



## **The God Who Pursues**

**1 John 4:7-19**

**Pursuit, 1**

**Timm Sasser**

**God pursues us through...**

**The Incarnation is God's greatest expression of his love for his people.**

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son." 4.9-10, 19

See also: **Jn.1.1-14**; Lk 2; Mt 1.18-25; Jn 3.16; **Php 2.8**

**He gives us intimate relationships with fellow believers to show he loves us.**

"...since God so loved us, we ought also to love one another..." 4.7-8, 11-12, 19

See also: Prov. 18.24; Acts 4.32-37

**He left the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.**

"We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us his Spirit." 4.13-17a

See also: Jn. 14.15-21, 26; Acts 1.8; 2; 4.23-31; 8.15ff; 10.38ff; Mk 12-13; Lk 11.13

**He showed his love for us while we were STILL sinners.**

"God demonstrated his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Ro. 5.8

See Also: Gen. 32.22-32 (Jacob wrestles with God); Jonah; Lk 15.11-32 (Parable of the Lost Son)

### **Quote #1**

"We tend to think of grace as the concession of a polite God who says, 'Well, that's alright, Sweetheart; just try not to do that again.' *Grace is whatever it takes for God to come and get us.* It can be confrontational, frightening, disruptive and demanding, but in the end it saves our lives." M. Craig Barnes, *When God Interrupts*, p. 60

**Quote #2**

"The meaning is understood. As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ever drawing nearer in the chase, with unhurrying and imperturbed pace, so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace. And though in sin or in human love, away from God it seeks to hide itself, Divine grace follows after, unwearyingly follows ever after, till the soul feels its pressure forcing it to turn to Him alone in that never ending pursuit." The Neumann Press Book of Verse, 1988

**For Further Study**

*When God Interrupts*. M. Craig Barnes, InterVarsity Press, 1996.  
"The Hound of Heaven", poem by Francis Thompson, ca. 1907.  
*Sacred Companions*. David G. Brenner, InterVarsity Press, 2002.  
*Connecting*. Larry Crabb, Word Publishing, 1997.  
*The Long Walk*, Slavomir Rawicz.