

GOD IS LOVE & SO ARE YOU

God is Love & So are You!

Love is our substance of who we are in Christ Jesus



Now Abides Faith, Hope, & Love

But the Greatest is Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

God is Love & So Are You

Love is our substance of who we are in Christ Jesus

Because we are made in the image of God and we are one Spirit with Him.

Genesis 1:26-27 & 1 Corinthians 6:17

Introduction:

Hebrews 11:1, 3 says “Faith is *the substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” ...continue on to verse 3 - “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

The worlds were made by faith, which is *THE* substance. They were made by God’s substance because He spoke. His Words came from within His heart, within His Spirit, God’s Word, Who is Jesus, came from within the very heart and Spirit of God. It is “Who” He is. Add to this, the Spirit of God was hovering upon the water waiting for God’s Word to be spoken so He could activate the Word of God and bring it to pass - Genesis 1:2. Consider how the Holy Spirit also did that predominantly in the book of Acts with signs, miracles, and wonders when Paul, Peter and others preached - some scripture references: Acts 4:16, 5:12; 6:8, 8:6, 14:3, 15:12; Romans 15:18-19; Hebrews 2:4.

The Word comes from within God Almighty, the Creator Himself. Just as you speak and the words you speak come from within in you. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks - what we say is who we are. As a man thinks in his heart so is he - Luke 6:45 & Proverbs 23:7. Same for God. What He speaks is Who He is and there’s a substance to it...and that substance is Him, and it is faith. And Faith comes from the Word. They are not separate...but whole.

You may need to read that again.

Part 1: God is Love

Put **Hebrews 11:1** in context with **1 John 4:8**:

“Faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...” & “God **is** Love.”

You will notice the words highlighted in bold: (faith) is the **substance** and (God) **is** (love). We will compare the two bold words and their definitions from *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*:

Substance: 1. Essence; Essential Nature; b. A fundamental; or Characteristic part or quality;
2. The ultimate reality that underlies all outward manifestation and change.

Is - Present tense of the verb “(to) be.” (A state of being.)

“Substance”- is *essential nature, essence*. “Is” is a state of being. A constant. “Is and Substance” are constant. Never change. They ARE = I AM. God’s essence, His being is love. His elemental nature is love, His essence, and faith is a part of His elemental nature. So is hope, like 1 Corinthians 13:13 states. These elements are a constant within the very nature of God. They are your nature too.

Let’s put this another way: faith and love are the *same*. God *is* love...love *is* His substance and as 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, faith, hope, and love **abide** but the greatest is love, means they abide together.

Abide: the Greek word for “abide” is #3306 μένω. Means to “remain, to stay.” All three **abide, they remain, they stay**. These three are in God. He is in us and we are in Him, and we know we dwell in Him because He has given us of His Spirit - 1 John 4:13. When we don’t “feel” this way, it doesn’t matter. This is *The Truth*. Just because someone wakes up and “feels” like they’re a cat doesn’t make them a cat. When you don’t “feel” like you operate from faith, hope, and love, go to

these scriptures in your Bible and declare them over yourself. Speak them out loud in your house. It will change you and your atmosphere. Faith, hope, and love - *They* remain. They don't change. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. *They* are the substance of God. It's not only love but all three. Love, with Faith and Hope - this is His eternal nature and the root of everything in Him and in all of existence. You can't separate them from God's essential nature. As love is the root of everything in existence, it operates with faith and hope. They are not separate. Love speaks. Those love words are faith filled and creates a vision (which is hope) of what is "seen" in the God-given imagination, and will come to pass. "Hope" is created by words. Because of "words" we then "see" in our imagination what was spoken. We see this in Proverbs 4:20-21. All three are together but God separates them for study in His Word.

Can people operate without love, of course. These three can work the exact opposite of what God intended. That's what happened when Lucifer fell. All of what is the nature of God was twisted, perverted, and turned in the exact opposite direction within the heavenly creatures (angels) when their rebellion occurred. If it's not love, it's hate - or some lighter version of it like: disgust, vileness, deception, doubt, worry, trepidation, stress, fear, and all the others. All are forms of fear and fear is a compadre of hate. They are hooked up together. Just like love and faith. To be specific: faith, hope & love in the exact opposite are fear, doubt, hate. And it all comes from satan's major temptation he uses with people: doubt.

In the Garden all the serpent had to do was tempt Eve to doubt what God said. But his initial reason as to "why" he did it - his own hate. Hate toward this new creature God had made: mankind. Take a look at Psalm 8:4-8 "What is man, that You are mindful of him? And the Son of man, that You are mindful of him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor. You have him to have dominion over the works of your hands; You have put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas." satan was disgusted that God had made a new creature and this creature was in the image of God.

Faith and doubt are opposites. When we doubt we cannot operate in faith which is part of our essence. This goes against our essence and goes against God's essence. Conclusively, when we get caught up in fear, doubt and hate we are caught in sin - "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" - Romans 14:23. Faith is what pleases God - Hebrews 11:6 - we must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

His essence, His state of love, faith, hope essence or state of being will never change. It is our essence. He will never change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, the Great I AM. It's who He is. And faith is the "substance" of His essence - all three Godly elements exist together: faith, hope, & love. But the greatest one of them is love. It is how everything operates. It is how God operates, including in His judgment and wrath. Some Christians think that because God is love that He does not have justice. But you cannot have true justice without love. Cause and effect. When people or created beings (angels) violate God's law, there is an outcome. People innately want justice when something wrong has occurred to them. God is no different. We are made in His image. Doing things right, because it's right, then doing them right is part of God's nature. His essential constant characteristic is in everything He created. He is in everything: His Faith, His hope, and His love are *in everything*. Love is the generator of everything. It is God's substance, the substance of faith, *and it is your substance* - **John 14:20**.

It's like saying someone has brown hair, it's a constant. Like us being born of mankind. It is the type of living creature we are, it's our essence. We were not born as an animal or a bird, or a fish. We are born of the creature called: mankind, and our substance is of God, it is love...faith, hope, and love. These are the essence of who we are.

Even those who are not born again have a sense of justice, morality, faith, hope and love. They can't help it. It's because we are made in the image of God's.

Part 2: Christ's Love Compels us

Now that we know love is the base of our elemental nature we can see **how it works** within us.

2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV “Christ’s love **compels** us....”

KJV - “Christ’s love **constrains** us...”

Constrains is Strong’s Greek #315 anagkazó, to **compel, doing so with urgency**, as **a pressing necessity**.

TPT - “Christ’s love **fuels our passion and motivates us...**”

TMT - “Christ’s love has **moved me to such extremes...**”

God’s essential nature within us behaves in this manner. It’s His Spirit doing this within us. It - He - compels us. He does so with urgency regarding situations. He fuels our passion and motivates us. He moves us to such extremes to carry out His will. And He will only do this in combination with your own “will.” God will never overpower your will. If He could have then He would have done that with Lucifer.

We have to yield to His leadings, compelling, motivations. When we do not yield to Him we then grieve the Holy Spirit. And at the start you can sense it. When someone continually ignores the promptings of the Holy Spirit, He will eventually stop moving within you and let you have your way. Ephesians 4:30. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit no matter what. You can’t change it by your actions. But He won’t be pleased, which means we are not operating by faith, but doubt, fear, and sin.

It’s important to realize above all the virtues of God keep love in the forefront of your thoughts. It binds everything together because it *is* God, who is the essence of

GOD IS LOVE & SO ARE YOU

everything and all of His virtues or goodness is love. They come out of each other - Colossians 3:14. God let His goodness pass before Moses. His goodness is in you!

Part 3: More Parts to His Love

Love is God's essence, His being, His breath of life, and His essence is ours.

Exodus 33:18-23 - Then Moses said, “**Now show me Your glory.**” And the Lord said, “ I will cause **all My goodness** to pass in front of you, **and I will proclaim My Name, the Lord, in your presence.** I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But, He said, “you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live.” Then the Lord said, “There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. **When My glory** passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove My hand and **you will see My back parts:** but My face must not be seen.”

In this passage God says His glory is equated to: His goodness, His Name being proclaimed-spoken-in Moses' presence, and His back parts. (It is my hunch there is so much more to God's glory than we have learned.) And God couldn't let Moses see His face because it would have killed Moses, as Habakuk 1:13 says, His eyes are too pure to look on sin fallen man. Sin burns up in God's presence.

Habakuk 1:13 - “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrongdoing;”

God didn't want Moses to be burned up with His goodness, His presence, His love, His Name, His essence. That's why God had to cover Moses' face and why Moses had to cover his own face with a veil when he went before the people. This was the physical form of what God had to do in the Spiritual realm so that He could save His created man. When sin fallen man is in the presence of God, He burns it up. This may be why God had to kick out Satan and the disobedient angels. God didn't want to destroy His creation. It probably has something to do with a legal

standpoint. God is the ultimate judge and He abides within His own law. Not saying this is the only reason. But it may be a part of it.

Job 34:14-15 - “*If it were His intention* and He withdrew His Spirit and *breath*, all humanity would perish together and mankind would return to the dust.”

If God were to withhold His breath all creation dies. His love is what keeps things in existence everywhere.

His love, His power, and His faith are one unit. You can't separate these things from God and still have God. Yes, this is so big it's difficult to wrap our earthly heads around it. But bless God we can, by faith. And it's His faith within us! He will reveal it.

Let's take a look at the Greek word for God's love: *agape*. Using Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words:

“Love can be known only from the actions it prompts - Like God's love in sending the gift of His Son to save mankind. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself. Love has its perfect expression among men (mankind) in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian. Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, **is not an impulse from the feelings**, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments (which is to love the Lord your God and love your brother as you do yourself - 1 John 4:20-21). It expresses the deep and constant love and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely

unworthy objects, a practical love towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the Giver.”

This is love

God’s glory, His goodness, and His love exude from within Him! They exude from within you. The more you follow His leadings, promptings, compelling, and motivation by spending time in His Word *with* prayer, talking with Him about the things that are on your heart and questions you have, and listening for His leadings, promptings, compelling and motivation the more of His goodness will exude out of you.

2 Corinthians 2:14 “Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the **savour of His knowledge by us** in every place.”

The NIV says, “...uses us **to spread the aroma** of the knowledge of Him everywhere.

There’s a “smell” to us as we yield to Him.

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” We *have* a pure heart only by the Holy Spirit. Nothing to do within ourselves. As **Romans 5:5** says, “...the love of God **is shed abroad** in our hearts **by** the Holy Spirit Who is given to us.” None of this can be done on our own. Our purity of heart is only by the Holy Spirit. A new heart! WE have God’s heart. Praise God, it’s all Him. He’s saved us, purified us, and has adopted us as His own, **and saved us for the day of redemption**, and the Holy Spirit is the downpayment of the epitome of our redemption which is our new immortal bodies and an eternity with Him (1 Corinthians 15). We are His and He is ours.

We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise - **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**. This seal is a **seal of ownership** on us as NIV says, and **His Spirit is put in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come**. And it is God Who makes us stand firm. We don't rely on our strength but on God's within us! What a relief that is. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord." - Zechariah 4:6.

Part 4: The Holy Spirit is in Our Hearts

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name will **teach you all things** and will **remind you** of everything I have said to you”
John 14:26.

Like wise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words - **Romans 8:26.**

Being in flesh in this world is a weakness but the Holy Spirit will help us pray. Sometimes in English, sometimes in tongues. Both are important. As Jude 1:20 says, “Building up yourself on your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit.” Praying in tongues is the way to build up your faith on what you are standing on from the Word until it manifests. This is necessary when we feel weak.

Isaiah 28:11-12 “For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people, to whom He said, ‘This is the rest wherewith You may cause the weary to rest and this is the refreshing...’”

When we feel weary from standing in faith for believing a promise of God, get into praying in tongues and into praise. Both build you up and cause a breakthrough. Look at Psalm 149, praise is our greatest weapon of war! In TPT - verse 6, “God’s high and holy praises fill their mouths, for **their shouted praises are their weapon of war!**” Go back to verse 5, “His Godly lovers triumph in the Glory of God, and **their joyful praises will rise even while others sleep.**” Doing these things will change your mental outlook, will change the atmosphere, and bring about your answer to prayer.

As we simply trust Him and rest in Him and His nature within us we are easily led by His Holy Spirit Who teaches us and reminds us of what He has said to us. What He has revealed to us. We don't have to struggle to "make it happen." We simply trust Him. And then do whatever He leads us to do. Our flesh may have a hissy-fit. But we let the Holy Spirit through our own spirit have priority and lead us.

We have faith, hope, and love **because** of Jesus. And faith in Jesus can only happen **because** of the Father, "No man can come to Me, except the Father which has sent Me **draw** him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44. It is God the *Father Who brings us* to Himself. He brings all those who are His, His seed, to Himself. This entire world we live in is about the seed war - seed of the serpent; seed of the woman - Genesis 3:15. God the Father will draw all who are His to Himself. He will not loose one. No way. His will is for all flesh to be saved. **2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wanting any to perish** but for all to come to repentance." And God is not a man that He should lie; all of His promises He has made to Himself...yes, they are ours as well...but He made them to Himself - Numbers 23:19 and Hebrews 6:13-20. His Word comes from within Him. It is "Who" He is, His promises are first to Himself and He will bring them to pass.

*

*A sister in Christ told me something
the Lord said to her in prayer.*

She had asked Him:

"What is Your truth? I want to know Your truth?"



God told her:

“I love you and I want to be with you.”

This is the Father’s heart toward us!

If you’ve been sensing out of sorts, not close to God although He is in you and will never leave you or forsake you, we can approach His throne in prayer because of Jesus’ blood of which we *always* have, and ask the Lord to forgive us. To help us keep on His track and reconcile us back to Him - Hebrews 4:16 & 2 Corinthians 5:18.

This is the Love of God in action.

This is God’s love toward us. He wants to be with us. He wants to be included in all we do. We are already reconciled to Him. We don’t ever loose that. He has reconciled us to Him through His Son Jesus. As 2 Corinthians 5:19 says God ***was*** reconciling ***the world*** to Himself in Christ... He has already done this to all! All we have to do is receive His great gift.

We love Him enough to come to Him and ask Him for help. But maybe we haven’t been sensing Him; or haven’t been in the Word and prayer like we usually are, these things affect our hearing from Him. Doesn’t mean He’s not there. Our spiritual ears weren’t hearing. God is always talking to us, always leading us.

When there are times it may “feel” as if God is distant, there are one of three reasons why:

- 1.) it is during the time of a test/trial;
- 2.) or there is disobedience (sin) - can be a simple as not doing what He told you to do, or spending the time in His Word;
- 3) or getting to busy with life and not spending time with the Lord in the His Word and in prayer.

If it's a test/trial - 1.) it is like being in school and being given a test. The teacher sits at their desk quietly until the test is over. Although they are quiet the entire time, they never left. Same with God. He never leaves us! But He is quiet during times of testing. These are times of learning for us. Standing in faith because we know His promises, and all of His promises are “yes” and “amen.”

If there's disobedience - 2.) all we have to do is ask for forgiveness and receive it - 1 John 1:9. Depending on the situation, we can also ask for the Lord to guide us in how to handle it and if there is anything to do about it, then do it. 1 Timothy 2:4 TPT - “He longs for everyone to embrace His life and return to the full knowledge of the truth.” God longs, yearns for us to embrace Him. His life. His love. His truth. And **return** to the knowledge of the Truth when we mess up. And include Him in all we do.

This is who you are!

His love, faith, hope and His power work in unison at all times. You can't have one without the other. His love, His power, His life. When something dies, the essence of it comes back to Him because its essence is love. When He exhibits His love He exhibits His power. You don't have one without the other. All of His creation is the essence of His love. His power. His life. He used His love through Jesus (the Word) and the Holy Spirit to ignite all of creation.

We are made in the image of God.

“As He is, so are we in this world.” - 1 John 4:17

Receive this in all it's vastness.

Once you can receive it you can reflect it to others.