



GOD'S GREAT HEART

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Gods Great Heart is understood by the Biblical meaning of the “heart”

1. **Monday “The Great Heart of God” reveals His inner being, His attributes and His character**
2. **Tuesday “The Great Heart of God” – how does the Bible understand the meaning of the “heart?” The attributes of God demonstrated in the great heart of God**
3. **Thursday “The Great Heart of God” The heart of God reaching out to men and women: communicating His attributes.**
4. **Friday “The Great Heart of God” as it functions in the heart of the Christian.**

GOD'S GREAT HEART – IS UNDERSTOOD BY THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF “THE HEART”

Firstly, we will establish the connection with yesterday's Bible Study on the attributes of God's character; the attributes which demonstrate who He is. We looked at “God in Himself” and stated the fact that we know the inner being of God due to the manifestation of His attributes in relationship to creation, Scripture and His actions in relationship to men and women. There are several aspects to God's revelation in Scripture – firstly, the recorded words which God has spoken; secondly, the many references to His attributes; thirdly the narrative of God ongoing interaction with His creatures and His creation. Let me remind you that we are looking at triune God as our perspective. Following creation the same attributes as we see in God Himself will reach out and powerfully impact the lives of men and women.

In our second Bible study today we will view the inner being of God by means of the Biblical teaching of the heart with its 7 sections. The understanding of the heart is universal but certainly not understood in terms of its Biblical definition. Where shall we begin? - The anatomical or physical heart, the emotional heart, the unregenerate heart or the new heart? The teaching of the heart is the simplest way of answering the question: “What is man?” (Ps.8:4). It is the best way in terms of Scripture because there is the most amazing coverage in Scripture not only in teaching but the people in the Bible provide us with examples – what do we learn of David's heart from the psalms? Ruth, Isaac, Jeremiah? What sections of the heart do we see in these people of God? The heart is the channel through which we can view the attributes, and as I mentioned, will focus on the attributes of perfection: holiness, truth and love. Jesus taught about the heart, assuming on the understanding of those around Him.

We heart has seven sections: affections, emotions, desires, mind, imagination, conscience and will. Let's identify verses that link the 7 sections with the heart. We quickly look at the heart from a general perspective and then we will look at with regards to God.

AFFECTION

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deut.6:4-5).*

*“Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God** has been poured out in our **hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Rom.5:5).*

DESIRE

“and that you (David) may reign over all that your heart desires” (2Sam.3:21).

*You have given him his **heart's desire**, and have not withheld the request of his lips” (Ps.21:2).*

*“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the **desires of your heart**” (Ps.37:4)*

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Rom.10:1).

EMOTION

*“Because you did not serve the Lord your God with **joy and gladness of heart**, for the abundance of everything” (Deut.28:47).*

*“Then you shall see and become radiant, and **your heart shall swell with joy**” (Isa.60:5).*

“Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!

*Be glad and **rejoice with all your heart**, O daughter of Jerusalem!” (Zeph.3:14).*

*“But because I have said these things to you, **sorrow has filled your heart**” (Jn.16:6).*

MIND

*“Behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a **wise and understanding heart**, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you” (1Kings 3:12).*

*“Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try **my mind and my heart**” (Ps.26:2).*

*“Your **word** I have hidden in **my heart**, That I might not sin against You” (Ps.119:11).*

*“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the Lord, I will put my **law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jer.31:33).*

*“Jesus said to him, ‘**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind**’” (Mat.22:37). This is interesting because Jesus alters the original reference in Deut.6:5; from “strength” to “mind.”*

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **thoughts and intents of the heart**” (Heb.4:12).*

*“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their **mind** and write them on their **hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Heb.8:10; Jer.31:33).*

IMAGINATION

*“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **imagination** of the **thoughts** of his **heart** was only evil continually” (Gen.6:5; 8:21).*

*“And it come to pass, when he hears the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his **heart**, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the **imagination** of mine **heart**, to add drunkenness to thirst” (Deut.29:19 KJV).*

*“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a **perfect heart** and with a willing **mind**; for the Lord searches all **hearts** and **understands** all the **imaginings** of the **thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever” (1Chron.28:9; 29:18).*

*“He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the **imagination** of their **hearts**” (Lk.1:51).*

*“when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their **imaginings**, and their **foolish heart** was darkened” (Rom.1:21).*

*“Casting down **imaginings**, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity **every thought** to the obedience of Christ” (2Cor.10:5).*

CONSCIENCE

*“Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their **conscience** also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another” (Rom.2:15).*

*“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience** seared with a hot iron” (1Tim.4:2).*

*“Let us draw near with a true **heart** in full assurance of faith, having our **hearts** sprinkled from an evil **conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb.10:22).*

WILL

*“Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “**Will** you go with this man?” And she said, “**I will go**” (Gen.24:58).*

*“Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a **willing heart**, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze” (Ex.35:5, 21, 22, 29; 25:2;).*

My heart is with the rulers of Israel who offered themselves willingly with the people . Bless the Lord!" (Judges 5:9)

*"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a **loyal heart** and with a willing **mind**; for the Lord searches all **hearts** and understands all the intent of the **thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever" (1Chron.28:9; 29:9, 17; and 2Chron.29:31).*

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you" (Lk.15:18).

Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you" (Rom.1:10).

*And he that searches the hearts knows what is **the mind of the Spirit**, because he makes intercession for the saints according to **the will of God**" (Rom.8:27).*

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that **good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**" (Rom.12:2)*

*"For this is **the will of God**, even your **sanctification**" (1Thes.4:3).*

*"Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart**" (Eph.6:6).*

*For God hath put in their **hearts** to fulfil **his will**" (Rev.17:17).*

GOD POSSESSES ALL THE 7 ATTRIBUTES OF THE HEART:

We are familiar with these attributes when we apply them to ourselves but can we relate them similarly to God? Yes, because we are made in the image of God. The attributes of God are demonstrated in the fruits of the Holy Spirit which have their source in God, so they are truly transitive attributes reproduced in the life of the Spirit filled Christian,

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal.5:22-23a).

It would be a challenging exercise to link each of these fruit with their correct attribute. The doctrine of God is described and understood by the teaching of the heart. He is viewed as possessing the seven attributes of the heart:

1) Affections

*"The LORD is good to all: and his **compassion** over all his works" (Ps.145:9).*

"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you" (Jer.31:1).

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son” (Hos.11:1).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn.3:16).

*“Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God** has been poured out in **our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Rom.5:5).*

“nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom.8:39).

“The God of love and peace” (2Cor.13:11).

“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1Jn.4:8).

*“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1Jn.4:16).*

2) Desires

“So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him” (Ps.45:11).

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom” (Ps.51:6).

*“I am my beloved’s, and **his desire** is toward me” (S. of S.7:10)*

“Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Lk.22:15).

*“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; **for You loved Me before the foundation of the world” (17:24).***

3) Emotions – joy and sorrow:

*“Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for **the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh.8:10).***

Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart” (Esther 5:9).

*“Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for **joy**, all ye that are upright in heart” (Ps.32:11).*

“I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour” (Ecccl.2:10).

*“For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answered him in **the joy of his heart**” (Eccl.5:20)*

*“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and **everlasting joy** upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isa.35:10).*

*“Behold, my servants shall sing for **joy of heart**, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart” (Isa.65:14).*

*Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the **joy and rejoicing of mine heart**” (Jer.15:16).*

*“The **joy** of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning” (Lam.5:15).*

*“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into **the joy of your lord**’” (Mat.25:21 and 23).*

*“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with **joy of the Holy Spirit**” (1Thes.1:6).*

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“And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart” (Gen.6:6).

*“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of **sorrows**, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isa.53:3).*

“And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me” (Mat.26:37-38).

“Jesus wept” (Jn.11:35).

4) Mind

“Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered” (Ps.40:5; 92:5).

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!” (139:17).

“The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand” (Isa.14:24).

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (55:9).

*“The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed **the thoughts of his heart**” (Jer.23:20).*

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (29:11).

“But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor” (Mic.4:12).

*“For who hath known **the mind of the Lord**, that he may instruct him? But we have the **mind of Christ**. (1Cor.2:16).*

5) Imagination

Does God have imagination? Yes!

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Gen.1:26, 27).

*“According as he hath **chosen us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph.1: 4a).*

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature” (Col.1:15).

6) Conscience

Conscience is not used with reference to God but it is a self-evident truth regarding God, revealed in integrity, righteous actions, and right judgment. His attribute of holiness determines His actions that they will be righteous, otherwise God has no credibility,

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen.18:25).

“Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee forever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the Lord thy God” (Deut.12:28).

“You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, and gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments” (Neh.9:13).

“For the righteous Lord loves righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright” (Ps.11:7).

The Holy Spirit operates in the conscience and He is God.

7) Will

*“Who were born, not of blood, nor of **the will** of the flesh, nor of **the will of man**, but of **God**” (Jn.1:13).*

*“The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know **His will**, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth (Acts.22:14).*

*“But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will of God**” (Rom.12:2).*

*“For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality (1Thes.4:3).*

*“In everything give thanks; for this is the **will of God** in Christ Jesus for you” (1Thes.5:18).*

THE HEART SECTION WE CALL AFFECTION CAN BE VIEWED BY LOOKING AT GOD'S LOVE (AFFECTION)

THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

1. Father's love for Jesus Christ, 'Beloved'

“Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love (LXX “beloved son”), and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you” (Gen.22:1).

“I will declare the decree: the Lord has said unto me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you” (Ps.2:7).

“Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him” (Prov.8:30).

“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles” (Isa.42:1).

*“And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “**You are My beloved Son**; in You I am well pleased” (Lk.3:22 cf. Gen.22:1 LXX; Mat.17:5).*

“Having yet therefore one son, his well beloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, “They will reverence my son when they see him” (Lk.20:13; Mk.12:6).

*“While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Mat.17:5).*

“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel” (Jn.5:20).

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love” (Jn.15:9)

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again” (Jn.10:17).

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“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again” (Jn.10:17).

“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (Jn.17:23).

“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (17:26).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” (Eph.2:4).

2. Father's love for the disciples of Jesus

Jn.14:21 refer to both the love of the Father and the Son and the love of the believer for Jesus (see also v21), who consequently will be loved by Father:

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me **will be loved by My Father**, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (Jn.14:21).*

“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (Jn.17:23).

“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (17:26).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” (Eph.2:4).

3. Father's love for the world

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (3:16).

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1Jn.4:9-10).

This verse demonstrates the quality of Father's love. We also recognize the omnipotence and omniscience of Father's love which embraces the whole world. Father loves all His creatures individually and comprehensively. This verse shows to us all the extent of Father's great love regarding salvation.

Father's love for the world was revealed through Jesus, firstly, in sending Him and secondly through indwelling Him and manifesting His character attributes in His life and thirdly through His ministry of compassion for the lost, marginalised and poor. It was said, that the poor heard Him gladly and that he ate with sinners and drank with them. His own family were poor and he grew up doing physical work. The humility of God was revealed in His teaching and actions. The gentleness of God, the forgiving nature of God was revealed as He moved among men and women. The strength of God, the faith of God, then great heart of compassion are shown to us from day to day. The mind of God, His ability to reason, the discernment and wisdom of God – but also the vulnerability which of course was most apparent as Jesus faced the cross and those final events: the injustice, the betrayal, the cruelty, the shame and the pain of His suffering. Everything in the life, teaching, and ministry of Jesus was a clear, transparent revelation of Father's nature and attributes.

Father's love is shown to us in giving His Son for our salvation.

THE LOVE OF THE LORD JESUS

(Jn.14:21; 17:24, 26; Gal.2:20; Eph.3:17-19; 5:2; 2Thes.2:13; 1Jn.2:15; 3:1; 4:8, 16 – the disciple John Jn.13:23).

The four Gospels fully demonstrate the love of Jesus for men and women. However, just before Jesus went to the cross to give His life for us, the apostle John records the High-Priestly Prayer of Jesus which powerfully shows to us the love of Father for Jesus and His love for Father. The Gospel of John particularly reveals Jesus' love for His Father. The quality of Jesus' love is demonstrated in,

- (i) **Jesus' love for Father** was an intimacy not disclosed to men, but His love was displayed in obedience and revealed to us in deeds of surrender and sacrifice.
- (ii) **Jesus' love for His children: (Jn.14:21; 17:26; Gal.2:20). Christ's love for the church,** 'The Bride' **Ps 45; Eph.5.25.** God is ecstatic in His love for you. Song of Songs expresses Christ's love for His bride and her love for Him.

*"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, **He loved them to the end**" (Jn.13:1).*

*"And he who **loves Me** will be loved by My Father, **and I will love him** and manifest Myself to him" (Jn.14:21).*

*"Christ lives in **me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me** and gave Himself for me" (Gal.2:20).*

- (iii) **Jesus' love for His bride the church**

"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph.5:25).

- (iv) **Jesus' love for lost men and women: (Mat.19:19; (Lev.19:18, 34); Mk.10:21; Lk.7:36-50; Rom.5:8; 1Cor.Ch.13; 1Jn.4:9-10).**

*"Honour your father and your **mother**," and, 'You shall **love your neighbour** as yourself' " (Mat.19:19).*

*"Then Jesus, looking at him, **loved him**, and said to him, "**One** thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me" (Mk.10:21).*

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom.5:8).

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1Jn.4:10-11).

“There is only one Being who loves perfectly, and that is God, yet the New Testament distinctly states that we are to love as God does; so the first step is obvious. If ever we are going to have perfect love in our hearts we must have the very nature of God in us” (Oswald Chambers).

Jesus’ love for lost men and women is shown to us in the Gospels in incidents which demonstrate the love of Jesus

a) The “impotent man” found by Jesus

“Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” (Jn.5:5-6).

*“Jesus found him. The man did not find Jesus; Jesus found him. That is the deepest truth of the Christian faith; Jesus found me. Our fellowship with him is rooted in his compassion.” (Archbishop William Temple: *Readings in St. Johns Gospel*). Love singles out people who up till now have gone unnoticed. This helpless tragic soul had no name, like hundreds of unnamed children who grow up without being addressed personally.*

b) The rich young ruler who rejected Jesus’ love

*“Then Jesus, looking at him, **loved** him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me” (Mk.10:21).*

Having made his choice – to disobey Jesus’ call to discipleship, Jesus turned and gave this sorrowful **man a look of love. Was this the end of the story?**

c) The lost woman who finds Jesus and *agapao* love

Another passage of Scripture where the word has particular significance is **Lk.Ch.7** where Jesus rebukes Simon. He points to the woman as an example of *agape* love. We find it amazing that such love of God should be found in her heart – *“she loved (agape) much.”* God is the sole object of our love, and our heart delights in His forgiveness,

*“Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for **she loved much**. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little” (Lk.7:47).*

d) Peter found by Jesus: *αγαπή* and *phileo* love

*“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love (αγαπή)** Me more than these?”*

*He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I **love (phileo)** You.”*

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

*He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love (αγαπή)** Me?”*

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (phileo) Me?"

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (phileo) Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep" (Jn.21:15-17).

The conversation between the Lord Jesus and Peter in **Jn.Ch.21** can only be understood by a correct appreciation of the two words *agapao* and *phileo*.¹ When the Lord Jesus asked Peter if he loved him with His *agape* love, Peter replied with the word *phileo*. There was no question that Peter loved the Lord with deep and tender affection, but as yet the Divine love had not been poured into his heart. His own love failed him in the awful events of the cross. The third time the question comes to Peter the Lord uses Peter's word. 'Do you love me with *phileo* love?' Peter was grieved at the failure of his own heart. I believe the interpretation of this passage hinges on the meaning of these two words (I believe that the words of Scripture are "verbally inspired").

THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT

The love which is the core of God's being and continually communicated between Father and Son through the Holy Spirit in context of the Trinity is now resident in the child of God making fellowship a reality with the tri-personal God and with the family of God, the church. God indwells His people in all His fullness, the glory of God is the manifestation of His attributes in each Spirit filled believer (**Gal.5:22-23**). Similarly, God manifests His nature through His family, the church.

"the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us"
(Rom.5:5).

"Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me" **(Rom.15:30).**

"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness"
(Gal.5:22).

¹ The Nature and Character of God, *Pratney* p161-191.