

Bhakti means Devotion or Love for God.

[2:48] Love for God, there is no give & take. The Lord is who constantly gives and we are the ones who are constantly receiving

It is important that we not have a relationship of fear to God.

The more you develop a love for god, the more you will experience love and feel His presence.

The Chosen Ones: They are those who chose God.

The one who moves closer to the Lord enjoys the Lord’s Grace & Blessings develop a relationship of love with God.

There are many types of relationships with God. God the:

Mother	Father	Friend	Student	God-Child	Beloved	Master
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[9:12] What is the Nature of Devotion?

Devotion is the fulfillment of all spiritual practices.

Spiritual practices include:

Control the Mind	Control the Senses	Dispassion	Discrimination	Right Knowledge
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Fruits of controlling the Mind & Senses is Right Knowledge. Then one starts living that Knowledge. Service to the Lord through practices one develops knowledge.

[13:43] One cannot progress spiritually without love, Surrender & giving up the subtle Ego. One must reduce our tendencies.

[14:54] Love and Knowledge:

Love & Knowledge are the tow aspects needed to further one’s spiritual growth.

Knowledge without Love becomes barren. Those with too much Knowledge and have:

- No love
- Lack Surrender to the Lord
- Have an inflated Ego

Such persons develop arrogance.

Love with Knowledge becomes fanaticism.

- Fanatics say their path alone is right.
- His God alone is superior

Such person love God, But they don’t know who God really is, and they become fanatics.

Love & Knowledge are required for the spiritual student to soar among the eagles of spirituality.

[18:10] When we approach the Lord is the:

- Epitome of Love & Sweetness
- The fulfillments of Love

But too often, we take with us our Ego {I am the greatest at everything}.

The Ego contaminates our relationship with God. We never enjoy the sweetness with the salty Ego in the way of progress. We want to take the worldly matters that identify us in the world, our money and power and attachments.

Questions that will be answered in this series of talks:

1. What is the nature of Devotion
2. What is the Alter of Devotion
3. What is the Expressions of Devotion
4. How to cultivate Devotion
5. What are the obstacles in the Path.
6. What is the nature of a Devotee?

Four kind of Devotees who approach the Lord:

1. **Artha** – Approaches God because he is suffering due to an illness.
2. **Artharthi** – The devotee wants something from God, (money, job, intervention)
3. **Jijnasu** – Approaches God for intellectual Knowledge.
4. **Jnani** – The devotee wants only God.
 - “I want You, and You alone”
 - Nothing else is important to him.
 - He does not come for relief of suffering
 - He does not come to get something from God
 - He is not interested in intellectual knowledge

The four types of devotees are good. 'At least they come to Me.' 'But the one who is dear to Me is the one who wants only me'.

No pre-conditions or expectations. Just total unconditional, unselfish love. That love is highest in the eyes of the Lord. (To expect something in return for worshipping the Lord is a business.)

Love God as a Friend, Father, or Teacher. Say a Mantra. This will draw you closer to God.

You are a Body-Mind-Intellect and one has to carry ALL THREE with you.

Take care of the body because it is the temple of God. And he resides in it.

None of the Body-Mind-Intellect can be left behind. Your whole being has to go with you. Your whole being has to go with you. Your **whole body** has to evolve spiritually.