

## GETTING TO KNOW GOD WHO IS LOVE



Larry's parent stopped living together and put him into an orphan's home. There he thought no one cared about him, so he ran away twice. Each time he soon got into trouble stealing food. When the police took him back to the orphan's home, he hated everybody.

One day Mr. and Mrs. Anderson came to the orphan's home, and they invited Larry to live with them. They said if he would like them, and they would like him, they would adopt him after awhile.

So Larry went to stay with the Andersons. But he said to himself, "They don't love me and I don't love them. I'll do what they tell me to do, but I'm not going to let them fool me."

Well, the Andersons tried to love Larry. They did everything they could for him. And Larry did what he was told to do, but he never smiled. He never said, "Thank you" or "I love you." He never felt as though he belonged to them. He felt like a stranger in their house.

One day Mr. Anderson said to his wife, "I'm afraid we will have to give him up. We just can't win his heart."

That day Larry fell and broke his leg, and Mrs. Anderson took him to the hospital. She also stayed with him at the hospital. Then for weeks after he came home Mr. Anderson carried Larry up and down steps and around the house.

One day as he was being carried, Larry hugged Mr. Anderson really hard for being so good to him. Then he cried and said "Thank you!" and he told them that he wanted to be their boy and stay with them always.

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Larry didn't really know how much Mr. and Mrs. Anderson loved him until he began to love them! And he didn't enjoy their love and feel at home with them until he believed that they loved him. But, oh, how different everything seemed when he wanted to belong to them!

Without love we cannot feel at home with Jesus, either. Just doing some things Jesus wants us to do will not make us to know Jesus. But when we see and believe that He loves us, then we love Him and try to please Him. The Holy Bible says, Beloved, Let us love one another: for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love." "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is Love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:7,8,16

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the Propitiation (atonement) for our sins." "We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:10,19

("But we see Jesus Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Hebrews 2:9)



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