

Volume 3 – Day 18: Love IS Emotion

Love **is**, after all, an **emotion**. We know the distinct difference between emotion and logic as it is common knowledge that emotional decisions are generally more risky than logical ones. Just as we thrive on emotions, so does God. So He used His rational mind to engineer the universe and us. He did this to facilitate His ultimate purpose, that is to establish a love affair with any who would respond to His overtures toward them. But we cannot have affection for God with our mind. We can only know God in relationship through our emotional connection with Him, and a deeply affectionate one at that.

Many these days say that love is action. However, this statement fails to take into account the myriad random acts of kindness which are done by benefactors who actually hate those toward whom they have acted kindly. You cannot judge any act or word apart from the motive for which it is expressed. The word hypocrisy might come to mind. Kindness can be appreciated even if it is done with an ignoble motive. But kindness cannot be love, if it is not accompanied by the emotion of affection. Many criminals donate large sums of money or valuable resources to charity to cover their crimes or to avoid prosecution. When such donations are done blatantly, we might even call it bribery.

I have observed that most recipients of kindnesses can usually sense the difference between being used as an object of someone's project as opposed to being an object of another's genuine affection. Good deeds do not generate affection in the doer. But genuine affection will automatically produce good deeds toward others.

If you are a generous or kind person, ask yourself if you are this way in order to gain the approval, respect and admiration of those observing you. If not, it is likely that you have genuine affection for those upon whom your generosity rests.