

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



## Don't Just Say You Love the Lord

Christianity speaks of “love” not merely as a doctrinal concept, but as a declaration of the very nature of God, for **“God is love”** (1 John 4:7-8). This love – in all its beauty and greatness – was made tangible through His Son, Jesus Christ, who came in flesh to bring us the gift of redemption. For Christians, to love God and love others is not an option – it is a commandment from Him. It is also not about paying lip service, but a requirement that our Lord Jesus places on all who believe in Him: **“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these”** (Mark 12:30-31).

Those who truly know the Lord will inevitably love Him and live a life that reflects that love, because a life in Christ is one that loves Him, trust Him, and glorifies Him. Loving the Lord goes beyond words – it must be demonstrated through action, through a life of willing and humble service. If our words are not matched by our deeds, we miss the very purpose of the new life that He has given us. Therefore, for love to be meaningful, it must be shown consistently in our actions and attitudes, both towards God and towards others.

Lord Jesus once asked his disciple Peter three times, **“Do you love Me?”** (John 21:15-17). Peter’s love for the Lord, though

wavered before under life-threatening pressure, was genuine. And the Lord, in His grace after resurrection, not only restored Peter's steadfastness but also entrusted him with the important task of shepherding His flock. The Lord cherished Peter's love for Him and used it mightily. This teaches us that loving God cannot be empty talk – it requires determination to faithfully carry out His work and relying on His love to accomplish His purposes.

Today, let us reflect on the same question that Jesus has asked Peter. People often compare themselves with others, and Christians are no exception – measuring our devotion and love for Christ against others is common. While no one can fully list every possible way a Christian can show love for God, Jesus gives us a simple and practical principle: **“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me”** (John 14:21).

We are reminded that each of us has a unique role in God's plan; we must zealously guard our love for the Lord, in obedience and in stewarding well all that He has entrusted to us. Our love for the Lord may not be shown in grand gestures and may even be seen as insignificant, but through His love and grace we are still called and entrusted to continue His work. May we live out our love for God in faith and practice, working together to build a church that is a beacon of His love, and fulfilling His commandments.

Pastor May Yee

*\*The above is a translated version of the original letter written by Pastor Chan May Yee in Chinese, which is also posted on 4 May 2025 in JACM's bulletin.*