

# DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Kirk Massey  
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Open Bible

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11)

What comforting words to hear as we begin a new year. The Apostle John points out an important truth for each one of us: we are loved by God, so much that He sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

This time of year, many of us want to begin a new slate. We want to improve physically, emotionally and spiritually. Maybe we want to lose those extra pounds we gained this past year. Maybe we want to improve our devotional life. Maybe we want to fix some relationships that sin ruined.

The Apostle John's letter encouraged his listeners to watch out for false teachers, teachers used by Satan himself to spread lies. His assaults on the Word and believers continues today and his main goal is to get us to feel like we are alone, to get us isolated and make us believe that we don't matter to Jesus. That's why we need to hear these words from John. In love, God sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. For your sins. The sins that hurts others. The sin that divides. All removed by the Lamb of God, making us at one with God. We have received forgiveness of all our sins. Jesus gives each one of us peace with God. As we begin this new year, we are not alone. We have our Savior and we have other Christians to walk with. Amen.

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## **Prayer:**

**Heavenly Father, thank you that you not only tell us what love is. You also show us. Help us to believe what you show us and the truth of your promises so that we live in the peace of that forgiveness and not in the lies the enemy wants us to believe. Our hearts are also with those who battle against mental illness and also with those struggling with getting used to life outside of prison. Walk with them. And when the lies of the enemy attack, remind them that your grace is greater still.**

**In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.**

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