

# PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys.

Love Embraces Sacrifice

# What Did Jesus Say About Loving Us?

## John 15:9-13 NLT

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you **obey my commandments**, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things **so that you will be filled with my joy**. Yes, your joy will overflow!

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> **There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**

**“It is impossible to love  
deeply without sacrifice.”**

**Elisabeth Elliot (Missionary, Author)**

# Mission Moments...



Ephesians 3:20



# 1. God's Love – Inner Strength & Stability

## Ephesians 3:16-17 NLT

<sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

<sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your **roots will grow down into God's love** and keep you strong.

## 2. God's Love – Power to Understand New Dynamics

### **Ephesians 3:18** NLT

<sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, **how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.**

### **Our Challenge: Love should motivate everything**

**1 Cor. 13:2-3** NLT <sup>2</sup>...if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, **I would be nothing.** <sup>3</sup> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, **I would have gained nothing.**

### 3. God's Love – Experience Fullness with Power

#### Ephesians 3:19-20 NLT

<sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. **Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.** <sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

# How Does God's Love Impact Us...?

**We experience God personally**

**We discover ourselves**

**We abandon damaging decisions**

**We restore what's valuable**

**We see others from God's perspective**

**We change our priorities**

**We uncover new opportunities**

**We experience God's presence and power**

**We flourish individually and together**

**We are willing to sacrifice... become more Christ-like!**

**Sacrifice: "To give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person" (*Cambridge Dictionary*)**



# God's Love Impacts Others Through Us...

## **Ephesians 5:1-3** NLT

<sup>1</sup> Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us...



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