

Lifelines

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Pastor, Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA

August 20, 2026

Topic: *Why do you love the Lord?*

I Love the LORD Because...

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In an era when the airwaves are filled with hatred, we sometimes forget that God is not the author of hatred, the Devil is. Some want to blame the media for our hatred. Some want to erroneously blame God, but God is love to the core of His being. He “hates” sin and destructive behaviors, precisely because they warp and desecrate people whom God created in His own image.

God loves you, me, and everyone created in His image. He created us to live in a 24/7 personal relationship with Him. He desires for us to talk with Him daily, discover what He wants us to do each day, and set about getting it done. He guides believers as we dialogue with Him all day long, talking about how to do this or that, and discovering God's surprise encounters throughout each day.

Adam and Eve were deceived by the Devil in the Garden of Eden, where he tempted them to eat what God had forbidden them to eat. Once they did that, sin entered into the world, and life in a sinless paradise was lost. Our sin broke the pure relationship and interaction that man had with God. As a result, sinful man hides from God, just as Adam and Eve did. But God had a plan to remedy this. He would send Jesus who would live a perfect life, die a brutal death to shed His blood to provide the payment for our sins, and reconnect those who believe into a living personal relationship with God, through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. When we agree with God that we have sinned, and claim Jesus' payment of our penalty, and invite Him to come live within us, we are forever reconnected to God, to live in daily relationship with Him.

In Psalm 116:1-9 (NLT), King David gives a list of reasons why he loved the Lord, saying: “I love the LORD because He hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. Because He bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! Death wrapped its ropes around me; the terrors of the grave overtook me. I saw only trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the LORD: “Please, LORD, save me!” How kind the LORD is! How good He is! So merciful, is this God of ours! The LORD protects those of childlike faith; I was facing death, and He saved me. Let my soul be at rest again, for the LORD has been good to me. He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. And so I walk in the LORD's presence as I live here on Earth!”

These nine verses give us a whole list of reasons why we should each love the Lord. I love the Lord because He hears my voice and my prayers. I love Him because He bends down to listen to me. I love God because He has rescued me from death on numerous occasions, and because He brings me through and out of my troubles and sorrows. I love the Lord, because when I called out to Him to save me, to rescue my soul from eternal death, He saved me. I love that He is so merciful towards us. I love the Lord because He is with me all the time and protects me all day long and throughout the nights. I love Him because He has saved me from eternal death, dries my crying eyes, and holds me up when I stumble.

How about you? Do you know the Lord? Have you prayed and asked Him to forgive you of all your sins, to cleanse you inside and out? Have you received Jesus, so that His Spirit has come to live within you? The next time you feel disheartened, why not pause and begin to talk with God?

“God, I love you so much! You are so good to me. I love you because...” Thank Him for everything that comes into your mind, event after event, assistance after assistance.

Write a list of as many things you can think of that God has done for you, in you, or through you. Whenever you're in a rotten mood, get your list and converse with God, telling Him all the reasons you love Him! While you're at it, why not tell each person you meet today, one specific reason why you love the Lord! It will bless them, bless God, and bless you!

Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at szent.edward@gmail.com. Dr. Jordan's new book: “Doing Love! It can change your life!” can be purchased on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com.