

The Love of a Million Years

The rebellion of a teenage daughter was breaking her mother's heart. Their struggle reached its zenith when the young girl was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

After posting bail for her daughter, the mother did not speak to her until the next afternoon. When they came together, the woman handed her daughter a small wrapped gift. The girl flippantly opened it and was exasperated by what she saw.

The box contained a small rock. She rolled her eyes and asked, "What's this for?"

Her mother replied, "Read the card."

She did and was overcome by the words inside.

Tears began streaming down her cheeks as she reached out to embrace her mom. The card said:

This rock is more than a million years old. That's how long it will take before I give up on you.

That's a statement of amazing love! The mother had broken through to her daughter with the declaration of her love.

God broke through to us with His unrelenting and enduring love, demonstrated by sending His Son to die on a cruel cross that we might be saved.

Maybe you're going through a trial of some kind – most of us are – and perhaps you feel alone and unloved. Just know that God loves you more than you can ever imagine.

One of my favorite songs is *The Love of God*. Here are the lyrics, and whatever you are facing today, be encouraged by them.

The Love of God

*The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.*

(more)

*When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fail;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race –
The saints' and angels' song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

Refrain:

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure –
The saints' and angels' song.*

The first two stanzas of the song were written by Frederick Martin Lehman (1868 – 1953). His daughter helped him compose the music. The third (and last) stanza was found etched on a wall by a patient in an insane asylum who had passed away. The words of that stanza were traced back to Rabbi Hertz in his *Book of Jewish Thought*. Hertz borrowed the words from a poem written in 1050 by Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai for the synagogue Pentecost celebrations.

That's a lot of history, but these words were written for you today.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter