LOVE THAT RESPONDS TO LOVE

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WORD OF LIFE

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – adapted by the Gen 3 Center.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind."

(*Mt* 22:37)

in depth...

"Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" Jesus answered this question in an original way, uniting love for God to love for our neighbor. ***He tells his followers that they cannot separate these two loves, just like you cannot separate the leaves of a tree from its roots.***
The more we love God, the more intensely we love each person we meet, and the more we love others, the deeper is our love for God.

Do you feel the same way?

We can love God because he loved us first! **So what he asks of us is only that we RESPOND TO HIS LOVE.**

We, too, like Jesus, can speak with God the Father often. We can tell him all our needs, our resolutions, our plans, and tell him over and over that we love only him.

We, too, eagerly await the moment when we can go deep into our hearts and be in contact with him through prayer, which is dialogue, unity, A RELATIONSHIP OF INTENSE FRIENDSHIP.

How can we live this commandment of Jesus?

Certainly we can increase our love for God, like children with their Father, knowing he is our very best friend. But above all, we should do what he wants of us. We should be like Jesus and be always turned towards the Father, listening to him and obeying him, so that we do only what he wants and nothing else.

Let's do as well as we can whatever he asks of us.

In this way, we will concentrate on what we are doing in the present moment.

➢Talking on the phone, listening to someone or helping them, doing homework, praying, eating, sleeping, living his will without getting distracted; doing everything as perfectly as possible, with all our heart, soul and mind;

➢Having only one motive for everything we do - LOVE - so that in every moment of the day we can say: **"Yes, my God, in this moment, in this action, I love you with all my heart and all my soul."**

This is the only way we can say that we love God, that we reciprocate the love he has for us.

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OUR EXPERIENCES FROM THE WORLD

As it happened to: **Labib** - Middle East

One day I saw an elderly woman: she was blind and had a hard time walking. I recognized Jesus to be loved in her so I went up to her, took her hand and walked her home.

Another time, **we were playing soccer with my team and there was one extra player waiting for someone to give him a chance to play.** I immediately thought that if I were in his shoes, I would really hope that someone would give me a turn. So, without thinking twice about it, I ran over and gave him my t-shirt so he could take my place in the game.

Another day, I was at my grandpa's house with the whole family. During lunch we started talking about my uncle who was very sick. After lunch I asked my parents for permission to go and visit him in the hospital.

Living like this, with the help and encouragement of others, I can love God with all my strength, and I always feel very happy!

This month…

I choose God as my one and only Ideal, being sure he is always **in the first place in my life,** living with perfection his will **in the present moment.**