

# LOVE FIRST

## JOHN 10:17-21

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Love is one of the most misunderstood aspects of God's character. To get started read I Corinthians 13:1-3 and footnote 13:7. Faith in Jesus is the *way* of salvation, but love is the *reason* for our salvation.

**NO GREATER EXAMPLE**—The immensity of Jesus' love for the Father and for us is the reason for His willingness to give up His life in a cruel death and be resurrected to save you and me. As our example, love for God comes first and then obedience follows. (**John 10:17, I John 4:13-21, fn 4:20-21, I John 5:1-4, fn 5:3-4, John 14:20-23 fn 14:21, Romans 15:7, fn 15:5-7**) *Why and how could you love the people right in front of you?*

**NO GREATER OBLIGATION**—Jesus, with oceans of love in His heart, willingly and of His own accord, laid down His life to save you and me. This *agape* love has been poured into our hearts and we have an obligation (a debt) to love our neighbors. (**John 10:18, Matthew 22:34-40, fn 22:37-40, Romans 5:1-5, fn 5:5-6, Romans 13:8-10, fn 13:8, John 15:12, fn 15:12-13**) *How could you fulfill the law of Christ?*

**NO GREATER CONTROL**—Jesus had authority from the Father to willingly trade His life for my sin. What drove Him to the cross was His love for me, and now that cross-bearing love is available to me by faith in Him. By faith I am controlled by the Holy Spirit who gives me the power to love as Jesus did. (**John 10:18, fn 10:17-18, John 14:15-18, fn 14:15-16, fn 14:16, John 15:9-17 fn 15:17, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18**) *How can we correct our tendency to fail to love like Jesus?*

*Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*