

## **The True Plan of Salvation**

### **God is Love. This is His nature.**

1 John 4:16 "And so we know and rely on the Love God has for us. God is Love. Whoever lives in Love lives in God, and God in them."

### **But God's Love is different from the natural human love, and people are not created with this Love.**

John 5:42 "...but I know you. I know that you do not have the Love of God in your hearts."

### **Yet God, our Father, offers us the Gift of His Love. If we desire, we can get closer to God and eventually become one with Him and with Jesus Christ.**

John 17:21 "...I pray that all of these people continue to have unity in the way that you, Father, are in me and I am in you."

### **We can become partakers of the divine nature, so that it becomes a part of ourselves.**

2 Peter 1:4 "...He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature..."

### **The Love of God will be poured out into our very being through the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 5:5 "...God's Love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..."

### **If we sincerely seek this Love by prayer and faith, God will give us His gift in greater amounts.**

Luke 11:9-13 "And so I tell you: keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you ... So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

### **We will grow in this Love, become rooted in the Love, and grow in understanding and appreciating It.**

Ephesians 3:16-19 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

### **We will undergo a mind and heart/soul renewal and transformation.**

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory ....”

Ephesians 4:22-24 “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Colossians 3:9-10 “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

**We will become more Christ-like – taking on the Divine Love that Jesus received as the first of God’s born-again children.**

Romans 13:14 “... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

**Then will happen what Jesus desired – he would be in us and we in him, and God the Father in us and we in the Father.**

John 17:26 “... that the Love you have for me will be in them and I will be in them.”

**As a result of God’s Love transforming our soul, we become a new creation / creature.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

**We’ll grow in the ability to truly love others, love God and love oneself as God’s Love fulfills the law.**

Matthew 22:36-40 “‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”

Romans 13:8-10 “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ... are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

**When we love others in word and deed, we are carrying out the “11th commandment” or Jesus’ “new”, yet not so new commandment.**

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:12 "Love each other as I have loved you."

1 John 2:5 "But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. ..."

2 John 1:5-6 "... I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."

**This is how we can feel the peace that passes all understanding and heavenly joy and happiness, which is also in Jesus.**

Philippians 4:7 "Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand."

Luke 10:21 "At that time, Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit ..."

**God is happy to fill us with more and more of His Love through His Holy Spirit if we ask.**

Luke 11:13 "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Ephesians 5:18 "And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but keep on being filled by the Spirit..."

**After a while, we will feel the effects in our lives.**

Acts 13:25 "Meanwhile, the disciples continued to be full of joy and the Holy Spirit."

Galatians 5:22 "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

**This is what Jesus meant by coming to bring the Living Water and the Bread of Life, that give true life and immortality.**

John 4:10 "If you knew the Gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you Living Water... Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them Eternal Life."

John 6:32 "Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the Bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**To grow spiritually, we need to ask for this Bread every day.**

Matthew 6:11 "Give us today our daily Bread." (This is part of the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught his disciples at their request.)

**This Bread/Water/Love/Christ, coming into us through the Holy Spirit, washing us clean and transforming us, will eventually give us eternal life and salvation.**

Titus 3:5 "... He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit..." (or "He saved us through the washing in which the Holy Spirit gives us new birth and renewal.")

2 Thessalonians 2:13 "We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation – a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth."

**It is a privileged Gift that we now have access to.**

Acts 1:4 "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the Gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in union with the Messiah Jesus our Lord."

**This is what is meant by the New Birth, which Jesus taught – the way to the Kingdom of God.**

John 3:3-7 "'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.' 'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

**All of this is about inner changes in the human soul becoming transformed by the Love.**

Luke 13:20 -- "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

As we get more of this Love, we will become more and more loving, pure, divine, holy, happy, free, peaceful, and joyful. We will grow in faith and knowledge of God. As the divine nature takes over, we will become more and more free from the sinful nature, until this Love possesses us and completely transforms us.

**Are you going to act upon this teaching about God's Love, or are you just a listener?**

As Jesus said in Luke 6:46 "So why do you keep calling me lord, when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. He is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built."

(Reworked and expanded by Eva Peck based on research and write-up from Artto Aunap at Geoff Cutler's forum at <http://board.new-birth.net/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=431>)

For related information, see <http://universal-spirituality.net/truth-and-perceptions/gospels-reflection>