

# JESUS *the Light of* Christmas

## A 4-WEEK BIBLE-READING PLAN

By Kenneth Copeland Ministries

### WEEK 3

Jesus—The Light of Love  
This Christmas



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Jesus—The Light of Love This Christmas

### MONDAY DEVOTION

# Master Your Love Walk This Christmas

Christmas was created out of God's intense love for us. This time of year, we celebrate the greatest gift of love toward mankind of all time—the Light of Love—Jesus.

We honor God and the sacrifice of Jesus by obeying His commands. In John 15:12 (*KJV*), Jesus summed up the commandments with one statement: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Yet many people may find this challenging during holiday preparations or in a politically charged atmosphere, as we have experienced this year. One thing we must remember at Christmas, and every day, is that showing love to others is not optional if we are to obey God. There is no free pass when we feel "justified" in treating someone with disrespect, anger, unforgiveness or criticism.

You can master your love walk by applying 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to your life during your day-to-day activities this Christmas season in the following ways:

- Love endures long at the grocery store.
- It is patient with children, even under pressure.
- It is kind to spouses no matter what the situation.
- It is not envious of another's decorations or baking skills.
- It is not boastful about gifts, vacations, accomplishments or anything else.
- It isn't rude in parking lots or toward difficult in-laws.

Love does not insist on its own way when deciding what to buy or which events to attend. It takes no account of those who

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cut others off in traffic, take the last piece of fruitcake or speak unkind words.

Love bears all things during holidays, and every other time. It is ready to believe the best of every person at the Christmas party, and every relative at the family gathering. It endures everything that may come with a pure heart and a godly attitude. Love never fails.

There is nothing—absolutely nothing—that is more important than learning to love. In fact, how accurately you perfect the love walk will determine how much of the perfect will of God you accomplish in your life.

Sounds like a tall order, doesn't it? But don't despair. You are a love creature. God has re-created your spirit in the image of Love. And He has sent His love Spirit to live in you and teach you how to love as He loves.

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**TODAY'S READING:**

[1 Corinthians 13](#)



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### TUESDAY DEVOTION

# When Others Let You Down

As you're making plans this Christmas, you're likely filling out Christmas cards, inviting people to dinner and purchasing gifts. It's a time when you may think about or see family members you haven't seen in some time and reflect on those relationships—good or bad. Perhaps it has even raised memories of times when others let you down.

Sometimes, we're hindered in our ability to love others because we don't feel loved ourselves. We may have felt betrayed or rejected at a young age by those who should have loved us most. So, instead of loving people as we know we ought to, we push them away to protect ourselves from being hurt again.

The only way to overcome this hurdle is by daring to believe God's love for you enough to sweep away the pain of the past. He accepts and cherishes you when others reject you. If you'll dare to trust His love, you'll find empty places filled up to overflowing in your life. You'll feel so loved and cherished, you won't be able to help but love others fully.

That's what Christmas is all about—receiving the unmatched love of God through the sending of His only Son, Jesus, to take away our sin and pain, and bring us into eternal fellowship with Him.

If you have a history of being rejected and disappointed by others, don't let history repeat itself. Don't let your past become your future. This Christmas, find out what the Bible says about God's love. If you'll dare to believe it, your world will begin to change in a wonderful way. Before long, you'll not only see His love on the pages of your Bible, you'll see it around you every day of your life.

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#### TODAY'S READING:

[Psalm 27:10, 13](#)

[Romans 8:32](#)



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### WEDNESDAY DEVOTION

# Take Love to Work This Christmas

While Christmas is a time of joyous celebration, many people—especially unbelievers—become stressed or depressed, and struggle to find hope in their lives.

Christmas is a time that is ripe for harvesting souls and a marvelous opportunity to share the reason for your hope, joy and all-around victorious life.

That's why it is so important for Christians to take the love of God with them into the workplace. People are turned off to the gospel by Christians who carry their Bibles to the office while they're cheating their employers or mistreating co-workers. It's a sad thing when a believer professes his faith to his fellow employees, and then comes in late morning after morning, spends business hours chatting with co-workers, and then tops it all off by talking ugly about his boss!

A Christian who behaves like that would give more glory to The Lord by leaving his Bible

at home and keeping his mouth shut until he learns to demonstrate the love and integrity of God with his life, and not just his lips. It's a strong statement, but it's true.

There was one Jewish man, in particular, who wouldn't give the gospel the time of day for years because of the shabby work habits of those he knew who called themselves Christians. He finally did get saved, but he did in spite of them, not because of them.

On the other hand, believers who do walk in love on the job shine like stars in a dark night. They preach without saying a word! It gets people's attention when someone works diligently and keeps a good attitude. It's an outstanding thing when an employee gives 110% on the job—not only when the boss is looking, but when he isn't.

When we walk in love in the workplace, we'll forget about pushing for our own success and search out ways to contribute to the success

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of others, while trusting the Lord to bring us our reward. It *will* come, too. It will come not only in the form of pay raises and promotions, but in the form of souls won to the Lord. And that is the greatest reward of all.

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**TODAY'S READING:**

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)



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### THURSDAY DEVOTION

# The Greatest Enemy of Love

As Christians, God's command to us is to love Him first and then love others like we love ourselves. This doesn't mean to love others when we feel like it or when we think they deserve it. It means *always*—even during holidays like Christmas, when you can end up spending time with challenging people.

If you study the Scriptures to find the enemies of love, you'll find there is one more common than any other. It is the enemy called *strife*, which means: "vigorous or bitter conflict, discord and antagonism; to quarrel, struggle or clash; competitions; rivalry."

According to James 3:16, where strife gets in, every other evil work will follow. Strife opens the door to the devil and licenses him to bring confusion and evil into our lives. That's why he's always pushing for us to argue with one another and get offended or critical of one another. It gives him access to us!

In examining opportunities for strife at this time of year, consider some of the most common arguments between family members during Christmas:

1. Where to spend Christmas Day
2. How much money to spend on gifts
3. Which gifts to buy for each person
4. How many gifts to buy for the children
5. How much time to spend with the in-laws

Satan doesn't miss an opportunity—especially during the celebration of our Lord Jesus—to stir up strife within families. He knows if he can get you into strife, you'll be out of love. And if you're outside of love, you're not in position to receive THE BLESSING—healing, prosperity, peace, happiness and strong relationships.

The answer to a wonderful, peace-filled Christmas, and a life under the open windows of heaven is making a quality decision today

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to shut the door on strife this Christmas and always! Refuse to argue with people. Refuse to fight back when people criticize or wrong you. Determine instead to respond in love—take no account of the evil done to you.

It will take effort, but by God's grace, you will be able to do it. He never commands you to do anything that He isn't standing by to help you with. Plus, it's a small price to pay for THE BLESSING...and you'll be forever glad you did.

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**TODAY'S READING:**

[James 3:13-16](#)



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### FRIDAY DEVOTION

# The Greatest Sign of Spiritual Maturity

“I never did drink much. I stayed married to my wife. And I gave all my money away to people in need.”

Those were the words of a 95-year-old man to his Christian granddaughter after she shared the gospel with him one last time in hopes of leading him to salvation. He died shortly after, expecting his good works to be enough.

It’s easy for non-Christians and Christians alike to get caught up in external acts and think it somehow equates to holiness. While Jesus did say, “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16, *NKJV*), He was not speaking of outward actions alone, but those pouring forth from the spiritually mature heart.

While Christians can sometimes pride themselves in checking “holiness” boxes, Jesus made it clear that external works are

not indicators of right living. In fact, He often rebuked the Pharisees for believing so.

First Corinthians 13:2 says, “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing” (*NIV*).

Certainly, we should desire to live a life that is pleasing before the Lord, but the greatest sign of spiritual maturity isn’t tithing, “being nice,” attending church or reciting scriptures. The greatest sign of spiritual maturity is LOVE.

Gloria Copeland says, “Love is the single most important key to growing up in God. If we don’t grow up in love, we don’t grow up at all.”

That’s something we need to focus on this Christmas season. Attending church and

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tithing, while those things are in obedience to God's Word, mean nothing if you're rude to your spouse, gossiping about your neighbor, or bickering with your in-laws over Christmas dinner.

At what spiritual age does your behavior peg you?

This Christmas (and every day!), determine to grow up in the area of love. Watch how you talk to your spouse, children and co-workers. Keep yourself from boasting about your accomplishments or broadcasting compliments others give you. Refrain from reminding people of the wrong they've done, and treat everyone with kindness and respect (even those who frustrate you).

"Let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him"(Ephesians 4:15, *AMPC*). Let's let the Light of Love—Jesus Christ—shine through our lives in everything we say and do this Christmas and always.

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### TODAY'S READING:

[1 John 4:7-12](#)

[Romans 13:8-10](#)

[John 15:12](#)

