

# INVEST IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## How God Invests in His Relationship with You

### The Investment of Forgiveness

Jesus forgave you	It cost Him dearly	He <b>CHOSE</b> to do this!
Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."	Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.	John 10:18 NKJV - "No one takes my life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself."
<b>Note</b> forgiveness is a financial term. When someone forgives a debt, that person suffers the loss of the transaction. Jesus suffered this loss because He valued the relationship with us.	<b>Note</b> forgiveness is not pretending the offense didn't happen. On the cross, Jesus was acutely aware of the pain of every sin born on His body.	<b>Note</b> Jesus did not invest in us because He had to but because He wanted to. He loved us more than the cost of His own life.

### The Investment of Patience

1 Thessalonians 5:14: Now we exhort you, brethren,		
WARN those who are unruly	COMFORT the fainthearted	UPHOLD the weak
<b>This person</b> does not want to do what is good even though they could.	<b>This person</b> wants to do what is good and can do it but they are discouraged.	<b>This person:</b> This person wants to do what is good but is not able to.
<b>Be patient by:</b> Gently, lovingly warning them in hopes of repentance.	<b>Be patient by:</b> Comforting and encouraging them. Be their supporter, cheering them on.	<b>Be patient by:</b> Carrying that person's burden, helping them in their weakness.
<p align="center"><b>Impatience might mean:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Withdrawing because we have given up on them or they've become too much a burden to us.</li> <li>2. Ignoring the problem in a person's life, pretending it's not there.</li> <li>3. Being critical of their failures or pushing to do something they are incapable of.</li> </ol>		
<p align="center"><b>Be patient with ALL!</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patience mean INVESTING in someone!</li> <li>2. It COSTS something to be patient.</li> <li>3. Patience means NEVER giving up on someone!</li> </ol>		

GOD is patient in all these ways with YOU

He is NOT giving up on you.

God wants to INVEST in His relationship with you!

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is patient toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

# How We Can Invest in Our Relationship with God

As God has invested in us, we should invest in Him:

*Ephesians 5:2 Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

## Mary's Treasure, Mary's Heart (John 12:1-8)

An Extravagant Investment	A Focused Investment	A Revealing Investment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She used a lot (a pound) of a very costly oil of spikenard.</li> <li>• Spices and ointments were often used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market.</li> <li>• Judas believed this oil was worth 300 denarii (John 12:5), which was worth a year's wages for a working man.</li> <li>• It has been speculated that this jar may have been Mary's dowry or her inheritance. Perhaps she was saving this for an emergency or for the right investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This gift was not for herself. The very act of letting down her hair was an unselfconscious act most Jewish women would never do in public.</li> <li>• The gift was not for others. As Judas points out, it could have been sold and used to support the poor who were abundant in Bethany.</li> <li>• The gift was for Jesus and Jesus alone!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because of the extravagance and focus of the gift, Mary's true heart was undoubtedly revealed. Who would doubt the sincerity of her love for Jesus? - "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt. 6:21)</li> <li>• The fragrance of this gift filled the room with Mary's worship, an unmistakable message to all else gathered and all who would ever hear the gospel.</li> </ul>

## Our Treasure, Our Heart

*2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*

- Have I made an extravagant, focused, revealing investment in Jesus?
- Is our sanctuary filled with the fragrance of this kind of worship?
- Do I spread the fragrance of this kind of worship?

## Losing Our First Love

- Some may ask: "What if I don't feel this love?"
- Sometimes we forget our first love for Christ. (Revelation 2:4). Following this passage, the apostles and many others forgot their love for Christ, abandoning Him at His arrest.
- Sometimes ministry ("Doing Church") replaces our worship ("Being the Church."). As Judas put it: "We could have sold it and given it to the poor." When our love of ministry is greater than our love of Christ, we have forgotten our purpose as a church.

## Remembering How to Love

- **Remember His forgiveness:** Luke 7:47 "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."
- **Remember his patient love:** 1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.