

God So Loved

The owner of a photography studio tells the story of a college boy who came in with a framed picture of his girlfriend. He wanted the picture duplicated. In removing the photograph from the frame, the owner noticed the inscription on the back, written by the girl. "My dearest Tommy: I love you with all my heart. I love you more and more each day. I will love you forever and ever. I am yours for all eternity," It was signed "Dianne" and contained a P.S. "If we should: ever break up, I want this picture back."

The love of the young lady was conditional but God's love is never conditional. God tells us through the prophet Isaiah that. *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."* Isaiah 43:2

God is telling us that going through rivers of difficulty will either cause us to drown or force us to grow stronger. If we go in our own strength, we are more likely to drown. If we invite the Lord to go with us, he will protect us. God's kind of love is directed outward toward others and is totally unselfish.

For us to practice His kind of love seems to be extremely difficult. However, it is possible to practice this love if we let God help us set aside our own desires so that we can give love while expecting nothing in return. Thus, the more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

That is the kind of love that Christ has for us, and Paul tells us in the 8th chapter of Romans that nothing will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"Love is the motivator for everything we do in the Christian life... love for God, love for others and even love for ourselves." Author unknown.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy!" Philip. 1:4