

God saw a world dotted with hatred, evil, degenerations and wickedness. He offered His only Son to salvage humanity. THIS IS LOVE UNPARALLELED. The Bible tells us that “we all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God” and that the wages of our sin is death” (Romans 3: 23; 6: 23). Amazingly, Jesus gave His life so as to freely offer total salvation and complete freedom from sins to all men! His death was the price that was paid for our sins! As we reflect on Valentine's Day, why not consider how much Jesus loves you? Why not think of why He died for you? Why not accept Jesus into your heart and let Him give meaning to your life and relationship? And you know what? Jesus is waiting for your response; if you would accept His gift of love towards you, He promises to give you a life of total victory over sin; filled with peace, love and joy.

It can all happen in three simple steps if you would **ACKNOWLEDGE** your sins and say “Lord God I am sorry for all the sins I have committed and I ask that you please forgive me”; **BELIEVE** in Christ's offer of Salvation and say “I believe that Jesus died for my sins and He has risen to set me free from all my sins”; **COMMIT** your life into the hands of Jesus by saying,

“Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and Saviour and I ask that you give me grace to live righteously above sin from now on; I promise never to go back into any of the sins I have confessed. Thank you for loving and saving me (Amen)”. If you sincerely pray this prayer, you will discover that all things will become new in your life and you can now have a personal relationship with God through His words and Holy Spirit in you.

For more help, please write or contact:

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*Shaping the next generation,  
transforming lives!*

# Who is Your



February 14 has long been a day of love and romance. Every year, the fourteenth day of the month of February has millions across the world presenting their loved ones with candy, flowers, chocolates and other lovely gifts. In many countries, restaurants and eateries are seen to be filled with couples who are eager to celebrate their relationship and the joy of their togetherness over delicious cuisines. There hardly seems to be a young man or woman who is not keen about making the most of the day. It is a quiet thought in the heart of many ladies and gentlemen how to celebrate this date and who their **valentine or lover** would be.

In 270 AD, Claudius II while serving as the Roman emperor issued an edict forbidding marriage to assure quality soldiers. He believed that marriage made the men weak because the married men were more emotionally attached to their families, thus, will not make good soldiers. The ban on marriage was a great shock for the Romans but they dared not voice their protest against the mighty emperor. However, Valentine was a priest at that time and he realized the injustice of the decree. He saw the trauma of young lovers who gave up all hopes of being united in

marriage. Hence, he planned to counter the monarch's orders in secrecy. Whenever lovers thought of marrying, they went to Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. And thus he performed many marriages for young lovers behind closed doors. But such things cannot remain hidden for long. It was only a matter of time before the emperor came to know of this "friend of lovers," and ordered his arrest.

While awaiting his sentence in prison, the daughter of the prison-guard was blind, but Valentine healed her miraculously through the vehicle of his strong faith in God. Valentine's refusal to compromise his faith in God and an attempt to preach to Claudius II angered the Roman Emperor who gave the order for his execution. It caused great grief to the young girl who has been healed to hear of Valentine's imminent death. Just before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to the little girl with this signature: **"From Your Valentine,"** a phrase that has continued to live on even afterwards. Valentine died for a few men and he was well remembered by those Roman Soldiers

for whose sake he was punished. Valentine is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD. Thus, 14th February became a day for all lovers, and Valentine became its Patron Saint.

It is now over 1800 years since Priest Valentine passed away; his basis for such cruel death is gradually going into extinction. As people continue to hunger and thirst for sincere and genuine love, the meaning of such sacrificial love continues to fade into oblivion. Valentine preserved the sanctity of marriage, took a valiant stand against an immoral edict to preserve a nation. He was a testator that sealed his testament with his blood. But today, giving and exchanging of varieties of cards, revelling, carousing, sexual immoralities and other forms of amoralties are now being practiced in the name of Valentine!

The life of Valentine reminds us of the salient words of Christ which says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).