

# The Challenge of Love



Take a moment to quiet your mind before reading today's passage. Ask the Spirit to reveal the truths contained in this section to you.



In the beginning of the scripture, John emphasize the importance of loving one another and this should be the first thing you learn when you become a Christian. Why was Cain's story from Genesis 4:1-8 chosen as an example to explain this point?

In verse 15, John says that someone who hates a brother or sister is equivalent to a murderer. How do we make sense of this statement considering that no court of law would convict someone just because they have negative feelings towards another individual?

Each of us might have our own definition to what love is and how we express it. John reminds us in verse 16 that the sacrificial love from Jesus should be the prime example. It was an act of unconditional love to people that wasn't deserved. What is our biggest obstacle when we try to put our love into action?



Depending on what resonated with you in the passage, respond by praying about the emotions you have been feeling or the experiences you have been reminded about. Let the Spirit guide you in saying this prayer.



Have there been any broken relationship that you have been hesitant to mend because you still bear ill feelings toward the other person? Keep this in your prayer and let the Spirit guide you to do the right course of action.



## 1 John 3:11-24

### More on Love and Hatred

**11** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12** Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. **15** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

**16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22** and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. **23** And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **24** The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.