**LIFE'S ULTIMATE RESPONSE**

Deepening Your Christian Life - Part 4

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**Deuteronomy 6:1-9 – Scripture reading**

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV) – Memory Verse**
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Knowing God is foundational to our existence. Apart from that knowledge, we are doomed to grope our way through a maze of meaningless earthly pursuits. Only those who know God will find their way to true purpose and meaning. But that is only half the story! Knowing God calls for a response that includes trusting Him, relying on Him, worshiping Him — in a word, loving Him. Scripture is filled with accounts of the God of heaven reaching out to His people in grace and mercy, showing Himself to be strong and compassionate. Each account is a reason to love Him with all our heart, soul, and might.

1. God wants us to **Love Him**

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)**
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

**1 John 4:19 (NIV)**
We love because he first loved us.

2. God's response to our loving Him

* He is our **Protector**

**Psalm 31:1 (NIV)**
In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

* He gives **Peace**

**Psalm 37:3-4 (NIV)**
 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and **enjoy safe pasture**. Delight

 yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

* He is our **Rescuer**

**Psalm 46:1 (NIV)**
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

* He is our **Deliverer**

**Psalm 18:1-2 (NIV)**

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my **deliverer;**

my God is my rock, in **whom I take refuge**. He is my shield and the horn of

 my salvation, my stronghold.

* He is our **Forgiver**

**Psalm 32:1-2 (NIV)**
Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the

man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

* He is our **Restorer**

**Psalm 40:1-3 (NIV)**
I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

**THE MARKS OF A TRUE LOVER OF GOD**

Those who truly love the Lord have experienced His power to deliver and are not fearful.

Those who truly love the Lord have received His peace and forgiveness and are no longer guilty

Those who truly love the Lord have felt His presence in affliction and are loved of God.