

The atmosphere of God's love

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love.

JOHN 15:9

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus shows us that His love
is the one reality strong enough
to carry the weight of our lives.

You may not know this about Jesus—
but He never asks you to begin with your love for Him.
He begins with His love for you.

A love that stays
when everyone else leaves.
A love that keeps its promise
even when we don't.

Years ago, an artist
painted a portrait of my wife.
One day I walked into his studio
and saw he had painted over her mouth
with gray paint.
When I asked why, he said,
"The mouth I painted first
wasn't perfect.
I had to paint over it
to make it right."

That is what God's love is like.
Not a love that leaves us unchanged,
but a love that patiently works on us
until we reflect
the beauty of His likeness.

"If you keep My commandments,
you will remain in My love." John 15:10

The atmosphere of His love
is the atmosphere of His words.
The Gospels are where we hear His voice,
learn His ways,
and see His heart.
If we want to live in His love,
we must live in His words—
in His teaching,
His example,
His way of life.

To remain in His love
is to let His words
surround us,
steady us,
and shape us.
His words create the climate
where His love is known,
trusted,
and obeyed.

And Jesus tells us why this matters:
“so that My joy may be in you,
and your joy may be full.” John 15:11
His words do not restrict life;
they release it.
When we remain in His words,
we remain in the joy
that flows from His heart.

What word of Jesus is asking for my attention
so His love can shape me more deeply?

To remain in His love,
I must remain in His words.
His teaching steadies me.
His voice shapes me.
His truth keeps my heart open to Him.
When I stay in His words,
I stay in His love.

Father, thank You
for loving me
with the same love

You have for Your Son.
Teach me to remain
in that love.
Shape me.
Steady me.
Make me more like Jesus.
I pray in His name. Amen.