

God's Love Language  
Pastor Erik Gauss  
Cross, Yorkville

Faith is God's love language. If you have ever read or heard of "The 5 Love Languages" you know that different people prefer different expressions of love. While we all like to be shown love and appreciation, there are certain expressions that mean more to us than others. A positive word of affirmation may make your month, whereas someone else may feel immeasurably loved when they receive a small gift of appreciation.

How do we tell Jesus we love Him? Do we give Him gifts? Spend quality time with Him? Share words of affirmation with Him? In some ways we could say "yes" to all of these, but if we are seeking God's true love language it wouldn't be any of the traditional 5. What gift do we give God He hasn't already made? What words do we share with Him He didn't already put on our heart?

Over and over in the scriptures God reminds us that, with all due respect, we have very little to offer Him. 1 Corinthians 13 gives a pretty good list of things we often value with regard to God; speaking in tongues, preaching the mysteries of God, faith to move mountains (performing miracles), giving gifts to the poor. But God wants "love." What does love look like from us to God?

Psalm 51:16 says, "God does not take pleasure in our offerings." In other words, God doesn't find joy in us performing the acts of love towards Him or others if we don't have love in our hearts. Psalm 51:17 continues on, "My sacrifice is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

A broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart are fruits of faith in our lives. When we believe God's word is true it brings contrition in our heart that we do not measure up to God's standards. When we trust God is a forgiving God, it allows us to bring our brokenness before God and allows Him to heal us. This is how we tell God we love Him; we allow Him to heal us.

In Matthew 23:37 Jesus himself declares how much God loves "Jerusalem." Jerusalem in this context is the faithful people of God. He loves them and yearns to heal and protect them "like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" but the people would not let Him.

Too often we try to show love to God by healing ourselves so we can be a blessing to Him. We try to do the right things and meet His expectations. We push God away because we feel like a failure or helpless in our sin. When, the whole time, all God wants is for us to have faith and trust that He wants to be the one to heal our hearts. The love language of God is faith and trust in Him as our healer and our protector. Come to Him all who are weak and heavy laden and He will give you rest.