



## “I NEED SOMEONE TO LOVE”

*We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.*

1 John 4:16, NASB

“I need someone to love.” Those were my words to a church friend not long ago. Kind of a strange thing to say to someone, I know. Even I myself found it strange. And yet, that’s how I felt and I tend to say what I feel and what I think.

When I look back, I think I was subconsciously remembering the love I had felt when I shared Jesus with my Living Room group long ago. I missed those days that had given me so much joy.

People tell me, “*You are loved by God.*” But that statement—in the passive tense—makes God feel distant. It does not help me “feel” God’s love.

However, a few days ago I found myself robustly announcing “I love you guys,” to my small Bible Study group. I really meant it; couldn’t help telling them; felt good saying it.

I think what prompted this was that we had been sharing from our hearts what God and his love meant to us. I believe that it was in this free and open sharing—united in our search—that I felt God’s love rising to the surface. He came close; he was no longer distant.

I’ve learned that as we seek Jesus with others, we discover each others’ heart. We find where God is working. We feel his love. Together, we feel his love. As brothers and sisters in Christ, children of God, I believe our Father was telling us, “I love you, all of you.” You belong to me.

At my Bible Study I had found people to love. People who needed God as much as I do.

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