

a devotion, "Why We Love" GOD by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, OCist, Doctor of The Church (1090-1153 AD



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=559

"He Who made me by a Word, and made me once for all, spent on the task of my re-making many Words and many marvelous deeds, and suffered grievous and humiliating wrongs. What reward, therefore, shall I give The Lord for all the benefits that He has done for me?

By His first work He gave me to myself; and by the next He gave Himself to me. And when He gave Himself, He gave me back myself that I had lost. Myself for myself, given and restored, I doubly owe to Him. What, though, shall I return Him for Himself? A thousand of myself would be as nothing in respect of Him.

GOD deserves exceeding love from us, a love that has no measure. That is the first thing you must understand. The reason is that He was first to Love. He Who is so great loves us so much; He loves us freely, little and poor as we are.

That is why I said there should be no measure of our love for GOD. For since love given to GOD is given to The Infinite and Measureless, what measure or what limit could it have?

He, The Unmeasured and Eternal GOD, He Who is Love beyond all human knowledge, Whose Greatness knows no bounds, Whose Wisdom has no end, loves. Shall we then set a limit to our love for Him?

I will love You, O Lord my Strength, my Rock, and my Defense, my Savior, my One Desire and Love. My GOD, my Helper, I will love You with all the power You have given me;

not worthily, for that can never be, but to my full capacity. Do what I will, I never can discharge my debt to You, and I can love You only according to The Power [Grace] that you have given me. But I will love You more and more, as You see fit to give further Power." *

PSALM 15:1-5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4FmFvZ8u-o>

King JESUS, may we abide in Thy holy Presence forever!

1 LORD, who shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh The Truth in his heart. King JESUS, may we abide in Thy holy Presence forever!

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear The LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

"Saint Bernard fostered the renewal of monastic life through the Cistercian observance of the Rule of Saint Benedict, which uses PSALM 15 to describe the holiness required of one who seeks to dwell in GOD's Presence.

<https://e-benedictine.com/rule/>

Often called the "Last of The Fathers," Bernard was born near Dijon, France. He joined the Cistercians and at twenty-four was sent to the [unsettled] "Valley of Wormwood," where he led his fellow monks in clearing the land to found Clairvaux, the "Valley of Light," one of the great medieval monasteries.

Bernard was an austere reformer, a tireless preacher, and an affectionate correspondent. He never left a letter unanswered. In his celebrated exchange with Peter Abelard, Bernard counseled against the hubris of the intellect, insisting that theology must be rooted in Scripture and fed with prayer. "The reason for loving GOD is GOD Himself," he wrote, "The measure is to love Him beyond measure..." *

*["Saint Bernard." The Magnificat, 8/20/2021. PSALM 15, p 293. Memorial, p 294-295. Meditation of the Day, "Why We Love," Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, p 298-299.]