



God loves you totally and unconditionally
whether you believe it or not.

He's the perfect Father
and He wants you to be His child
so He can show you just how much He loves you.

Do you want to understand more about His love for you
and experience it more in your own life?

This booklet will help you.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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GOD LOVES YOU



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‘God Loves You’
by
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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken from
the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE)
(Any words in brackets are not in the original text
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A Wonderful Love Relationship

You have now started on the wonderful lifetime adventure of getting to know God better. Don't give up if you feel you're not getting anywhere. Don't give up if life gets difficult. Don't give up if you don't feel like it. Choose to believe your relationship with God is real, and think and talk and act in that belief, not by your feelings. Relax, don't drive yourself. Focus on how much God loves you and your love for Him will grow.

God loves you as no-one else can. He will never let you down. He is absolutely constant and faithful. His love for you is totally non-manipulative and unconditional. He is always drawing you to Himself with love. He has promised He will never leave you. He says in Hebrews 13:5 – *"I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you."* And Jesus says to you in Matthew 28:20 – *"Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* He is with you now in this life and you will be with Him in heaven for eternity. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, God is there. Even if you struggle with good relationships with other people, this is one relationship you don't have to struggle with. Believe in it and enjoy it – just you and Him – He is your perfect Father and you are His beloved child.

Jesus said in John 8:32 – *"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* I've shared the truth with you and if you choose to believe it and follow it, it will indeed set you free and you will be able to say with complete confidence from Romans 8:38-39 – *'I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God's love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

GOD LOVES YOU

I wonder what your response to this statement is – "Yes, I know!" or "No way!" or "So what?" Whatever it is, the truth is still the same. Believing post-boxes are purple doesn't alter the fact that they are red! In the same way, believing God doesn't love you doesn't alter the fact that He does love you. But you have to decide to trust Him. It's as you believe He loves you that you'll find it's true. And God isn't just loving – He is love. It's the very essence of who He is. It motivates everything He thinks, does and says and that love is directed towards you. He says in Jeremiah 31:3 – *"I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness."*

God's Love is Non-Manipulative

God made you with free will. You're not a pre-programmed robot or a puppet on strings. This means that you can have a real love relationship with Him. If you were able to force someone you loved to love you back, it would not be a good relationship – you could even call it abuse. God made you free to love Him or reject Him, so that when you do love Him, it's a real relationship which brings joy to you both.

God is sovereign, possessing supreme and ultimate power, but He doesn't use it to stop bad things happening. His sovereign will is that people have freedom to choose their way whatever the consequences. This means that lots of bad things happen in the world which are not what He wants. There are consequences to free will which we have to take responsibility for. God grieves to see people suffer as a result of their bad choices or the bad choices of others. He grieves over it even more than we do.

Have you blamed God for things which have gone wrong in your life? Have you doubted Him because of the horrors of this world? Don't blame Him – if He stepped in every time something went wrong He would be denying you the free will He created you with and He will never do that.

God wants you to lead a fulfilled life. Jesus says in John 10:10 – *“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”* God is able to bring you through the difficult times if you will let Him. If you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you will experience peace and joy for eternity and you can do so even now in this broken world.

God is always drawing you with love, but He won't force Himself on you. You're free to respond or not – that's real love. He will always be faithful to the way He made you. He will always allow you choice. That's why you can trust Him and love Him back.

God's Love is Unconditional

Nothing you do or don't do affects God's love for you. Do you see God as remote, a dictator figure, a stern headmaster, someone waiting to catch you out, or someone who just doesn't care? Nothing is further from the truth. Nothing you can do can make God love you more. Take a moment and think about that. However good the things you do, they can't make God love you any more than He does, because His love for you is already total. And nothing you can do can make God love you any less. Think about that. Sin is what the Bible calls the things you think, say and do which are wrong. Even the most appalling sins cannot make God love you less. His love for you is totally unconditional.

God is love but He is also holy and has always hated sin. Therefore justice had to be done. In the days before Jesus, He

The Bible

This is the main way in which God will speak to you. It will help you to build yourself up in God's love for you and in all Jesus has done for you. John's Gospel is a good place to start. Don't read the Bible as a duty or a burden. Read it because you want to understand and experience God more. And don't put yourself under a rigid system. It's better to read one verse that really speaks to you and for it to stay in your mind through the day than a whole chapter which you forget. As you read and meditate on it, you'll find your love for Him growing and you'll enter deeper into your relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit

Start to listen to hear what God's Holy Spirit is saying to you. Be still and you can hear His voice in your heart. He may speak to you directly or through the Bible or through other Christians.

Family

As a child of God you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian you are now born-again and they will help you in your new life in Jesus. You don't have to go to church, but meeting with your Christian family there will help you to grow as a Christian and it's good to be able to support each other and worship God together. You won't be able to find a perfect church because there isn't one! Find one that focuses on Jesus and makes you really welcome.

Praise and Worship

Singing praise and worship songs to God will also help you to deepen your relationship with Him. You can do it by yourself at home. You could ask other Christians to recommend some good music. Don't sing songs that focus on your needs or how you feel. Choose ones that focus on God's love and on what Jesus has done and won for you.

you as your Saviour. Believe it in your heart and say it out loud.

Did you feel a sense of joy, relief, release or peace as you did that? Great, but if you didn't, don't worry. The fact is you are now born-again and your love relationship with God has begun. You are now God's child and He is your perfect Father.

And you are made new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says – *'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.'* Neither your body nor your soul (your mind, will and emotions) have been made perfect, so how can you be a new creation? You are brand-new in your spirit. Jesus died that His righteousness might be reckoned to you, and now you are born-again, that has become reality in your spirit. You are now right with God – you really are a new creation!

Foster Your Relationship With God

God's love isn't just about feelings and emotions, which can go up and down. It's about an ongoing experience of His love in a relationship with Him. Start learning to live in this relationship by faith rather than by feelings. Some wonderful feelings will come along – enjoy them, but don't rely on them. Instead, rely on God and on His truth. It's only as you believe it that you'll start to see it's true.

Spend time with God, just as you would in a human relationship. Talk to Him – call Him Father, tell Him you love Him, thank Him for all He has done for you through Jesus, praise Him for His love for you, tell Him your problems, ask for His wisdom and help, listen to Him – you'll learn to recognise His voice speaking to you. There aren't any rules – God's love for you is still completely unconditional. But there are things you can do to help you understand more of Jesus and all He has done and won for you and to help you experience more of God's love.

had to punish people, but He never wanted to do this. So He sent His Son Jesus to live on earth and die the cruellest death. Jesus's death was God's punishment for all sins. Justice has been done against sin. God put all His anger against sin and all the punishment for it on Jesus, instead of on people. And through it He showed His unconditional love and mercy – because Jesus has suffered the punishment, you were forgiven and set free.

It was a once-for-all sacrifice. It was for all people – past, present and future. It was for all sin – past, present and future. And it was for all time – it will never have to be repeated. Jesus took every sin with all its guilt and shame on Himself so you could walk free. And He did it not just for those who would believe, but for everyone. 1 John 2:2 says – *'He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.'* All your sins, past, present and future, were punished and forgiven as Jesus died. God's not angry with you, because justice has been done and mercy has been given.

2 Corinthians 5:19 says – *'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses.'* Because of Jesus's death, God isn't keeping a record of the things you do wrong. They aren't marked up against your name. He marked them up against Jesus's name 2000 years ago and punished Him instead of you. And not only were your sins reckoned to Jesus, but His righteousness (being right with God) is reckoned to you when you become born-again, when you accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says – *'For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.'* Jesus became what you were so you could become what He is – that's amazing love! Jesus won your forgiveness, but you have to receive it through faith in Him – it's only then that it can become real in your life.

I'm not saying that sin doesn't matter. It matters hugely. It will mess your life up and the lives of those around you. But no-one is perfect, so what do you need to do when you sin? You don't have to beg God for forgiveness. You can never be humble enough or sorry enough or feel guilty enough to earn God's forgiveness. Instead, agree with God that what you did is sin and turn away from it – that's what the Bible calls repenting. And thankfully receive the forgiveness that Jesus has already won for you. Romans 8:1 says – *'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.'* The Cross was enough – there is nothing you can do to add to it. It's not about what you do or don't do, it's all about what Jesus did.

It's All About Jesus

A wonderful relationship with God is there waiting for you. So how do you enter into it? It's freely available, but you have to receive it. People say there are lots of different paths to God, but Jesus made it clear there is only one way. He said in John 14:6 – *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."* You have to come through Jesus.

If you reject Jesus, then after this life is over you will suffer eternal punishment in hell. God loves you so much – He doesn't want you to go to hell. No, He wants you with Him in heaven. But because Jesus is the only way to heaven, if you reject Him it's impossible for you to enter in and the only alternative left is hell. God doesn't send people to hell – you choose that for yourself by refusing to accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. God has shown you His wonderful love by sending Jesus to die in your place and open up the way for you to be with Him forever in heaven, living in love, joy and peace. That's good news!

God is calling you to respond to His love for you. 1 John 4:19 says – *'We love him, because he first loved us.'* God wants to be your Father and you to be His blessed child.

Maybe you've already responded to God's love? Or perhaps you've felt the pull, but ignored it? Or maybe life is so busy or difficult that you've never noticed it? God will not force Himself on you – He wants you to respond freely. The way is open and available to you personally through Jesus. You don't have to ask anyone's permission. Now it's up to you.

How Are You Going to Respond?

Jesus says in John 3:3 – *"... unless one is born anew, he can't see God's Kingdom."* You have to be born-again, that is, accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, to enter into relationship with God and enjoy an eternity of love and peace.

Maybe you are born-again, but feel you've lost it somehow. You haven't – God is still your Father and you are still His loved and forgiven child. You've just lost the experience of it. Start talking to Him again, reading His Word and listening to Him. If you're not sure if you are born-again, just make that commitment now sincerely and you can be sure.

Being born-again is the most important decision of your life because it affects not only this life but what happens after you die. Reject Jesus and you will regret it for eternity. Accept Him and you will have eternity to enjoy in love and peace.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Acknowledge Jesus is God and that He died and came back to life. Accept His sacrifice personally for