



## The Power of Love Is Not Magic

Some people are fond of saying, all we have to do is love everyone and everything will be OK. All the world's problems will be fixed and life will be good and peaceful. The trouble comes with what follows the words.

Some who say them, then just sit back and wait for love to work "like magic" and "fix" everything. It is true that love has the power to transform lives and the world, but it is not true that love is a simple fix. Love requires action. It is not a spectator sport. Society's romantic notions about 'falling in' or 'out' of love add to the difficulties we have understanding the action of loving. Do not forget, love does require the action words 'I am sorry' and 'I forgive you"! Anyone who has a long-lasting relationship – be it a marriage, friendship, relationship with neighbors, etc., knows that. Relationships last when all parties involved have decided to put the time and effort needed into those relationships to make them work. There must be give and take on all sides. There can be no dictators or door mats if we are to love as Jesus taught – loving others as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-31)

Lord, you call us to love and you do not put limits on who we are to love. You include family, friends, neighbors, and enemies near and far. Give us the strength, humility, and creativity to put the time and effort into loving everyone on your list starting this Christmas season.

### ***This week pray for:***

- The family of a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl, Jakelin Caal Maquin who died in US custody December 8th. Thousands of children are in US custody. At least 2,324 of them are teens in a growing Texas tent prison. More children are regularly imprisoned there, but there is no way out for them.
- The people in Yemen who are living with devastating war and catastrophic famine. "Half of the war-torn country's population - 14 million people - are on the brink of famine and an estimated 85,000 children may have died from malnutrition." There is an unexpected bright spot. The UN helped negotiate a truce in the city of Hudaydah this week. Join the civilian population in praying it holds. (BBC)



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