



## 1 John 4:8

(8) The one who does not love does not know God because God is love.  
*A Faithful Version*

Every thought, every word, every act of [God](#) is an expression of [love](#). God is sovereign, and He has the right to do whatever He wants. This would be tyranny except for one simple fact: Everything God does, whether seemingly arbitrary or not, is motivated by love. Even our trials are supreme acts of love as [Hebrews 12:5-11](#) and Job's experience show.

Herbert W. Armstrong once said about Job: "Job was one of the hardest men for God to ever bring down to [repentance](#) that has ever lived on the face of this earth." As terrible as the trial was, Job needed it for [salvation](#). [Psalm 84:11](#) says that God will withhold no good thing from us. To withhold that trial from Job would have been withholding a good thing, making God guilty of hating Job ([Proverbs 13:24](#)).

Only God is wise enough to allow us to go through a desperately needed trial while simultaneously using it to accomplish His other purposes as well. In the worsening times ahead, God will not use some of us as cannon fodder for His purposes, though He has the right to do it—He made us. Because of His love for us, He will allow us to face trials because we need them to perfect us. After all, "*all things work together for good*" to those called ([Romans 8:28](#)).

How will we survive spiritually if we are among those God chooses to be [persecuted](#), possibly tortured, and killed? Only because we believe that God loves no one more than us, and for this reason, we will *know* that what we are enduring is for our good and will bring about His purpose.

As children, we were disciplined by our parents. As it happened, how often did we thank them for the love they were showing us? As parents, we have disciplined our children. How many times have they ever said, "Thank you"? Most likely, the answer to both is,

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"Never!"

Do we discipline our children out of love or hate? Love, of course. Then why do they not say, "Thank you"? At the moment it is happening, they cannot see—they do not believe—how much we love them. It is a hallmark of youth or immaturity to be blind to the big picture, to see only what is directly in front of them. Hopefully, in times of trial, we are not children in a spiritual sense.

— Pat Higgins

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