

The Motherly Love of God

A. The Motherly Love of God.

1. Definition (Oxford Dictionary and Collins Dictionary)
An intense feeling of deep affection characteristic of a mother.
2. Motherly Characteristics:
 - a. Maternal, motherlike, protective, caring, affectionate, warm, tender, understanding, permissive or lenient, sacrificial.
 - b. In addition: loving, forgiving, nurturing (care for and encourage growth or development), devoted (give all or a large part of one's time or resources to a person), fond (doting), gentle, serving to improve a person's mood or restore a sense of physical well-being.
3. Characteristics of the Motherly Love of God.
 - a. A mother's love for her children is one of the most powerful characteristics in the entire world; and depicts the best parallel of God's Motherly Love for all His children in His Kingdom.
 - b. ³⁴ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!** ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "
 - c. ¹⁴ But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me." ¹⁵ "**Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.** ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me."
 - c. God's Love is like a mother's love as God said, Is 66:13
"As a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you."

B. Characteristics of the Fatherly Love of God.

1. Definition (Oxford Dictionary):
An intense feeling of deep affection characteristic of a father.
2. Fatherly Characteristics:
 - a. Paternal, fatherlike, protective, caring, affectionate, warm, tender, understanding, permissive or lenient, sacrificial.
 - b. In addition: supportive, encouraging, vigilant (keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties), sympathetic (showing approval of or favor toward an idea or action).
3. Characteristics of the Fatherly Love of God.

- a. The Fruit of the Spirit: Loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, gentle/kind, good, faithful, humble, and self-controlled.
- b. In addition: Merciful, gracious, just, truthful, wise, perfect, righteous/integrity, disciplines/corrects, teaches/guides, forgiving, protective, compassionate, strong, generous.

C. Good Examples of the Motherly Love of God.

1. The birth mother of Moses was Jochebed. Ex 2:1–10
 - a. *“Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father’s sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty-seven.”* Ex 6:20
 - b. According to Wikipedia, she was the wife of Amram, the daughter of Levi and mother of Aaron, Miriam and Moses. The Hebrews say she is praised for her faith in God.
 - c. Jochebed’s Hebrew name means "YAHWEH is glory."
 - d. Jochebed’s motherly love of God was sacrificial in its offering as she put her faith and her baby into the protective hands of God. She risked her life and most likely prayed for God to rescue her baby. She was unaware that God would answer her prayer in a great way and use Moses for the glory of God. If you are in a challenging situation that seems dire, ask God to rescue you. He will turn around the bad into good and use you for the glory of God.
2. The adoptive mother of Moses was Bithiah. Ex 2:5-10
 - a. The Egyptian name of Pharaoh’s daughter was Renenūtet. She was named after the Egyptian goddess of nourishment and harvest, who represented the positive destiny and fate of a child. She is praised as a woman of valor who willfully defied her father's orders that all male Hebrew children be slain. Instead she took a risk to adopt this child, knowing that he was Hebrew, rescued Moses from the Nile River and reared him in Pharaoh’s Court as her own son. Without realizing it, because of her motherly love of God, the Lord used her for the glory of God.
 - b. Rabbinical historical records show that Pharaoh’s daughter was given a Hebrew first name of Jehudijah, which means “Jewess.” This indicates that Pharaoh's daughter was no longer a pagan. These records in the Talmud and the Midrash Vayosha provide some additional backstory to the event, that she left in the Exodus to be with Moses since her family did not survive the plagues. She married Mered, a Hebrew man who was from the lineage of the tribe of Judah.

- c. Her nickname translated in English is referred to as Bithiah or her nickname translated in Hebrew is BatYah. The Hebrew translation: “Bat” means “daughter of” and “Yah” means “Yahweh.”
This indicates that she had accepted Yahweh as her own God; and because she had made Moses her son, Yahweh would make her His daughter.
- d. *“His wife Jehudijah bore Jered the father of Gedor, 1 Chron 4:18 Heber the father of Sochoh, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these were the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took.”*
3. The mother of the little boy with the five barley loaves and two small fishes.
 - a. Not much is known about the boy nor his mother, but the motherly love of God that she showed to her son to care enough to take the time to pack a lunch for him spilled over so Jesus could expand that love to not only heal the sick but also feed the multitude of 5,000 hungry people who followed Him.
 - b. *“¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, John 6:12-13 Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.
¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.”*
 - c. Maybe the little things that you do for others may one day be used by God to bless many other people like the boy’s mother. The boy carried on his mother’s godly love by offering up his entire meal to Jesus so others could be blessed. Perhaps Jesus gave the boy the 12 baskets of left overs as payment for his generosity so the boy could reap an abundant godly reward for the small seed he had sown.

D. We Should Express God’s Motherly and Fatherly Love to Others.

1. The Sh’ma Hebrew Prayer: ⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”* ⁵ *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”* Deut 6:4-5
2. *“Adam was made in God’s image. He created him; Gen 1:27, Gen 2:23 male and female He created them. God created Eve out of Adam’s flesh.”*
Therefore, we can emulate all godly characteristics of God’s Fatherly and Motherly Love.
3. *“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land.”* Deut 5:16

4. *"My son, observe the commandment of your father; and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck."* Prov 6:20,21
5. *"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."* I Peter 4:8
6. The Great Commandment Matt 22:36-40 (AMPC)
 - ³⁶ *Teacher, which kind of commandment is great and important (the principal kind) in the Law? [Some commandments are light—which are heavy?]*
 - ³⁷ *And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect).*
 - ³⁸ *This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment.*
 - ³⁹ *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.*
 - ⁴⁰ *These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.*
7. God's Motherly and Fatherly Love demonstrated the ultimate sacrificial love.
 - a. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16
 - b. So let us purpose in our hearts to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to demonstrate God's Motherly and Fatherly Love by *"walking in love, esteeming and delighting in one another, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God for us, so that it became a sweet fragrance."* Eph 5:2 (AMPC)
 - c. Affirm Ephesians 4:32 (AMPC)
In the Name of Jesus, God causes me to be useful, helpful, kind, tenderhearted, compassionate, understanding, and loving-hearted, forgiving one another, readily and freely, as God in Christ forgave me because I walk in the Love of God.

Suggestion: No mother is perfect. Every earthly imperfect mother might let her child or children down sometimes. Because today is Mother's Day, consider thanking God for your mother or motherly figures in your life by focusing on the good she has done; and thank God that she nurtured you the best she knew how. In addition, thank God for His perfect Motherly and Fatherly Love for you.



Scriptures to Affirm for Loved Ones

Proverbs 31:28 (NLT)

In the Name of Jesus, _____'s (Person's Name) children stand and bless _____ (him or her).

Jeremiah 31:16-17 (GNB)

In the Name of Jesus, all that _____ (I or Person's Name) have done for _____ (my or Person's Name) children will not go unrewarded. They will return from the enemy's land. There is hope for their future. _____ (My or Person's Name) children will come back to follow God and draw close to Him. For the Lord, has spoken.

Isaiah 54:13 (AMPC)

In the Name of Jesus, _____ (my or Person's Name) child/children shall be (a) disciple(s) [taught by the Lord and obedient to God's will], and great shall be _____ (his/her/their) peace and undisturbed composure.

Matthew 9:38 and Romans 10:15 (NKJV)

In the Name of Jesus, I pray the Lord of the Harvest sends out born-again, Spirit-filled, anointed laborers into His harvest to minister the Gospel of the Good News to _____ (Person's Name).