



LIKE A FOUNTAIN

April 2013

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86:15

I love this description of God. His love and faithfulness are "abounding"—abundant. Some translations of this passage refer to His "unfailing" love. Eugene Peterson's Message says that God is "immense" in love. But I like the word "abounding" best. It has more life in it. Although it isn't a verb in this case, it seems like a verb.

The root of "abounding" or "abundant" comes from the Latin "abundare," which means overflowing or running over. Yes, that's what "abounding" says to me. Running over continuously, never failing—like a fountain that's always left running. God's love, expressed in this way, does make me think of the beauty of living water.

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Last year my husband and I had dinner on a square in a Spanish town. In the middle, not far from our table was a beautiful fountain. Even though the evening grew dark, the water kept running. Nearby street lights made the droplets sparkle like jewels. Children were attracted to it; we were attracted to it. What is it in a fountain that draws us the way it does? What makes it so beautiful?

What makes God's faithful and abounding love such a wondrous thing to behold?

I think it's because we need it so badly. We thirst for it.

Let us drink deeply.

marja