**—Nothing reaches so fully down to the deepest motives of conduct as a sense of the pardoning love of Christ.

## Submitting to the Limitations of Human Nature

**Hebrews 2:9, 14**—**2**We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone... **14**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

**Philippians 2:5-8**—**5**Christ Jesus... **6**being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **7**but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8**And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**Hebrews 9:26**—He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

## The Supreme Sacrifice

**Matthew 26:38-39**—**38**Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” **39**He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

**Luke 22:43**—Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

**Matthew 26:53, TEV**—Don’t you know that I could call on my Father for help, and at once He would send Me more than twelve armies of angels? (also see John 10:18).

**Matthew 27:46**—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

**Isaiah 53:6, 12**—**6**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... **12**He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of (the) many.

**Psalms 88:3-11**—**3**My soul is full of troubles... **4**I am counted with those who go down to the pit... **5**like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more... **6**You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. **7**Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah... **8**I am shut up, and I cannot get out... **10**Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah. **11**Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

**NOTE:** The Philips translation says, He laid aside His divine “privileges” and “advantages.” What divine privileges? When Christ became a man, He laid aside omniscience (Luke 2:40; Mark 13:32; John 10:18), omnipresence (John 20:17) and omnipotence (John 5:30; Acts 2:22), thus rendering His life of faith in the Father and His sufferings at Gethsemane and Calvary authentic.

**NOTE:** “Soul”=*psyche* in the Greek.

**NOTE:** On the meaning of “this cup” see Revelation 14:10.

**NOTE:** “Forsaken” is from the Greek word *Egkatalaipo*, which is a stronger concept than the English “forsaken” carries. It literally means to “totally abandon” or “desert,” with no sense that the deserting party will ever return.

**NOTE:** In this Messianic prophecy we have a window into the thoughts and feelings of the Savior on the Cross. The cry, “I am shut up (in the lowest pit, in darkness, in death) and cannot get out,” followed by the desperate question, “Shall the dead arise?” indicates that Jesus faced the bleak prospect of eternal death, and yet followed through to save us.

## “Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9