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## God Has Feelings Too

**Have you ever stopped to consider what God thinks about us, the choices we make and the lives we live? Is God a loving parent or a remote, uncaring Creator hidden by the vastness of space?**

by Renee Steel

I have always wondered what God thinks about things. What does He think about the choices we make? How does He feel when we do something good? How does He feel when we do something not-so-good?

Our God is a God of great emotion, which is not surprising since we were created in His image and we are often creatures of great emotional capability.

God has been known to demonstrate tremendous love and mercy, as well as anger and jealousy when appropriate.

In Jeremiah 31:3 God says to His chosen people Israel,

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you" (NKJ).*

He had such great love for the people He chose to call His own, it's not surprising that He also exhibited intense jealousy and even anger when His chosen people rejected Him to go after other gods. Such emotions are clear in Deuteronomy 32:21-23,

*"They have made me jealous with what is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in my anger ... I will heap misfortunes on them; I will use my arrows on them" (NASV).*

If this sounds somewhat like a jealous husband it's

understandable. God had taken Israel as His bride and she was leaving Him! *"Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:20, NKJ).*

If Israel (the physical seed of Abraham) was God's bride anciently, then it stands to reason that those who are Abraham's seed today, spiritually (Galatians 3:29) would be God's bride as well. This is why Paul said he wanted to present the Corinthian Christians, indeed all Christians, as a chaste virgin to Christ, the church's betrothed husband.

Given this marriage analogy then, it is not difficult to understand the relationship we each have with Jesus, as members of His church and as His future bride.

I knew a man once who had such emotional intensity that when he got upset nobody wanted to be anywhere near him. Even his dog went into hiding! But because he had the capacity for such displays of emotion, that same man was one of the most compassionate I have ever known.

Even though God has the capacity to get so angry at a wanton wife that He will heap misfortunes on her, His intensity is just as great when bestowing blessings on those who love Him. In fact, He even warned us of His emotional intensity in Deuteronomy 5:9-10,

*"For I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me*

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*and keep my commandments” (NKJ).*

Just as in any marriage relationship, both parties have to be giving 100 percent to make it work. God already gave everything at Calvary. Yet, just as in a marriage, the more we give to Him, the more He wants to give us.

I've seen this principle at work in my own marriage. The more loving and giving my husband is to me, the more I want to give in return. How much more does God want to bless us when He sees our love for Him through our actions?

In many cases, conversion brings with it an array of emotions. How did you feel when you first realized that because of Jesus' sacrifice you could be free of the guilt and turmoil caused by sin? How do you think God felt toward you when you made the commitment to follow Him no matter what the personal cost?

He wants to bless you! He says so in Mark 10:29-30:

*“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time -- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life” (NKJ).*

Until I got married I never fully understood this scripture, but I think I do now. Since my husband is from another country, we had to decide which of us would emigrate. In the end, economic opportunity dictated that he would settle here in the United States. The fact that he left his mother, father, sister, brother, and the only home he had ever known has created an emotional impact on my heart that will forever remind me of his love.

It is a joy beyond words to be loved so much that a person would voluntarily choose to give up everything for you.

This is the joy that Jesus has given to each of us because He gave everything for our salvation. This is the joy that we can give Him every day of our lives by putting Him first.

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