

# THE DIVINE OBSESSION

Have you ever heard of groupies? Do you know what they are? Groupies are those passionate, over-the-top fans who will go to any length to show their love for a particular celebrity; who will go to any length for a drop of that celebrity's sweat to fall on them. They travel, they follow, they watch, they love, and they believe that someday, somewhere, they will catch the eye of their celebrity crush, and the doctrine of Walt Disney will be fulfilled – they will live happily ever after.

In England, there's a young lady named Gabrielle Newton-Bieber. She is a case in point. According to Daily Mail, she "legally changed her surname to pretend she's married to Justin Bieber. She sleeps with a cardboard cut-out of the singer every night, has five tattoos dedicated to him and owns every record, DVD, perfume, nail polish and make-up item he has ever put his name to. Gabrielle claims to be the world's biggest fan and hopes her dedication will get the attention of Bieber so they can tie the knot for real after her six-year obsession." She said, "Justin released his first single One Time when I was aged 16 and straight away I was obsessed. He was so cute with his floppy hair and riding his skateboard. I fell for him instantly. He makes us all so happy - Justin Bieber is my world." It gets worse! She said, "I've had a lot of dreams about him and about what I would do if I met him for real, one dream is he'd get me on stage and sing One Less Lonely Girl to me and then I'd get to meet him backstage afterwards. But honestly if I met him I would probably just burst into tears. I do think if I won the lottery I would probably end up stalking him, finding where he's living and move there." [Would you agree that this is abnormal, unhealthy behaviour?](#)

What's interesting is that the Bible proves God to be guilty of a similar type of behaviour:

Read [Psalm 139:1-12](#).

This is David, a king who lived about 1000 years before Jesus did, reflecting on God. [What stands out to you in this passage?](#)

King David says that God knows our every move and our every thought because He thinks the world of us and is always with us. In the same way that celebrities can't flee from the presence of their groupies, King David says that we can't flee from the presence of God!

Let's jump forward a bit and read [Psalm 139:17-18](#). Now King David is saying that if we were to count how many times God thinks about us individually, there would be more thoughts than there are grains of sand in the whole world. Interestingly, for some reason, researchers at the University of Hawaii have actually attempted to calculate the approximate number of grains of sand there are in the world. Apparently, they have a lot of time on their hands! Nonetheless, they divided the volume of an average grain of sand by the volume of sand covering the earth's shorelines. The volume of sand was obtained by multiplying the length of the world's beaches by their average width and depth. The number they calculated was  $7.5 \times 10^{18}$  grains of sand, or seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains. Whether or not this number is accurate, it's fair to conclude that there are a lot of grains of sand in the world and if God's thoughts towards us outnumber them, then He thinks about us quite a lot!

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines obsession as "a state in which someone thinks about someone or something constantly or frequently especially in a way that is not normal." Considering this definition, it would be accurate to say that God is obsessed with us! [Can you think of a time you have obsessed over something?](#) Maybe a type of food, a band, a movie or a toy? Our obsessions give us a little bit of insight into the way God feels towards us. But, at the same time, they don't because God is so much more obsessed with us than we

could ever be about anything!

Read [Luke 12:6-7](#).

It's probably safe to say you've never loved someone so much that the exact number of hairs on their head mattered to you! Luke, a guy that lived when Jesus did, says in his gospel which, if you're unfamiliar with this language is basically just a story of Jesus' life and teachings, that God cares about us so much that he has numbered our hairs! That's next level obsession.

[What difference does it actually make in your life today to know that God loves you that much?](#)

But the ultimate act of obsession was shown when God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross. Read [1 John 4:9-10](#).

Let's talk about sin for one moment. Simply put, sin is breaking the law (1 John 3:4). If God overlooked sin and just let it slide, that would make Him neither good or just. The only other option then is for God to punish sin and this is what He does. Paul, in Romans 6, says that the wages or consequences of sin is death. This is in contrast with eternal life.

In the passage we just read, John, one of Jesus' closest friends, is saying that God's ultimate expression of His love for us was sending Jesus into the world to die as our sacrifice to take away our sins and, by implication, the consequences of our sin in order that we might have eternal life. God's love for us meant that He wouldn't be happy spending eternity without us so He went to the crazy length of dying for us in order to make it a reality! That's the type of love God has for us. A love so deep that He was willing to die to be with us.

Some say that Jesus knew that He was going to rise from the dead so it wasn't a big deal for Him. Jesus certainly had spoken with confidence of His resurrection (Matthew 17:22-23), however, as he hung on that cross bearing the weight of our sin upon His conscience, He couldn't see the possibility of resurrection.

Read [Psalm 88:3-12](#).

This is a prophecy which, if you're unfamiliar with that terminology, is a prediction. This particular prophecy describes just how deep and hopeless the mental state was that Jesus would find Himself in when He hung on the cross. Jesus felt as though He was "in a trap with no way of escape," as though He was dying a death from which there would be no resurrection. While He hung on that cross, He was so overwhelmed by the weight of the world's sin that He could not see life for Himself beyond death. Yet He went through with it because He valued our eternal life above His own.

[What impact could this have in your life if you reached the point that you truly believe that you are that loveable?](#)

The beauty of this whole thing for us is that, because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can now spend eternity with this God who is obsessed with us. And there's nothing we have to do except express our desire to be there! Jesus has already done the hard work and now we get to reap the benefits. All because God loves us so much more than we could ever imagine.