

and will always exist (Psalm 90:1-2). That means everything about Him is forever. It's eternal. It means His love for you is forever and will always exist.

God is the all-knowing Creator of all things. That means He knows everything about you. He knew the moment of your conception, and He had a plan and purpose for your life from the beginning. God did not necessarily determine the circumstances of your conception. That was decided by the free will of at least one of your birth parents. But if those circumstances were less than desirable, that doesn't make you a mistake or less than desirable. You may have been a surprise to your parents, but you were never a surprise to God. You were born with God's plan for your salvation, redemption, restoration, and future already in place. That doesn't mean it was all predestined. It still requires a choice from you. He has been drawing you to Himself since you were born, but you still have to receive Him. No matter what has happened in your past, God has been extending His hand to you, waiting for you to open your heart to Him.

God can touch and transform anyone with His love. No one is so far gone that God cannot redeem and bring to triumph that person when his or her heart is open to receive His love. There is no pit we can sink into that God does not reach in and pull us out of when we look up to Him. And when we submit our own will to His and seek His presence and help, He opens our spiritual eyes to see more of who He really is.

You must also know that God is one God. But there are three distinct, eternal, coexistent persons in the Godhead.

There is God the Father, who was not created but has always been.

There is Jesus, who is God's Son and also God. He, too, was not created but was begotten by His Father God.

There is also the Holy Spirit, who *proceeds from* God and is God's Spirit and also God.

In the beginning the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were together

at creation. And we man in *Our image*

Who is "Us"?

"Us" refers to the are separate and don't active in your life as you have to know each other one is to have a relationship with God the Son, and God can do in you.

Our image of who we are. For many people, the image of God is formed by what they learned in church, or what their parents and teachers taught them. They were supposed to believe in God. The image of God that those who were sup-

People also tend to have a father figure, in the image of their father, then they may also picture your father abandoning you. Your only Father has or will not trust Him. If you have a father figure, you may feel that your human father is not as good as your human father was, or that your human father was distant as well.

If you have rejected God, it's hard to open up to Him and trust in Him. You know that He is not a good father figure, but you are not trusting in Him and His unconditional love. You have total trust in Him. But you don't trust in God. That's because the source of your

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at creation. And when they created man, God said, "Let *Us* make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness" (Genesis 1:26).

Who is "*Us*"?

"Us" refers to these three—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are separate and distinct but are also inseparable. And they are as active in your life as you welcome them to be. In order to know God, you have to know each of these three persons of the Trinity. To leave out one is to have an incomplete picture of God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Any lopsided view will limit all God can do in your life.

Our image of who God is shapes the way we respond to Him. For many people, their image of God comes from their experience. It is formed by what they have seen in other believers, or what they learned in church, or what the people who were most influential in their lives taught them. If they were disappointed in people who were supposed to be God's people, then they put that disappointment on God. They blame God for the abuse they received from those who were supposed to love and protect them and did not.

People also tend to view God the way they viewed their father, or father figure, in their life. If that was not a positive image for them, then they may also put that human failure on God. For example, if your father abandoned you in any way, you may feel that your heavenly Father has or will also abandon you too, and therefore you cannot trust Him. If your earthly father was never there for you, you may feel that your heavenly Father won't be there for you either. If your human father was distant, you may feel your heavenly Father is distant as well.

If you have rejected God for whatever reason, or have hesitated to open up to Him and receive His healing and restoring love, please know that He is not angry with you. He knows that it takes knowing Him and His unconditional love for you before you can gain total trust in Him. But He wants you to do that as soon as possible. That's because the sooner you open up to fully receiving His love,

the sooner you can receive all He has for you—which is far more than you can imagine. Even if you have known God for years, there is always more to learn about Him.

Some people think it takes mindless faith to believe in God, but it actually takes blind and reckless faith to look at this beautiful world and amazing universe and believe there is *no* God.

King David, a man after God's own heart, said that only a fool says "there is no God." He said these kinds of people become corrupt and "there is none who does good" (Psalm 14:1). That's because if there is no God, then there are no absolutes, no moral law, and no final restriction on behavior. They can make up their own law and change it whenever they want. They are definitely not motivated by love.

David said that truly "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). That means God is revealed and can be seen in His creation. "The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory" (Psalm 97:6). A person has to be *spiritually blind by choice* in order to not see God's goodness and greatness.

The evidence for God is everywhere.

One of the ways God shows His love to us is in all that He has made—in His creation. It is here for *our* enjoyment and appreciation as well as His own pleasure. "Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men" (Psalm 66:5).

His works are evidence of His love for us.

Some people (theists) believe God is the Creator and the giver of life. Others (naturalists) believe there is no God and nothing exists outside of what is in the physical world. They say there is no spiritual world because they can't see it. But their spiritual eyes are not open; therefore, they cannot see spiritual things. They influence others into believing God does not exist even though they cannot prove it. They say that God is a myth, a figment of imagination. They say He is dead, not even pausing to account for the fact that if He is dead, He must have been alive, therefore He must have existed. And if He

is dead, where is He? He has no answers.

Some people create everything bad and evil in the world because of those who do bad ways. They now claim

God is real. Evil is real. And we must

God, the Creator

God is the Creator. God did create beautiful things. However, the most beautiful thing is an archangel called "Morning Star," "shining one," "light-bearer." He was created and became enthralled with God, centered, and prideful. He wanted to be God like God, influencing all creation. As a result, he and they fell.

Isaiah said of Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12).

Jesus said of Lucifer (Luke 10:18). Jesus witnessed Satan's fall and the power of the enemy's

Before Lucifer/Satan fell, he made five proclamations: "I will be like God," "I will be like God."

"I will ascend into heaven."

"I will exalt myself above the stars."

"I will also sit on the

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is dead, where is He buried and what happened at the funeral? They have no answers.

Some people *choose* to believe God never existed. They point to everything bad and say, "If there is a God, how could He allow all the evil in the world?" But the truth is, all the evil in the world exists because of those who *choose* to separate themselves from God and His ways. They now choose to serve evil over serving God.

God is real. Evil is also real. We have a choice between two realities. And we must make that choice as to which one we will serve.

God, the Creator of Everything, Did Not Create Evil

God is the Creator of all things, but He did not create evil. He did create beautiful angelic beings to dwell in heaven with Him. However, the most beautiful angelic being of all created by God was an archangel called "Lucifer," among other names. His name means "day star," "shining one," "light-bringer," "sun of the morning," and "light-bearer." He was the luciferous one—so beautiful that he became enthralled with his own beauty. In his self-focused, self-centered, and prideful manner, he chose his own will over God's will. He wanted to *be* God instead of *serve* God. So he rebelled against God, influencing a third of the angels to go along with him. As a result, he and they fell to earth and became Satan and his demons.

Isaiah said of Lucifer, "How you are fallen from heaven" (Isaiah 14:12).

Jesus said of Lucifer, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). Jesus wanted to assure His disciples that He had witnessed Satan's fall and had now given them "authority...over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

Before Lucifer/Satan fell, he made his pride and self-will known in five proclamations against God in Isaiah 14:13-14, all starting with "I will." He said:

"I will ascend into heaven."

"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."

"I will also sit on the mount of the congregation."

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds”

"I will be like the Most High"

He was so full of himself that his pride motivated him to make a terrible choice. As a result, he lost his position as the leader of worship in God's kingdom because he worshipped himself instead of God. But God, as always, had the final word. He countered every threat Lucifer made, saying he could no longer claim any of the beautiful names describing him and he would end up in the lowest pit of hell. Once a beautiful created being, by his own self-will he became independent from God and fell from everything God had for him. (In Isaiah 14, Isaiah is also referring to the evil king of Babylon, who acted like the devil and is foreseeing that because of the king's pride he will be brought down in the same way Satan was.) By choice, Satan became God's enemy—the opposite of God—and is the source of evil in the world.

God is not the source of evil in your world or in your life. Yet when evil manifests, many people blame God for it. But it is actually God's enemy—and yours—trying to destroy you and others. Evil does not exist because of a lack of God's love. Evil exists because of a choice to rebel against God and reject His love.

The power of evil is real, but God's power is far greater. Evil gains power through deception—that is, getting people to believe lies about God and reject God's truth. The power of evil is sustained by those who choose it and support it. When you are on God's side—when you choose to open your heart to God and receive His love—the enemy will try to influence you to believe lies about God.

Everything you don't know about God will be used against you by the enemy of your soul.

Read the sentence above 20 more times or until it is etched in your mind.

One of the reasons you need to know God well—*who* He is, *what* He does, and *all* He can and will do in your life—is that the enemy will try to deceive you about each of these things and tempt

you into losing hope and
the things you need to
people who do his bidding
to you about them.

You Must

It's important to understand that God made you with a special purpose.

David said, “*You formed me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You for Your works, made; marvelous are Your works. Well... Your eyes saw my body in the womb as it was formed; all were written on the scroll, none of them was missing.*” (Psalms 139:13-16)

The same is true of you in your mother's womb. All your life. One or both of you will say yes and will not say no. He has waited for you to open up.

The enemy may come unplanned, unwanted, and will happen to you unless you work to make it happen. But an enemy of your soul to tell

You Must

God's love is real because
Remember, God does
He is. And His love is there.

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you into losing hope and faith in God. What follows are some of the things you need to know about God that the enemy, and the people who do his bidding, do not want you to know and will lie to you about them.

You Must Know God Created You

It's important to understand you were not randomly spawned. God made you with a spirit and soul. You were not an accident.

David said, "*You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well... Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them*" (Psalm 139:13-16).

The same is true of you. God saw you as you were growing in your mother's womb. All your days are recorded in His book of your life. One or both of your parents may have failed you, but God has not and will not. He has loved you from the beginning, and He waits for you to open up to receive His love.

The enemy may come to tell you that you are an accident—unplanned, unwanted, and without purpose—and nothing good will happen to you unless *you* make it happen, or *you* sell out to him to make it happen. But quite the opposite is true. Never allow the enemy of your soul to tell you any differently.

You Must Know God's Love Is Real

God's love is real because *He* is real. And *He* is love.

Remember, God doesn't just *have* love; He *is* love. That is who He is. And His love is there for anyone who opens up their heart to it.

Human love is like a vapor you can't see unless someone chooses to demonstrate it in what they say or do, but God's love *can* be seen. When your spiritual eyes are opened, you can see manifestations of His love all over your life. Those who don't sense God's love don't really know Him. Jesus said to some of those who did not receive

Him, "I know you, that *you do not have the love of God in you*" (John 5:42). He recognized that they did not have God's love in them and therefore did not really know God. Many people don't really believe God loves them because they don't know Him.

Do you really know that God loves you? Do you truly believe it? Do you actually feel it or sense it? Because if you don't, He has so much more waiting for you to receive from Him.

If you *do* believe God loves you, is it personal? Do you ever doubt it? Do you see the manifestations of His love for you every day?

It's easy to understand why people don't recognize God's love for them when they have been through many difficult or tragic things and are bruised, wounded, damaged, and hurt. They think, *Where is God in all this? He must not be there for me.*

The truth is, God is always where He is asked to be. Yes, God is everywhere. But the great manifestations of His love and power are only clearly seen wherever He is invited to be.

Too many people don't invite Him into their lives in any way and then wonder why He doesn't do their bidding. Have you invited God to manifest Himself in your life? If not, it's never too late.

If you have already invited God into your life, ask Him to reveal Himself to you in a new and deeper way. No matter how long we have walked with the Lord, we all continue to need greater revelation of Him and His love for us.

Don't let the enemy—or anyone who serves God's enemy—tell you that God and His unending love for you are not real.

You Must Know God Is Good

God is good all the time, and you can trust that—even when bad things happen. We all know bad things happen to good people, but all of us are really only good to the degree that we allow God's goodness to flow into us. We keep that from happening when we resist the flow of His goodness and love to us in some way.

That's why it is important to grow daily in our knowledge of God.

We not only need to learn, we also need to always more to learn—the things we already know. God is good, but it will be a good God is. We may be ever-learning that nothing is far more than we can imagine.

I have heard too many people say things like, "I don't know if God is going to let this thing to happen," as if God is a designee. We don't have a designer, we have a designer who wants. That would, by nature, be God, who He is. And we can trust that.

It is the height of audacity to say, "I don't know if God is going to let this thing to happen," as if God is a designee. We don't have a designer, we have a designer who wants. That would, by nature, be God, who He is. And we can trust that.

"God said to Moses,

God is who He is, and we can learn more about Him. We can learn more about the Word and in prayer. Those who truly know God will know Him and those who truly recognize that He exists will trust in Him. It is not up to us to decide who He is, and we can trust that.

God is who He is, and we can trust that.

We must hold steadfastly to the truth about God: "I would have you to see the goodness of the Lord." We don't have to die to God, we can trust in Him where we are. Ask him to reveal God to you.

Too often we lose God from our lives because we don't firmly trust God. The Word invites us to "trust in the man who trusts in Him."

David often instructed us to "trust in the Lord."

“not have the love of God in you” (John 3:19). They did not have God’s love in them and God. Many people don’t really believe in God because they don’t know Him.

God loves you? Do you truly believe in God? Because if you don’t, He has nothing to receive from Him.

Is God personal? Do you ever doubt God’s love for you every day? Many people don’t recognize God’s love for them through many difficult or tragic things they have experienced, and hurt. They think, *Where is God?*

“Where He is asked to be. Yes, God is everywhere. Expressions of His love and power are only to be found where He is.”

God into their lives in any way and do their bidding. Have you invited God into your life? If not, it’s never too late. God into your life, ask Him to reveal the deeper way. No matter how long we all continue to need greater revelations.

“One who serves God’s enemy—tell him that love for you are not real.”

How God Is Good

“You can trust that—even when bad things happen to good people, but to the degree that we allow God’s goodness to stop from happening when we resist God to us in some way.”

“Grow daily in our knowledge of God.”

We not only need to learn new things about Him—because there is always more to learn—but we must also understand new depths of the things we already know. For example, we may know that God is good, but it will be a never-ending journey of discovery as to *how* good God is. We may already know that God loves us, but we will be ever-learning that no matter how much we *think* He loves us, it is far more than we can even fathom.

I have heard too many comments from people saying something like, “I don’t know if I can believe in a god who allowed this bad thing to happen,” as if God exists according to the way we believe. We don’t have a designer god whom we design according to what we want. That would, by mere definition, not be God. The truth is, God *is* who He is. And we cannot alter that fact no matter what we believe.

It is the height of arrogance to think *we* can decide who God is. He already *is*. What we *do* decide is whether to believe in who He is.

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’” (Exodus 3:14).

God is who He is, and it is up to us to decide whether to learn more about Him. We do that by spending time with Him in His Word and in prayer. The more we know *about* Him, the better we will know Him and the deeper our love for Him will grow. Just recognizing that He exists and is the God who can be known is the first step. It is not up to us to make God in our image. We are made in *His* image.

God is who He is, and we do not affect or change that in any way.

We must hold steadfastly to this truth that the psalmist said about God: “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the *LORD* in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13). We don’t have to die to see God’s goodness. We can see it today, right where we are. Ask him to show you His goodness in your life.

Too often we lose heart when things don’t go our way because we don’t firmly trust God and His loving-kindness toward us. God’s Word invites us to “taste and see that the *LORD* is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” (Psalm 34:8).

David often instructed his own soul to do the right thing. He

Un
said, "O my soul, you have said to the LORD, 'You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You'" (Psalm 16:2). *Apart from God's goodness poured into our lives, our goodness is limited.*

It's not enough to only remember that God is good. We must also praise Him for His goodness. The Bible says, "The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD" (Psalm 33:5). "Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8).

Whatever we praise God for, the enemy cannot use against us.

God is good. Don't let anyone tell you any differently. Whoever tries to convince you that God is not good doesn't have your best interests at heart.

You Must Know God Is Holy

Holiness is one of God's main attributes. In fact, everything about Him can be seen in the light of His love and holiness.

We are made in God's image, but we do not have any of His attributes without His enablement. We can only live in holiness as we are willing to separate ourselves from all that is unholy or ungodly and look to Him to fill us with Himself.

Moses said, "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? *Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*" (Exodus 15:11).

Hannah, a devoted servant of the Lord said, "No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2).

David said, "Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; *worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness*" (Psalm 29:2).

Holiness brings wholeness. God's holiness in you transforms you and makes you whole. When you open up to His love, you become a vessel into which He pours Himself. So don't fall for the lie that you can never attain the holiness described in God's Word. You can't attain it by yourself, but with God you most certainly can.

You Must

"Changeable" is our giving us an anchor in our changing by the minute, one moment and raging perhaps not generally to appear at the moment. I the Lord change into something God at all. And it happened became influenced by people did not stay strong in the

God never changes. You to God, "You are the same" (Hebrews 10:27).

God has always been and will be.

It's hard for us to grasp imagine anyone who was not.

We have not always been. The question is, where will we be?

God is eternal. And we eternity with Him or apart from Him. We have a passion to walk with Him, or we don't. We change because He does not. We are always walking into the presence of God, becoming more like Him.

You Must Know God and Nothing Else

The power of God is greater than a hurricane, flood, tornado, earthquake, or any other force "mightier than the noise of many waters" (Psalm 93:4). "The might of the LORD, at the presence of the

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You Must Know God Is Unchanging

"Changeable" is our middle name without God's Spirit in us giving us an anchor in our heart, soul, and spirit. We are capable of changing by the minute. You know how some people can be nice one moment and raging lunatics the next? We are all changeable—perhaps not generally to that extent—no matter how solid we may appear at the moment. I've seen the most stable person I know in the Lord change into someone who acts as though he doesn't know God at all. And it happened because he thought he couldn't fail. He became influenced by people who did not know God because he did not stay strong in the things he once knew about God.

God never changes. You can depend on that. The psalmist said to God, "You are the same, and Your years will have no end" (Psalm 102:27).

God has always been and will always be.

It's hard for us to grasp the concept of always being. We cannot imagine anyone who was not created and didn't have a beginning.

We have not always been. But we will always be. The important question is, *where* will we always be? And *who* will we always be *with*?

God is eternal. And we are given the choice to either spend eternity *with* Him or *apart* from Him. When we make the decision to walk *with* Him, our eternal future is secure. That does not change because *He* does not change. When you walk with God, you are always walking into the future He has for you. You are always becoming more like Him.

You Must Know God Is All-Powerful and Nothing Is Impossible for Him

The power of God is greater than the power of the greatest hurricane, flood, tornado, earthquake, or tsunami. "The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea" (Psalm 93:4). "The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth" (Psalm 97:5).

One of the greatest things about God is that He shares Himself with you. And that means He shares His power. But you are empowered only as you give place to God's love working in your life.

Don't let your mind be swayed into questioning that.

God is all-powerful. That means nothing is impossible for Him where you are concerned. You may be facing impossible circumstances and cannot see a way *out*, but God can. He can also see a way *through*. Don't doubt that. Don't think you have to turn to the dark side in difficult times. That is one of the biggest lies the enemy will use against you. Know where your power source is found and do not seek another. In God you have access to all the power you will ever need to live the life He has for you.

You Must Know God Owns Everything and Knows What You Need

Because God created everything, that means He owns everything, which is more than enough for what you and I need. God said, "Every beast of the forest is Mine, and *the cattle on a thousand hills...* the world is Mine, and all its fullness" (Psalm 50:10,12).

David said, "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). Everything in our world, including us, belongs to God.

God shows His love by giving the earth to us. "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; *but the earth He has given to the children of men*" (Psalm 115:16). Still, He wants us to look to Him to be our Provider.

Jesus said, "*Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him*" (Matthew 6:8). God knows what you need, and He is more than able to supply everything you need, but He wants you to come to Him in prayer and ask. God is always all about a relationship with you. He is not interested in being Santa Claus or your personal sugar daddy. God hears your prayers and answers them when you pray from a pure heart that loves Him.

When we don't know Him, we don't understand His answers. We think we have prayed, then He didn't hear. It's not about Him what to do. It is partner.

Understand that no matter what you do, God's love renews and replenishes the earth.

This may be a shock for the Christian. Instead of thinking God's way instead of thinking our own, we must not run out of whatever we need to face from us (Psalm 104:29) because God loves the earth (Psalm 104:30).

Don't let fear of not having what you need stop you. God will provide. Continue to see that God is your Provider, and He has all you need.

You Must Know God Sees Everything

God sees everything at all times. He sees what you are doing hidden from Him. He sees what you are thinking. He also sees where you are staying. He sees where you are there. "There is nothing covered, so much as a bird; nothing hidden that will not be known" (Proverbs 15:7). "Search my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from you."

God doesn't keep a record of your sins to bring them up at some later date, or to hold them against you. He loves you. He even sees the things you do not see. "Search my wanderings; put my sins in Your book?" (Psalm 56:8).

God knows you better than you do. He sees your my's plans for your destruction. He sees His answers to them. God does not see your pain, He sees your love. His eye is on you and He watches over you. You are with Him.

ings about God is that He shares Himself with shares His power. But you are empowered only love working in your life.

be swayed into questioning that.

That means nothing is impossible for Him ed. You may be facing impossible circum- a way out, but God can. He can also see a pt that. Don't think you have to turn to the es. That is one of the biggest lies the enemy ow where your power source is found and God you have access to all the power you life He has for you.

now God Owns Everything nows What You Need

l everything, that means He owns every- an enough for what you and I need. God forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand and all its fullness" (Psalm 50:10,12). th is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the ell therein" (Psalm 24:1). Everything in our ings to God.

giving the earth to us. "The heaven, even D's; but the earth He has given to the chil- 6). Still, He wants us to look to Him to be

er knows the things you have need of before :8). God knows what you need, and He is everything you need, but He wants you to and ask. God is always all about a relation- interested in being Santa Claus or your per- ears your prayers and answers them when that loves Him.

When we don't know Him well, or at all, we often don't understand His answers. We think that if He doesn't answer in the way we prayed, then He didn't hear. Prayer is not dictating to God and telling Him what to do. It is partnering with God in every aspect of your life.

Understand that no matter what anyone says to the contrary, God renews and replenishes the earth.

This may be a shock for the predictors of doom. If we were to live God's way instead of thinking we know better than God, we would not run out of whatever we need. When we do evil, God hides His face from us (Psalm 104:29). But when we live His way, He replen- ishes the earth (Psalm 104:30).

Don't let fear of not having enough cause you to doubt that God will provide. Continue to seek Him for provision for your life. He is your Provider, and He has all you need.

You Must Know God Is All-Seeing

God sees everything at all times. Nothing you think or do is hidden from Him. He sees where you are and where you're going. He also sees where you are *supposed* to be going and how to get you there. "There is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hid- den that will not be known" (Matthew 10:26). "O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You" (Psalm 69:5).

God doesn't keep a record of all you do in order to embarrass you at some later date, or to hold it over your head as a threat, or to have a case against you so you can be punished. He does it because He loves you. He even sees the tears you shed. David said, "You num- ber my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?" (Psalm 56:8).

God knows you better than you know yourself. He sees the ene- my's plans for your destruction, and when He hears your prayers He sees His answers to them long before you do. Don't think that God does not see your pain, struggle, fear, and circumstances. His eye is on you and He watches over you. He is with you as long as you are with Him.

Prayer of Love

LORD, I long to know You better. Teach me all about You. I know I cannot begin to comprehend Your greatness without Your opening my eyes, enlarging my heart and mind, and giving me revelation. "O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain" (Psalm 104:1-2). Help me to understand all that You are so that I can grow ever deeper in my walk with You.

Enable me to comprehend all that You do. Help me to remember at all times that You never change. You are who You are, and no lies of the enemy can alter that in any way. "Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting" (Psalm 93:2). "You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods" (Psalm 97:9). I pray that the essence and character of who You are will transform me and guide who I become.

I cannot fathom Your *love* for me without understanding all You have *done* for me. Enable me to fully open my heart and mind to receive that wonderful knowledge of You. Thank You that Your love is unconditional, unchanging, unfailing, and transforming. Teach me to understand and acknowledge all the ways You demonstrate Your love toward me. Fortify my spirit so I never doubt it. Help me trust at all times that Your love is real and true and always there for me in unlimited supply. Thank You that Your loving-kindness and goodness toward me never fail.

In Jesus' name I pray.

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all that You do. Help me to you never change. You are who enemy can alter that in any way. om of old; You are from ever- LORD, are most high above all above all gods" (Psalm 97:9). character of who You are will I become.

for me without understand- Enable me to fully open my wonderful knowledge of You. unconditional, unchanging, Teach me to understand and demonstrate Your love toward doubt it. Help me trust at all true and always there for me You that Your loving-kindness er fail.

Words of Love

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting,

You are God.

PSALM 90:1-2

A thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.

PSALM 90:4

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind, who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

PSALM 104:3-4

Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.

Then each one's praise will come from God.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:5

Receive All God Has for You

God's love for us existed long before *we* existed. That means He certainly loved us way before we even thought about loving Him. "I have loved you with an *everlasting love*," He said. "Therefore with lovingkindness I have *drawn you*" (Jeremiah 31:3).

That's the way He *is*.

This means on all those days when we weren't thinking about *Him*—and we were living our own way and not living for *Him*—He was still extending His hand of unfailing love to us, reaching to draw us close to Him.

That's what He *does*.

Every day of our lives He extends His love to us. We are the ones who don't recognize it. Don't respond. Don't believe. It is we who—knowingly or not—turn away and don't receive the love He has with our name on it. Yet our *recognition* of God's unending love for us—and our *receiving* it into our heart—is what radically changes our lives. It's what makes us whole and frees us to be all we were created to be.

It's what causes our life to finally make sense.

For without God's love we are lost. We are hopeless. We are ruined. But the day it clearly dawns on us how much He truly loves us, we never see life the same again. Now we see it from the perspective of His love and not His judgment.

That is a great day!

But how do we actually *receive* God's love, beyond simply recognizing that He loves us?

God has made a specific way.

God did not make us robots. He made thinking, decision-making people capable of choosing good over evil, truth over lies, and His ways over our own. However, He knows what we are made of. He knows that because we have freedom of choice, we can be enticed to *choose* a path *separate from Him*. That's why He had a plan to bridge that gap of separation.

He gave us a way back. A way to start over. A chance to begin again.

He gave us His greatest gift of all—His Son.

Many people have already received this gift. But He is the gift who keeps on giving. No matter how long we have known Him, we still need to keep understanding and receiving all that He has paid an unthinkable price to give us.

God chose a pure and humble young woman of faith—a virgin named Mary—to conceive a child by the power of His Holy Spirit and give birth to God's Son. She had to be a woman who walked with God and knew the Scriptures well enough to understand what was happening. She had to be the kind of person who would not run from God's call on her life. She had to have the strength and sensitivity of character to respond to God by saying, "Let it be to me according to Your word" (Luke 1:38). And she was all that.

The angel who appeared to Mary with the stunning news told her that His name was to be called *Jesus*, which means "salvation" (Luke 1:31). He would also be called *Immanuel*, meaning "*God with us*" (Matthew 1:23).

When He was born, He had been anticipating His birth.

Jesus came to save us from errors, bad choices, sins, and save us from our enemy, death. He came to save us from hopelessness and despair, to without Him. He came to give us hope.

Jesus came to sacrifice His life so we could be with Him forever.

Jesus came so that we could be with Him forever.

Receiving the Gift of Love

When I received the Love of Christ, I was overwhelmed with God. It was a life-changing moment. There were many amazing aspects about that moment, but the one that stands out is the love for me.

I was twenty-eight years old when I received the Love of Christ. I had been raised by a very abusive father who had me in a closet much of my early childhood. I had anxiety, depression, and had turned to Eastern religions, alcohol, and drugs for temporary relief, after which I would end up back down that path. Nothing would stop me.

My hopelessness grew to despair. I had given up on collecting enough sleeping pills to stop the pain again. Back then, it was easy to come by. You had to look no further than the midst of my desperation. I had given up on myself about me to recognize my strengths and weaknesses. I had given up on my regular eating spot close to where I worked.

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When He was born, His identity was revealed to some who had been anticipating His birth and knew why He came.

Jesus came to save us from the consequence of our mistakes, errors, bad choices, sins, and failures, which is death. He came to save us from our enemy, who tries incessantly to destroy us. He came to save us from hopelessness and futility, which we are all heir to without Him. He came to save us from ourselves.

Jesus came to sacrifice Himself and lay down His life for us so we could be with Him forever. All because He loves us.

Jesus came so that we could have good news every day of our lives.

Receiving the Love of God Through Jesus Changed My Life

When I received the Lord decades ago, I had a dramatic encounter with God. It was a life-transforming experience. One of the most amazing aspects about that time was not only sensing the love of God in the people who led me to the Lord, but also sensing God's love for *me*.

I was twenty-eight years old and felt that my life was over. I had been raised by a very abusive, mentally ill mother and locked in a closet much of my early childhood. I grew up with paralyzing fear, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. I tried everything I could to stop the pain and find a reason to live. I went into occult practices, Eastern religions, alcohol, drugs—but nothing provided more than temporary relief, after which I was always worse than before I started down that path. Nothing worked.

My hopelessness grew to such a state that I was days away from collecting enough sleeping pills to make sure I never woke up to that unending pain again. Back in those days, sleeping pills were not so easy to come by. You had to know somebody and I didn't. But in the midst of my desperation, a friend and her pastor cared enough about me to recognize my suffering, and they met with me at a popular eating spot close to where I lived. The pastor explained God's

love for me and how I could receive it. He told me about Jesus in a way that someone talks about a best friend. He said God had a plan and high purpose for my life, and He could change me from the inside out.

I had never dreamed of such a thing.

"How is that possible?" I asked

The pastor gave me three books to read that he said would answer many of my questions. One was on the reality of evil, and God knew I needed this book because my occult practices had taught me that evil existed only in our mind. So if we got rid of evil in our mind, then it would not exist. I didn't really fall for that lie because even if you could get rid of evil in your own mind, what can you do about the evil in someone else's mind who wants to inflict it on you?

There were many of these kinds of details in the occult practices and other religions I had experimented with that didn't make sense, didn't work, and didn't produce any tangible benefit in my life. They were all about trying to work my way to God, to be acceptable to Him. But with each new endeavor that failed, I sank lower and lower until I believed there was no other way to rid myself of emotional pain other than to end my life.

The second book I was given that day was on the work and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives when we receive Jesus. The third book was the Gospel of John. I went home and read all three books, and with each one my eyes were opened to things I had never heard before.

My friend and I went back to meet with her pastor the following week, as he had requested we do.

"Did you read the books?" he asked me right away.

“Yes, I did.”

“What did you think of them?”

"I thought I was reading the truth."

He then asked if I wanted to receive Jesus. In a split-second look at my life I saw I had nothing to lose. I had tried everything I knew to do and there was no relief. No answers. I could not live with

the emotional pain I was causing myself. I planned to end my pain once I finished reading those books and hearing the tapes. I could be the best thing that ever happened to me.

I said yes.

I received the Lord that day with a sensation in my heart that I do not know how to describe. It was hope. For the first time in my life I had a sense of God's presence.

From that time on I wanted to be close to Him and for me,

Jesus Is Called and the

I learned that Jesus is called by God in His creation of all His Holy Spirit from the beginning was the Word, as were made through Him, and was made" (John 1:1,3). Jesus a man to dwell with us and m

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the emotional pain I was carrying around inside me another day. I planned to end my pain one way or another. If what I felt while reading those books and hearing the pastor say was true, then this could be the best thing that ever happened to me.

I said yes.

I received the Lord that day and I felt different. I had a strange sensation in my heart that I didn't recall ever experiencing before. It was hope. For the first time in my life I felt I actually had a future.

From that time on I wanted to know everything about Jesus. I wanted to be close to Him and experience the greatness of His love for me.

Jesus Is Called the Word, the Door, and the Good Shepherd

I learned that *Jesus is called the Word*. He wasn't an afterthought by God in His creation of all things. Jesus was there *with* God and His Holy Spirit from the *beginning* of creation. The Bible says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God...All things were made through Him*, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1,3). Jesus is the *living Word*. He came to earth as a man to dwell *with* us and meet us at our greatest need.

Jesus told people He was *with God* and had been *sent by God* (John 7:28-29). He said no one had seen God except for Him (John 6:46).

Jesus was the only one who was sent to earth from God.

Jesus was fully God and fully man, sent as a gift of God's love for us.

Jesus is called the door. That's because He is the only door through which we enter God's kingdom on earth and in eternity. He said, "*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved*, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9).

Jesus is the open door to everything we need in our lives.

We must keep that in mind at all times. *When it seems all doors are closed to us, we have forgotten who He is.*

Jesus is called the good shepherd. Referring to Himself, He said, “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep... and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:14-15). He said His sheep follow Him because “they know his voice” (John 10:4). *When we receive the gift of Jesus, our spirit is awakened and we can hear His voice speaking to our heart.*

Jesus told others He was going to lay down His life for the sheep. He came to earth with the full intention of laying down His life for you and me.

There is no greater love than that.

Even though Jesus was speaking to the Jews at the time because He was born among them, He was also speaking of “other sheep” which were “not of this fold,” saying they “will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd” (John 10:16).

This means *people of all races are His.* And no one can take away the fact that every one of them who chooses to follow Him as their Savior and Shepherd will not only walk with Him every day of their lives but also into eternity to be with Him forever.

Jesus Is Called the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus is the only way to get to where we need to go.

In fact, we cannot get there from here without Him.

I know I would never be where I am today if I had not chosen His way over my own. I am sure I would have died years ago when I had collected enough sleeping pills to end the pain.

Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*” (John 14:6). He was very clear about that. Only through Jesus can we get to a place of being eternally restored into a close relationship with God and find the great peace, rest, hope, and love His presence brings us.

While God continuously sees all the good He puts in us, He also sees all our mistakes and errors, our foolishness, rebellion, and idol worship. He sees our rejection of Him and His ways and laws. Even so, it doesn’t matter what we *have* or *have not* done, He still loves

Rece

us enough to continue drawing us to Himself. *He will choose to receive His love.*

God’s way is through Jesus.

Jesus gave us a way to be born again. *God—which is death—and God forever.*

There is not a person who does not experience the consequences of sin. This is natural.

Living against God’s way is natural every day when we allow ourselves to be *born anew.* The first time we are born is natural. Being born *again* refers to a second birth.

These are two separate choices. *One is natural and one is spiritual.* You *do* have a choice.

When you receive Jesus, you are born again in a dynamic new way. You see the world differently.

Jesus said, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Without this new birth, there is no kingdom of God in a realm where we have been born in the spirit.

Even if you received the new birth, there is still much more to learn about God and the kingdom of God, spiritual death, but His salvation, and an ever-increasing understanding of the Word.

We tend to forget the extent of God’s love for us.

Jesus was crucified—brutally. He was dead. Then He was buried. A large stone rolled in front of the tomb, stealing His body. But three days later, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was raised from the dead to prove He was alive. All He said He would do, He accomplished all He said He would do.

Referring to Himself, He said, "I My sheep... and I lay down My life and His sheep follow Him because When we receive the gift of Jesus, hear His voice speaking to our heart. to lay down His life for the sheep. mention of laying down His life for

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us enough to continue drawing us to Himself. And He gives us *free will to choose* to receive *His way* for our lives or not.

God's way is through Jesus.

Jesus gave us a way to be free of the consequences of living apart from God—which is death—and to begin again in a close relationship with God forever.

There is not a person who doesn't need to be free from the consequences of sin. This is no small matter.

Living against God's ways works death in our lives in some manner every day when we allow it to continue. But Jesus gave us a *way* to be *born anew*. The first time we were born, it was in the *flesh*, but being born *again* refers to being born in the *spirit* (John 3:6).

These are two separate events. You had no choice about the first one. You *do* have a choice about the second.

When you receive Jesus, your spirit comes alive. You experience life in a dynamic new way. You see things differently.

Jesus said, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Without Him, there is so much we cannot see that exists in the spirit realm. Good things. Amazing things. The kingdom of God is a realm of blessing we cannot penetrate unless we have been born in the spirit by choosing to receive Jesus as Lord.

Even if you received the Lord years ago, don't think you have nothing more to learn about Him. Yes, we are saved instantly from spiritual death, but His salvation takes a lifetime of working in us an ever-increasing understanding of all Jesus did.

We tend to forget the extent of what Jesus accomplished because of His love for us.

Jesus was crucified—brutally tortured and nailed to a cross until He was dead. Then He was placed in a cave-like tomb with an enormous stone rolled in front of it and guards to keep anyone from stealing His body. But three days later the stone was supernaturally rolled away and Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He had risen from the dead to prove He was who He said He was, and that He had accomplished all He said He came to do.

His resurrection was real.

More than 500 people witnessed Him in His resurrected body as He appeared to each one of them over the following days before He ascended into heaven to be with His Father God.

After Jesus had risen, He entered a securely locked room and appeared to the people inside the room. He did not need to have someone unlock and open the door for Him because He is the door. And He is the way through. He is the God of truth because His Spirit leads us into all truth. Those of us who know Him understand that He is alive and He is the way to life forever with Him.

Jesus Is Called Savior, Redeemer, and Restorer

Jesus is called Savior because He saved us from the consequences of our own sin, which is death. He was sinless, yet He took the consequences of our sin on *Himself*. And He gave us His sinlessness in exchange (2 Corinthians 5:2). That is certainly nowhere near being a fair trade for Him, but He saw His sacrifice as the right thing to do, because when you love someone you do everything in your power to save them from destruction.

Jesus is called Redeemer because He “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people” (Titus 2:14). He redeemed us from our place of being lost and took us to a place of being His special people. He is continuously preparing us for the good things He has for us to do and be.

Jesus is called the Restorer because once we receive Him, God then sees the righteousness, goodness, and purity of Jesus in us. And as a result we have the right to be called children of God. As a child of God we are completely restored to Him. There is no more separation between us. “As many as received Him, to them *He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name*” (John 1:12).

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Jesus willingly laid down
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*Love kept Jesus going to
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What kind of love is this that we are called God's children?
(1 John 3:1).

Being a child of God makes us joint heirs with Jesus. That means everything Jesus is heir to, we also inherit. Except, of course, the right to sit at God's right hand in heaven. Only Jesus has paid the price for that honor.

Jesus willingly laid down His life. Because He is God, He could have stepped down from the cross at any time and said, "Forget this. I am not doing it. These people are not worth it."

Instead, even though He would have liked to not endure what was ahead, He prayed to God saying, "Not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Love kept Jesus going to the cross—love for His Father God and love for us.

What follows in this chapter are only *some* of the gifts Jesus died to give us. When you truly understand these things, they will change your life.

When You Receive Jesus, He Gives You a New Foundation

Think about receiving a gift. Let's say a valuable cross in a frame. I was given such a gift one time. If I had never opened up the gift, would I have really received the cross? If after years had passed, and it was still sitting inside the box all wrapped up in pretty paper and a bow, did I really receive it? I received something, but it was not near what was actually given.

God gives us the gift of Jesus, but too often we don't really open the gift to see what all we have been given. One of the things He gives us is an entirely new foundation upon which to build our lives.

Once you receive Jesus, *He* becomes your new foundation. The Bible says, "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is

laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Every day you walk with Him, you build on that foundation.

The great thing about a gift is that you can open it at any time. And you can start building on that foundation whenever you do.

When You Receive Jesus, You Receive Forgiveness for All of Your Wrong Choices

Our nature is nothing like God's.

All of us are born with a sinful nature (Ephesians 2:3). Left to our own ways, "there is *none who seeks after God... there is none who does good*, no, not one... *the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes*" (Romans 3:11-12,17-18).

That's the way we are.

However, once we accept Jesus, we receive complete forgiveness for all our past failures to live God's way. From then on when we violate God's rules, laws, and ways, we must simply come to Him with a repentant heart and confess it. And He forgives us every time. That truth does not encourage us to keep on sinning, because we know that as long as we are unrepentant it will always be a hindrance to our lives and keep us from all God has for us.

The longer we walk in right relationship with God, "the way we are" becomes more like "the way *He* is." *That* is transformation.

No matter how good we think we are, every human is unrighteous in the sight of God. If we don't know how bad *sin* is, it's because we don't understand how holy *God* is. And because His holiness and our sinfulness cannot be reconciled, we will spend eternity separated from Him. The only way we can live for eternity with God is to receive Jesus and have a spiritual rebirth. It is not something we can accomplish on our own. Jesus accomplished it with His death and resurrection. *He* did it. All we do is open up to receive *Him*.

If we don't receive *Him* and are not born again in the spirit, we don't have a relationship with God and cannot experience His

kingdom and the fullness. If we do not have a rela

When You Receive

God is everywhere, b and seen by those who relationship with Him and Himself with us.

One of the greatest receive Jesus, He gives us forever. In this way God essence of who He is—v

Jesus promised that a Father God, He would see Father will send in My sent to dwell in all who

The Holy Spirit is also in the Father, Jesus the Son, a

The Holy Spirit in us. "You are not in the flesh but dwells in you. Now if any not His" (Romans 8:9).

The Holy Spirit is the spirit and nothing can change that

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kingdom and the fullness of His love in our life or in the life to come. If we do not have a relationship with God, it is by our own choice.

When You Receive Jesus, God Shares Himself with You

God is everywhere, but His presence and power are only revealed and seen by those who believe in Him and choose to have a close relationship with Him on His terms. When we do that, He shares Himself with us.

One of the greatest signs of God's love for us is that when we receive Jesus, He gives us His Holy Spirit to live in us and be with us forever. In this way God shares another part of Himself—the very essence of who He is—with us.

Jesus promised that after He ascended into heaven to be with His Father God, He would send "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name" (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit was sent to dwell in all who received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the Spirit of Christ because God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one.

The Holy Spirit in us is the sign that we are *His*. The Bible says, "You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not *His*" (Romans 8:9).

The Holy Spirit is the seal that says we are the Lord's. It is a done deal and nothing can change that.

One of the greatest tragedies is that many people know even less about the Holy Spirit than they do about God and Jesus. But *God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one and inseparable*. People try to divide them up and leave one or more persons of the Trinity out, but God cannot be divided into parts. If we do not recognize His Spirit in us, then we cannot receive all God has for us.

Jesus died the death we should have died because He loves us. But He didn't stop there. Now He is *with* us through the Holy Spirit who lives *in* us. We have been made righteous by receiving

Jesus, and God sees the righteousness of Jesus when He looks at us. The Holy Spirit cannot dwell in an unsanctified body, but when we receive Jesus we become a sanctified temple for the Holy Spirit. Now God sends His Spirit to live in us. I'm not talking about spiritual gifts or manifestations or specific outpourings of the Holy Spirit. I'm talking simply about receiving Jesus and Him giving you His Holy Spirit to live in you.

Too many people won't even mention the Holy Spirit as if He doesn't exist or doesn't matter, but He is our eternal connection with God. "No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:11-12).

We receive His Spirit so we can really know Him.

God shows His love for you by giving you His presence—His Holy Spirit, part of Himself—to live in you. What a precious gift of love.

When You Receive Jesus, You Receive Everything God Has for You

When we give Jesus everything we have, He gives us everything He has. But He requires that we seek Him for all we need.

As a child of God, that means you are part of the family business. As such you receive the power of Jesus' name. Jesus said, "He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:12-14).

This means everything you need can be secured by praying in Jesus' name.

We all can see how powerful the name of Jesus is when godless people don't even want His name to be spoken unless it is said as a curse word. That's not true of any other name. Why is Jesus the only

name used as a curse word? Because the world that doesn't recognize the light of the world, the world that doesn't work to tear down and destroy, the world that doesn't want to live in them. It is proof that the world is not aligned with God. Our spirit is aligned with evil. Our spirit is aligned with the world. "You believe that there is a God and there is no God. All who live like this believe—and tremble!" (James 4:12)

People who misuse His name and His power, who accomplish great things with His name, who speak His name without the fear of God, they sadly never know all God has for them.

When You Receive Jesus, You Receive Everything God Has for You

Jesus came to deliver us from the power of the enemy. God "has delivered us from the power of darkness and has taken us into the kingdom of the Son of God, in which we live in union with Christ, having been delivered from the power of the enemy who used to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. For God has given us life, and that they may not die in sin" (Colossians 1:13-14).

A big part of the abundant life Jesus gives us is the authority in spiritual warfare that comes from the victory over death on the cross. "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control. So do not be afraid, for God is with you" (2 Timothy 1:7-12).

Jesus said He did not come to condemn the world, but rather to save and free them from the power of the enemy. He said, "Whoever comes after Me must hate his own life. And we cannot dwell in God's house if we love the world" (John 3:18-21).

Jesus said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). This means His power and authority are entirely secured for us. With Jesus we will never have to be enslaved again.

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me of Jesus is when godless spoken unless it is said as a name. Why is Jesus the only

name used as a curse word? It is because the realm of darkness fully recognizes the light of the Lord and tries to snuff it out. Evil always works to tear down and destroy those who have the light of the Lord in them. It is proof that those who know the truth and reject it are aligned with evil. Our spiritual enemy knows exactly who Jesus is. "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" (James 2:19).

People who misuse His name will never know the power to accomplish great things when they pray. It is a serious offense to speak His name without the reverence due Him. Those who do will sadly never know all God has for them.

When You Receive Jesus, He Gives You Victory over the Enemy

Jesus came to deliver us from the dark realm of our spiritual enemy. God "has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). Contrasting Himself with the enemy, Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10).

A big part of the abundant life Jesus came to give us includes our authority in spiritual warfare that is established on the foundation of Jesus' death on the cross. In laying down *His* life, He won victory over death and hell for *us*. Now He has given us power over the enemy when we pray in His name.

Jesus said He did not come to judge or condemn people, but rather to save and free them. Jesus freed us from whatever enslaves us. He said, "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). And we cannot dwell in God's house as a slave of sin.

Jesus said, "*If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*" (John 8:36). This means His freedom is final. His freedom has been entirely secured for us. With His death and resurrection, we don't ever have to be enslaved again.

During the first couple of years after I received Jesus, I was set free from anxiety, depression, fear, and sadness. It happened as I fasted and prayed and believers prayed for me. This freedom is what God has for all of us. Because Jesus broke the power of the enemy, I didn't have to be enslaved by darkness again. What a transformation!

We never have to walk in darkness. Even when we get into dark times or dark situations, God's light is always there to be found. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. *He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life*" (John 8:12). Jesus came as a light to keep us from living in darkness. We have to trust that His light in us can never be put out.

Jesus came as the light of the world, but "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Those who are attracted to the dark do not want to give up their self-serving ways. We who love God want the light of Christ to expose anything in us that is attracted to the dark side in any way because that will keep us from being all we can be.

Jesus came to give you life in all its fullness. The enemy comes to rob and destroy you. Jesus came to give you His light and eternal life. The enemy comes to give you darkness and death. Choose to receive the gift of life God has for you.

When You Receive Jesus, He Gives You Life Forever with Him

This life is not all there is. You are going to live forever. Our soul will exist eternally, either in a stage of separation from God, or in eternal life with Him. Being separated from God is hell. That's what hell is. No one spoke about hell more than Jesus did. It's where the person who refused God will understand what God wanted to spare them from experiencing.

Heaven is being with God forever.

If you have received Jesus, one day you will have a resurrected body and eternal life with Him. The resurrection of Jesus guaranteed

our own resurrection after prepared for eternity. That over earthly rewards. We all else.

The Bible says that when Lord. Jesus said He has prepared nothing can harm you, when no more suffering, sickness, be troubled; you believe in *house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you*. I will come again and receive you may be also" (John 14:1).

What a magnificent promise!

The promise is that on your last breath, God will take you to your eternal home with Him. "God, the love with which He loved us, made us alive together with Him, and raised us up together, and in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6).

In light of all that, I would say that the best is yet to come.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb four days, He said, "I believe in Me, though he may not believe in Me, he shall believe in Me shall never die."

After He said that, He asked, "Do you believe this?"

He still asks the same question.

Do you believe Him? Do you believe in the life, and if you receive Him?

Was He crazy? Or is He crazy?

years after I received Jesus, I was set free, and sadness. It happened as I prayed for me. This freedom is what Jesus broke the power of the enemy, I knew again. What a transformation! darkness. Even when we get into dark light is always there to be found. world. *He who follows Me shall not* *die of life* (John 8:12). Jesus came as darkness. We have to trust that His

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all its fullness. The enemy comes to give you His light and eternal life, darkness and death. Choose to be.

Jesus, He Gives You Life through Him

we are going to live forever. Our soul is separated from God, or in God from God is hell. That's what more than Jesus did. It's where the stand what God wanted to spare

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our own resurrection after we die. In many ways we are always being prepared for eternity. That's why we must choose heavenly rewards over earthly rewards. We must choose to love and serve God over all else.

The Bible says that when you die you will be instantly with the Lord. Jesus said He has prepared an eternal place for you. It's where nothing can harm you, where every need is supplied, where there is no more suffering, sickness, or struggle. He said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. *In My Father's house are many mansions*; if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you*. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; *that where I am, there you may be also*" (John 14:1-3).

What a magnificent promise the God of love has made to you.

The promise is that on your last day on earth, when you take your last breath, God will raise you up and bring you to your eternal home with Him. "God, who is rich in mercy, *because of His great love with which He loved us*, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and *raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places* in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-6).

In light of all that, I would say for all of us who have received Jesus, the best is yet to come.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb four days, He said, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die*" (John 11:25-26).

After He said that, He asked the people watching, "Do you believe this?"

He still asks the same question of us today.

Do you believe Him? Do you believe He is the resurrection and the life, and if you receive Him you will have eternal life with Him? Was He crazy? Or is He the Son of God?

One of the best-known verses in the Bible by those who believe in Him is something Jesus said. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

The word “loved” here means a love that desires only the greatest good for us. The promise of life forever with Jesus cannot be minimized. God gave us Jesus because He loved us. He gave us Jesus so we could be restored into a relationship with Him. God’s love is expressed to us by giving us His best.

When You Receive Jesus, You Receive More Than You Can Imagine

It takes a lifetime of growing in the Lord in order to truly understand all that Jesus did for you. I know this because I have been walking with Him for decades, and still He lets me see more and more of Him and the extent of the gifts He has given me in His sacrifice of love.

The thing is, we need spiritual eyes to see it all. The Bible says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

Jesus gives you an eternal fountain of living water that springs up inside you. It is from the indwelling Holy Spirit who provides a continual source of life.

When Jesus asked for a drink of water from the woman at the well in Samaria, she questioned why He, a Jew, would have anything to do with a Samaritan woman. Jesus told her that if she knew who He really was, she would have asked Him for living water (John 4:7-10).

He said, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. *But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of*

water springing up into everlasting life. You know that this eternal fountain dwells in her.

This fountain of life dwell in her. Jesus referred to Himself as the “bread of life.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread from heaven, but My Father has given Me to you. *The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven.*” Then they said to Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” (John 6:32-35).

Without Jesus and the Holy Spirit, you will only have “a form of life” (2 Timothy 3:5). You want the real deal. You want the truth that transforms your life.

When we become so wrapped up in Him, we forget the good He has accomplished. That’s why, even after a long time, we must continually be reminded of the good given through Him.

The birth of Jesus is one of the greatest events in history, only surpassed by His death and resurrection. His birth and death had spiritual impact that nothing else could. He established the truth. He gave us a way to find hope. He loved us that much.

We hear so much bad news, but Jesus always good news. And within the good news is the solution to all the bad news.

He is the solution to all bad news. And that is good news!

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water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13-14). Little did she know that this eternal fountain of life would come from His Spirit dwelling in her.

This fountain of life dwells in you by the same Holy Spirit.

Jesus referred to Himself as "the true bread from heaven" or "the bread of life." "Jesus said to them, 'Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. *The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*' Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.' And Jesus said to them, '*I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst*'" (John 6:32-35).

Without Jesus and the Holy Spirit, even if you believe in God, you will only have "a form of godliness" but you will be denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5). You do not want faux godliness. You want the real deal. You want the true and living power of God to penetrate your life.

When we become so wrapped up in ourselves instead of wrapped up in Him, we forget the good news of what He came to earth to accomplish. That's why, even if we have walked with the Lord for a long time, we must continually be reminded of all we have been given through Him.

The birth of Jesus is one of the greatest events in all history. It is only surpassed by His death and resurrection. His entrance into the world had spiritual impact that shook the realm of darkness beyond what anything else could. He exposed the lies of the enemy with His truth. He gave us a way to forever be close to God. He secured our hope. He loved us that much.

We hear so much bad news today, but *the truth about Jesus is always good news*. And within the good news that we have in Him is the solution to all the bad news we see and hear.

He is the solution to all bad news in our lives.
And that is good news!

Prayer of Love

LORD, I realize I can never receive all You *have* for me until I understand everything You *did* for me. Thank You that You, “the ruler over the kings of the earth,” loved me enough to wash me clean of all my sins by Your own blood (Revelation 1:5). Thank You that You are the living Word. You are my Savior. You have set me free from the consequences of my own sins, errors, mistakes, and ignorance. And You have made me to be a beloved child of God. Thank You that in You I find everything I need for life (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Thank You that You came “as a light into the world” so that I would never have to live in darkness (John 12:46). Thank You for Your Holy Spirit in me, for Your Word says that “if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:9). But You have given me Your Spirit when I received You, and He is the seal and sign that I am Yours and You are with me always. Because of all You have done for me, I will live eternally with You and no one can change that.

Thank You, Lord, that You share Yourself with me. You share Your love, peace, and power. You share Your Spirit and Your wholeness. You are the bread of heaven who feeds me life. You are the fountain of living water in me that never runs dry. You are the way, the truth, and the life. You are my foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11). You are the living Word and the door to eternal life. You are the good shepherd, and I hear the voice of Your Spirit leading me. Thank You that You are unchanging and I can forever depend on You to change me (Hebrews 13:8).

In Jesus' name I pray.

Wor

In this the love of God
that God has sent His only Son
that we might

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God did not send his Son
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Words of Love

In this the love of God was manifested toward us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through Him.

1 JOHN 4:9

I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20

God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

In this is love, *not that we loved God, but that He loved us*
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 JOHN 4:10

God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

JOHN 3:17

Read God's Love Letter to You

The greatest love story on earth is written in the Bible. Actually, it *is* the Bible.

The entire Bible is a record of God's great love for us. One major sign of His love is that He gave us His Word.

After I received the Lord I started going to church to hear the pastor teach from the Bible, and the Scriptures came alive to me right away. At the pastor's encouragement I went out and bought my own Bible. I had opened up a Bible randomly a few times before but could not understand anything I read. Now, because I had opened my heart to the Lord, my spiritual eyes were opened as well, and I sensed God's love in every word.

It was far beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

For years I had been searching in the spirit realm for some kind of meaning for my life and a purpose for my existence. Now I saw that I had been plunging into the dark side—the wrong side of that realm—and I needed to come into the light. When I read about Jesus being the light of the world and there is no darkness in Him, I realized that the occult practices and false religions into which I had

thrown myself were inhabited by another spirit. A dark spirit. The spirit of God's enemy. The opposite of God. Little did I know I had been consorting with the enemy of God.

When I separated myself from all that and walked into the realm of the God of infinite power, peace, and love, it was like night and day by comparison. I didn't conjure this up. I didn't imagine anything. It was unmistakable. It was more real than anything I had ever known, even more so than the fear and pain I had lived with for a lifetime. God's Word became a message of love and hope to me. I thought of it as a precious diamond, and every time I read it I found dazzling new facets. "I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure" (Psalm 119:162). Each time I opened the Bible, I asked God to open my eyes to new depths of the truth I had not seen before. And He did.

The Bible became an unending source of life to me. I could hear God speaking to me by His Spirit on every page. And I felt His love each time.

When you enter into a close relationship with God, you will not only love *Him*, you will also love His *Word*. You cannot separate the two. God and His Word are one. That's because Jesus is the living Word of God, and God and Jesus are one. It was God's Holy Spirit who inspired the writers of the Bible and led them as they wrote it. The more you read God's Word, the more you will experience God's love.

Ask God to help you see and understand and sense His love for you in His Word as you read it. It has been written as His love letter to *you*. And God's Holy Spirit will bring it alive to you every time.

There are countless ways God shows His love for you in His Word. What follows are only a few of them.

God's Word Gives You a Way to Make Life Work

God's laws and commandments are there because He loves us and He wants what is best for us. He gives us rules for our benefit.

Just like any loving good. Indulgent parents want, raise kids with standards without boundaries. They feel out of control. They believe there are parents who allow children protection don't do anything. They don't like children like such children sense the personality. They devote to more rejection. This is their children enough to them.

All children need to survive and do well in boundaries in order to we will be influenced by the world more than the God.

Having absolutes in children give them rules the same for His children. A into the plans and purpose find out what works and have to wander down paths of life, and take you far away has for you.

That's why God's Word

God's Word Changes You

When you find true love, you read your loved one's noticeable changes in you.

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ay to Make Life Work

*there because He loves us and He
ules for our benefit.*

Just like any loving parent, God gives us boundaries for our own good. Indulgent parents, who let their children do anything they want, raise kids with serious problems. You see it all the time. Children without boundaries are unstable. They get out of control. And they *feel* out of control. They misbehave without consequences, so they believe there are no consequences for breaking the rules. Parents who allow children to not follow the rules that exist for their protection don't do any favors for their children. People generally don't like children like that and don't want to be around them. And such children sense that they are not liked and that affects their personality. They develop less than optimal behavior, which leads to more rejection. This happens all because a parent does not love their children enough to give them rules with a requirement to obey them.

All children need to know what the boundaries are in order to survive and do well in life. We are God's kids, and we, too, need boundaries in order to survive and do well. Without God's Word, we will be influenced by the anti-Christ-formed *relativism* of the world more than the God-created *revelation* of the Holy Spirit.

Having absolutes in our life is freeing. Parents who love their children give them rules for their protection, and God does the same for *His* children. As a child of God, His laws free you to move into the plans and purposes He has for you. From His Word you find out what works and what *doesn't* work and never will. You don't have to wander down paths that will hurt you, rob you, ruin your life, and take you far away from the fulfillment and purpose God has for you.

That's why God's Word is His love letter to you.

God's Word Changes Your Heart and Mind

When you find true and lasting love, it is life-giving. Every time you read your loved one's messages, they touch you deeply and bring noticeable changes in your heart and soul. You cherish each word

and search between the lines for every subtle meaning. The same is true of God's love letter to you. The more you read it and search for the deeper meanings, the more you understand His heart of love for you.

Every time you read God's Word with the idea that it is living and powerful, God will speak to your spirit and soul. If you invite Him to, He will touch you and change you. He will open your eyes to His truth and give you wisdom that will bring you into the realm of the truly wise. With such a strong living spirit in the world today, God's Word gives you the truth. And we all need that in order to combat the lies of the enemy and stay on the right path.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:7-8). You will love that His Word is true and His laws are right. Your heart will rejoice over their absolute dependability.

Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We must be continually fed with God's Word every day because it is sustenance for our soul. We can't live well without it. It builds us up and changes us from the inside out.

Reading God's Word gives you *clarity of mind and strength of soul*. It *builds your faith*. It *provides guidance and direction*. It *encourages you and gives you hope*. It *comforts you and speaks to you about your value and worth and purpose*. It *gives you wisdom and understanding and knowledge*. It *helps you find the restoration and wholeness God has for you*.

God gave you His Word because He loves you. Always read it with that in mind.

God's Word Pr... to a

God's Word is like an umbrella. We know what it says in order to protect us. When we live under God's Word, we are protected out from under that protection. We are protected by the life God has for us and by the love He gives us.

When we have *God's Word* in our life, we are like a tree that *God for counsel* instead of the world. We are like a tree that *God's rivers of living water* instead of the world. We are like a tree that *says of the person who delights in him, 'He will bear the fruit of his actions'* instead of the world. We are like a tree that *tree planted by the rivers of water, who bears fruit every year, bearing fruit in season, whose leaf also shall not wither* (Psalm 1:3).

That's where you want to be. You want to be like a tree that *will not bear the consequences of the world*. You want to be like a tree that *bear the fruit that nourishes the world*.

God's Word

God's Word is called "the Word of God." It is a powerful weapon against the world. When we speak God's Word in the right place, the hold and threat is destroyed. It is a powerful weapon against the enemy of our soul when we speak it. It is a powerful weapon that assists us in disabling the enemy. It is a powerful weapon that allows us to concentrate on God's Word.

As prayer warriors in God's Word, our main weapon is the Word of God. Our main *weapon* is the Word of God. Our main *shield* is the Word of God. Our main *armor*—the armor of God—is the Word of God. Our main *weapon* is the Word of God. Our main *shield* is the Word of God. Our main *armor*—the armor of God—is the Word of God. The enemy finds it very difficult to stand against us if you are knowledgeable about the Word of God. If you are knowledgeable about the Word of God, the enemy, it is unfailing. It is dead-on every time. The more you know about the Word of God, the more you can stand against the enemy.

or every subtle meaning. The same is true. The more you read it and search for it, the more you understand His heart of love.

Word with the idea that it is living in your spirit and soul. If you invite God to change you. He will open your eyes to that will bring you into the realm of the strong lying spirit in the world today. And we all need that in order to stay on the right path.

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clarify of mind and strength of soul. It gives balance and direction. It encourages you and speaks to you about your life. It gives you wisdom and understanding. It brings about restoration and wholeness. God

He loves you. Always read it.

God's Word Protects You and Guides You to a Place of Safety

God's Word is like an umbrella of safety for us, but we must know what it says in order to understand how to live under its protection. When we live opposite of what God's Word says, we come out from under that protective covering and can wander away from the life God has for us and get shot down by enemy fire.

When we have *God's Word guiding us* every day, when we *look to God for counsel* instead of the world, we become solidly planted where God's rivers of living water flow continuously into us. The Bible says of the person who delights in God's law, that he "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

That's where you want to be—in that place of safety where you will not bear the consequences of disobedience. You will, instead, bear the fruit that nourishes and sustains you for life.

God's Word Is a Weapon of Warfare

God's Word is called "the Sword of the Spirit" for a reason: *His Word is a powerful weapon against the destructive powers of evil.* When we speak God's Word in the face of all that opposes us, every stronghold and threat is destroyed. *God's Word becomes a weapon against the enemy of our soul* when we stand strong in it and proclaim it. It assists us in disabling the enemy's plans for our destruction and allows us to concentrate on his.

As prayer warriors in God's army, we must keep in mind that our main *weapon* is the Word of God. It is not only part of our *protective armor*—the armor of God—but it is also a powerful *offensive weapon*. The enemy finds it very offensive. It is highly accurate, and if you are knowledgeable as to how to handle it as a weapon against the enemy, it is unfailing. If you aim correctly, it hits the target dead-on every time. The more skilled you are at using this powerful

weapon, the greater advantage you have. In fact, the enemy cannot stand against it.

No soldier *resists* the enemy without his weapon. Neither does a soldier ever *attack* his enemy without the weapon he knows best how to use. He understands its capabilities, is completely familiar with it, and has practiced with it countless times. A soldier's weapons are always kept up to the highest standard and ready to use.

We must do the same with our spiritual weapons. We cannot wait until the enemy attacks to get familiar with our spiritual weapons. We have to know our weapons now so we are prepared for anything. The Word of God is our best weapon because it will always be exactly what we need in order to face every threat.

God is unchanging. That's because He doesn't *need* to change. *He is perfect and complete.* And His Word is the same. It is never irrelevant, no matter how much the enemy tries to make it seem that way. That's why you can claim promises in the Bible as absolute truth for your life.

When Jesus was tempted by the enemy in the wilderness, He resisted with Scripture specifically aimed at thwarting the enemy's temptations. Even the enemy knows that the Word of God is powerful and unfailing and he can never prevail against it. That's why he finally left Jesus alone. He could not entice *Him* with lies the way he can with far too many of *us*.

Our faith is extremely important in the effectiveness of this main weapon. And the more we train and practice in our knowledge and retention of the Word, the more our faith develops. The more diligently we *read* the Word, *quote* the Word, *pray* the Word, and *do* the Word, the stronger our faith will be. Our greatest weapon—God's Word—mixed with our faith will prove to be the invincible weapon we need in every situation.

When marksmen or snipers train with their weapons, they do it full time. They make practicing with their weapon a way of life so that it becomes part of who they are. In the missions they are

sent on, they cannot afford time. In that same way, you must become part of who you are. We must *pore over* it, *quote* it, and be able to *do* it. It takes practice.

That's why it is important to need to spend time with the Word of God. Spend time with the One who loves you. Spend time with the Holy Spirit to make whatever you are reading come alive in a new and deeper way. Turn to the Word of God on the page and do exactly that. Memorize it. Memorize it in your memory so that you can quote it. If you have not done that before, do it now. If the Word of God is established on a foundation of memory, then you are ready to go.

For example, read: "God is my strength and my power and of love and of a strong heart; I shall not be afraid, for You are with me; Your strength shall support me, and I shall not be afraid of what men may say of me" (Psalm 119:11).

Weave Scripture into the fabric of your life.

Scripture that is part of your life is like a shield in battle and warfare. It keeps you from being overcome. "I have hidden in my heart, the words of Your law, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). And it gives you an invincible weapon in difficult situations. "Great is the power of Your commandments, that You have given me; nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:11).

Satan tried to destroy Jesus' life by sending his henchmen, the wicked King Herod to kill a baby. But later, when Jesus was baptized, the Devil led into the wilderness by the Devil again. This time Jesus' weapon was the Word of God.

No spiritual battle can be won without a spiritual weapon—the Word of God.

The Word is God-breath.

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sent on, they cannot afford to miss. They have to be dead-on every time. In that same way, our greatest weapon—the Word of God—must become part of who *we* are and not just something we read or hear. We must *pore over* it, *read all* of it, *listen to* it, *understand* it, *quote* it, and be able to *stay solid in everything we know of* it. That takes practice.

That's why it is important to read the Bible every day. Just as you need to spend time with the one you love, you need to spend time with the One who loves you more than anyone else could. Ask the Holy Spirit to make whatever you are reading that day come alive in a new and deeper way. The Holy Spirit will meet you there on the page and do exactly that. It's also crucial to etch some verses into your memory so that you can draw on them whenever you need to. If you have not done that before, start with just one. Your transformation is established on a foundation of life-giving Scripture.

For example, read: "*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*" (2 Timothy 1:7). Say it again and again until it is part of your soul. Believe it. Quote it when you are afraid and feel powerless.

Weave Scripture into the fabric of your being.

Scripture that is part of you becomes an instrument of survival and warfare. It keeps you from doing the wrong thing. "*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You*" (Psalm 119:11). And it gives you an unshakeable foundation when you face difficult situations. "*Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble*" (Psalm 119:165).

Satan tried to destroy Jesus when He was born by inspiring wicked King Herod to kill all the babies in Bethlehem. Thirty years later, when Jesus was baptized in water by John the Baptist, He was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit and Satan attacked Him again. This time Jesus' weapon against His enemy was Scripture.

No spiritual battle can be fought and won without our greatest weapon—the Word of God.

The Word is God-breathed. Each writer of the Bible was moved

by the Spirit as his gifts and intellect were used by God to speak *through* him. The Word of God is so powerful that *it is a double-edged sword in our hands* (Hebrews 4:12). That means it is a *defensive* as well as an *offensive* weapon. All prayer warriors need both.

Some people say, "This part of the Bible was only for the Old Testament people, and that part was only for the disciples, and that other part was only for the Ephesians, and this was only for the Philippians..." and on and on until the entire Bible is explained away as just a history book. *Beware of anyone who wants to make the Bible into just a history book.*

The Bible is living and has power for today.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

If you are a woman, please know that when the Bible says something like "man of God," as it does in the verse quoted above, it is not excluding women. It's like saying "mankind." And we all know that "mankind" includes women as well. So don't be concerned about that. I have heard as many concerns from men having a hard time over being called "the bride of Christ"—a name all believing Christians are called in the Bible as Jesus prepares them for His return.

Every time you read God's Word, it will become more firmly planted in your mind and heart. The more solid you are in the Word, the more powerful it will be in protecting you. So put on the Word of God like a protective garment every morning. Let the love of God in it *live in you.*

God's Word is like a giant magnifying mirror. As we look into it every day, we not only see who God is, who Jesus is, and who the Holy Spirit is, we also see the truth about who *we* are. We also see who we are supposed to become.

Do you remember the wonderful promises I mentioned in the

previous chapter, that *God's Word is the living power of the divine nature*"? It is a love letter to us. These promises are outside of our tendencies, and enable us to

God shares Himself with us to become more like Him.

The more I read the Word of God, the more I see that He is who He is, God means what He says. He is the Word of God, the Word of the Spirit. He says of His Word, "Behold, I send My Word before Me, and 'it shall prosper in its place.'

God promises that His Word will bring about good things in you beyond what you can imagine.

lect were used by God to speak so powerful that *it is a double*-4:12). That means it is a *defensive* prayer warriors need both.

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promises I mentioned in the

previous chapter, that God has given us so that we "may be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4)? They are contained in God's love letter to us. These promises—when we cling to them—lift us outside of our tendencies toward lust, sin, corruption, and a dead-end life, and enable us to share in God's holy nature.

God shares Himself with us because He loves us enough to want us to become more like Him.

The more I read the Bible, the more clearly I see one thing. That is, God means what He says. God's Word is never ineffective or irrelevant. He says of His Word that it will accomplish what He wants it to, and "it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

God promises that His love letter to you will produce great things in you beyond what you dream possible.

Prayer of Love

LORD, I thank You for Your Word. I know it is Your love letter to me because every time I read or speak it, I experience Your presence and love in a deeper way. It feeds my soul and makes my life rich. Help me to understand it better every day. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18). Help me to know You in greater depth through it. Thank You that Your Word gives me truth and guidance for my life.

Thank You that Your Word is perfect and it changes me every time I read it. All Your laws and commandments are right and are there for my benefit as boundaries to keep me protected and safe. Thank You for the blessings I receive when I obey them. Your Word brings me peace and a sense of well-being. "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors" (Psalm 119:24). Help me to clearly hear You speak to me as I read Your Word.

Lord, I am grateful You always keep Your Word. I know I can faithfully take You at Your word and it will never fail me. You are the living Word, Jesus, and You have magnified Your Word above all Your name (Psalm 138:2). Etch it on my heart in a lasting and life-changing way. Weave it into the fabric of my being so that it becomes part of me. Help me to see Your love for me on every page.

In Jesus' name I pray.

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our Word. I know it is Your love. Every time I read or speak it, I experience it in a deeper way. It feeds my soul. Help me to understand it better. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things (Psalm 119:18). Help me to know You through it. Thank You that Your Word is for my life.

Lord is perfect and it changes me. Your laws and commandments are a benefit as boundaries to keep me close to You for the blessings I receive. Your Word brings me peace and a sense of joy. Your promises also are my delight and encouragement. Help me to clearly hear Your Word.

Always keep Your Word. I know Your word and it will never fail. Jesus, and You have magnified me (Psalm 138:2). Etch it on my heart in a changing way. Weave it into my life until it becomes part of me. Help me to live it every page.

Words of Love

The word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

HEBREWS 4:12

As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:10-11

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

PSALM 1:1-2

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate in it day and night,
that you may observe to do according to
all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous,
and then you will have good success.

JOSHUA 1:8

The statutes of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes.

PSALM 19:8

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