



# The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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## Active Love

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. . . and a very cheerful greeting to all the listeners of THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast. We are certainly happy to be coming your way once again with a short gospel message. If I should come on this radio station and talk about love, l-o-v-e, I am wondering just what the reaction would be from different individuals. I can imagine that some teenagers would think, "Oh my, love, that's something I am really interested in." Of course, your thoughts might not be running exactly along the same line as I am thinking. Then there might be that emotional type of person that would think, "Oh yes, love is something you experience on a moonlit night under the stars listening to the tune of a guitar." According to the popular trend and the concept of what some people have of love, one might think that it is some emotion that you experience in the presence of another. But friends, I want to tell you that real genuine love is more than this. It is difficult to express love by words or emotion. This is true because love goes deeper into the inmost being of a person and words are inadequate to fully express the compelling force, especially of God's love.

In other words, the love of God is an active force and is more than a dormant, passive emotion. Listen to this scripture from I John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Don't you see by this that it takes more than words to prove your love for God? And again in John 15:10 we find these words, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

Now let us go back and review God's love for us. Are you familiar with the golden text of the Bible which begins thus: "For God so loved the world, that he gave. . ." How many times have you heard that verse repeated and it is a good verse too. I like it. But do you notice that the love which God

had for us was a compelling force? It caused him to do something about our condition. He loved us to such an extent that He gave his son. Well, you might say, "What did he give him for?" I will tell you in a few short words. Christ died to save sinners. A sinner of course would be the enemy of God, so Christ died for his enemies. That is genuine love. Listen to these verses from the 5th chapter of Romans. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Have you experienced the joy of being forgiven of the sins which you have com-

