



# WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN

## A 31 DAY GRATITUDE DEVOTIONAL

DERRICK RHAYN

# INTRODUCTION

God's given us so much - at times it's easy to take it for granted.

But as Christians, it is absolutely imperative that we take some time to reflect on just how good God has been to each and every one of us. I know for me, I should be dead. Period. On multiple occasions. ([Seriously, check out my testimony](#))

However, for some reason, out of the goodness of God's heart and His love for me, He preserved me. I don't really understand why or how, nor do I need to. It's enough for me to humbly accept His love, thank Him for what He's done, and celebrate Him.

So what about you? What has God done for you? What do you have to be thankful for? It's important to think about such things.

I used to make a gratitude list each and every day. At the end of the day, I'd reflect on my every step, on conversations I'd have, on the meals I ate, on my travelings and wanderings and what not. I'd make it a point to write down the simple things that I was grateful for. Over time, it shifted some things within me. I found myself being a generally more thankful person.

Now, I don't know you, and, hence, I don't know where you are in your walk with the Lord. But one thing I do know is this: He deserves all the praise and gratitude we can give Him because He's given us so much. He's quite literally given us *everything*.

As you work through this devotional, I invite you to approach it differently than you do other devotionals. Think about it as a daily primer

that's geared towards helping you think about the goodness of God, and just how much's He's given each one of His children.

Whereas some devotionals are exhaustive and lengthy, I've attempted to be brief and to the point. Each day focuses on something that the Lord has given to us as believers, and I share a few thoughts on it. It's no more than that. In fact, it's intended to be that way so you can remember the general theme throughout your day.

And even though the text each day is short, I invite you to truly contemplate and explore the magnitude and nature of each gift that God has given you. Think about the eternal ramifications of each gift. Ponder what it means to you and what it actually entails. Consider being grateful to Him for each particular gift, for His unwarranted favor, for His enduring love.

My goal is to help you not only shift into a generally more grateful mindset, but to have a revelation of the amazingly generous nature of God. As you have that revelation more and more, I hope it inspires you to fall deeper in love with the One who created you, with the One who gave everything to restore relationship with you.

Enjoy this 31-day devotional, and feel free to share it with others.

God bless you,

Derrick Rhayn

P.S. For more free publications, please check out my website [www.newchristians.info](http://www.newchristians.info)





## **John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*





1

# THE WORD OF GOD

**Psalm 119:105**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.*

An infinite God comes to earth to redeem us, restore relationship, and pave the way for eternal life with Him. Every word that proceeds from His mouth is Scripture. Every word is living and eternal. Through His word, we are allowed the privilege of seeing a small window into His time on Earth, as well as the revelation and insight of His character, priorities, and love. The Bible in its entirety is our guide for all things - all decisions, actions, thoughts - it is our everything. It is relevant in all circumstances, no matter what we face. How grateful we are to God for giving us a such a rich, dynamic document that informs our every step. From His mouth to our hearts, the Word is a light to our path





## 2 HIS HOLY SPIRIT

**John 14:26**

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

The infinite power of God lives inside you. He is your teacher, your comforter, your guide. He convicts you of sin, shows you the way you should go, and gives you power from on high. He opens doors. He makes intercession on your behalf to the Father in groanings and utterings that cannot be understood. He distributes spiritual gifts to you for the edification of the body. He empowers you to do God's will by giving you courage, words, and insights at the perfect time. The Holy Spirit is truly God's seal on His promise to us of eternal life, and He is our best friend. He never leaves us. He never lets us down. He is the most reliable and trustworthy friend we have. He is always with us, and is the resurrection power within.







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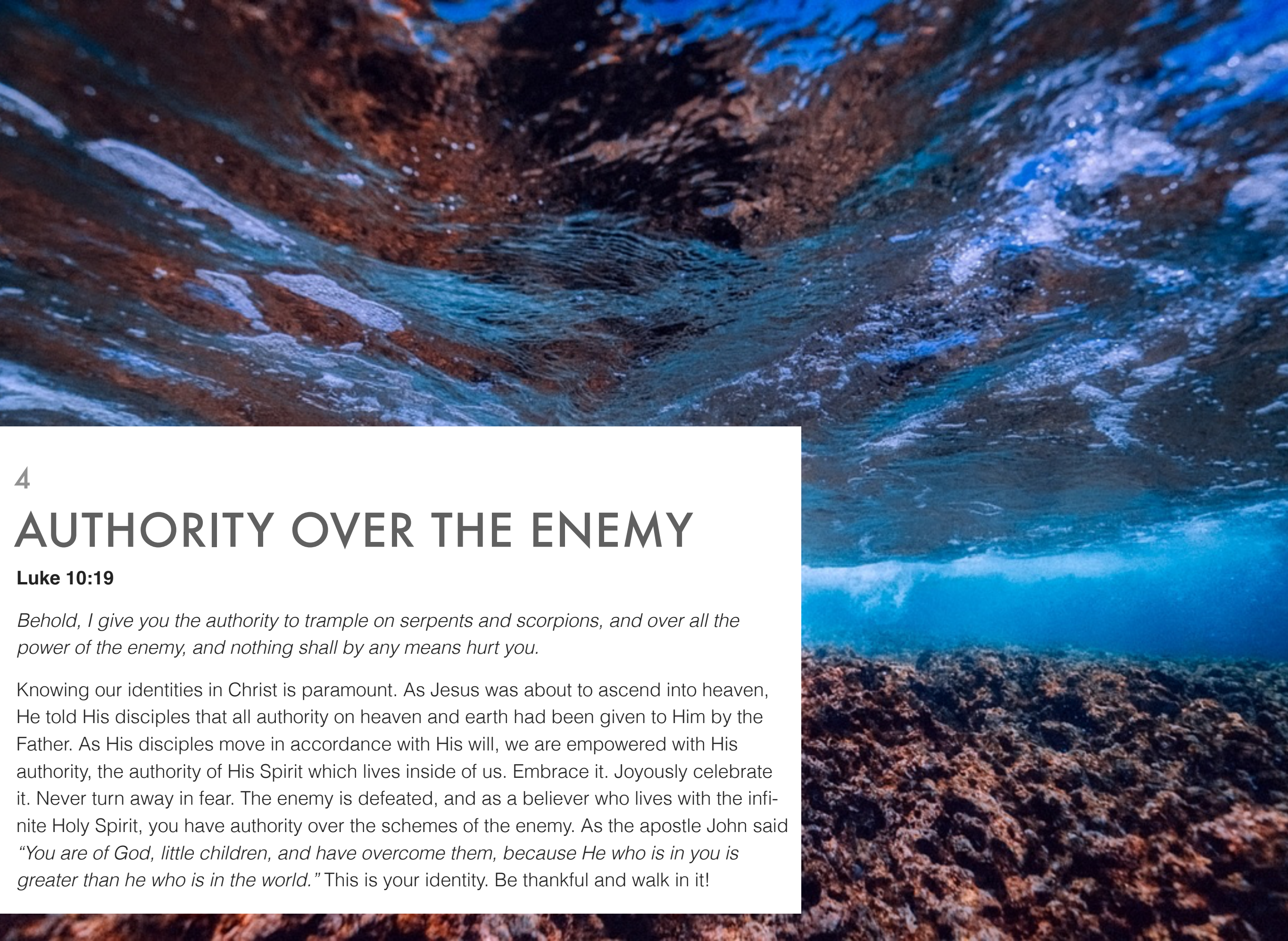
# ETERNAL LIFE

**John 10:28**

*And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

We were never created to die. Yet, as a consequence of sin, death entered the world, and subsequently, all people die. And while some people live rich lives well into their 80s and 90s, in the grand scheme of things, from an eternal perspective, our lives are but a mist. But, the Lord has made a way for us to not only live, but to have life forever. That means in 10 trillion years and beyond, we will be alive with Him, celebrating Him, and partaking in the goodness of His glory. We will never be separated from Him. We will never know the sting of death, of hell, of eternal separation. Through Jesus' finished work on the cross, He paved the way for eternal life. Forever. Celebrate this profound and incomprehensible gift.





4

# AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY

**Luke 10:19**

*Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Knowing our identities in Christ is paramount. As Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, He told His disciples that all authority on heaven and earth had been given to Him by the Father. As His disciples move in accordance with His will, we are empowered with His authority, the authority of His Spirit which lives inside of us. Embrace it. Joyously celebrate it. Never turn away in fear. The enemy is defeated, and as a believer who lives with the infinite Holy Spirit, you have authority over the schemes of the enemy. As the apostle John said *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”* This is your identity. Be thankful and walk in it!





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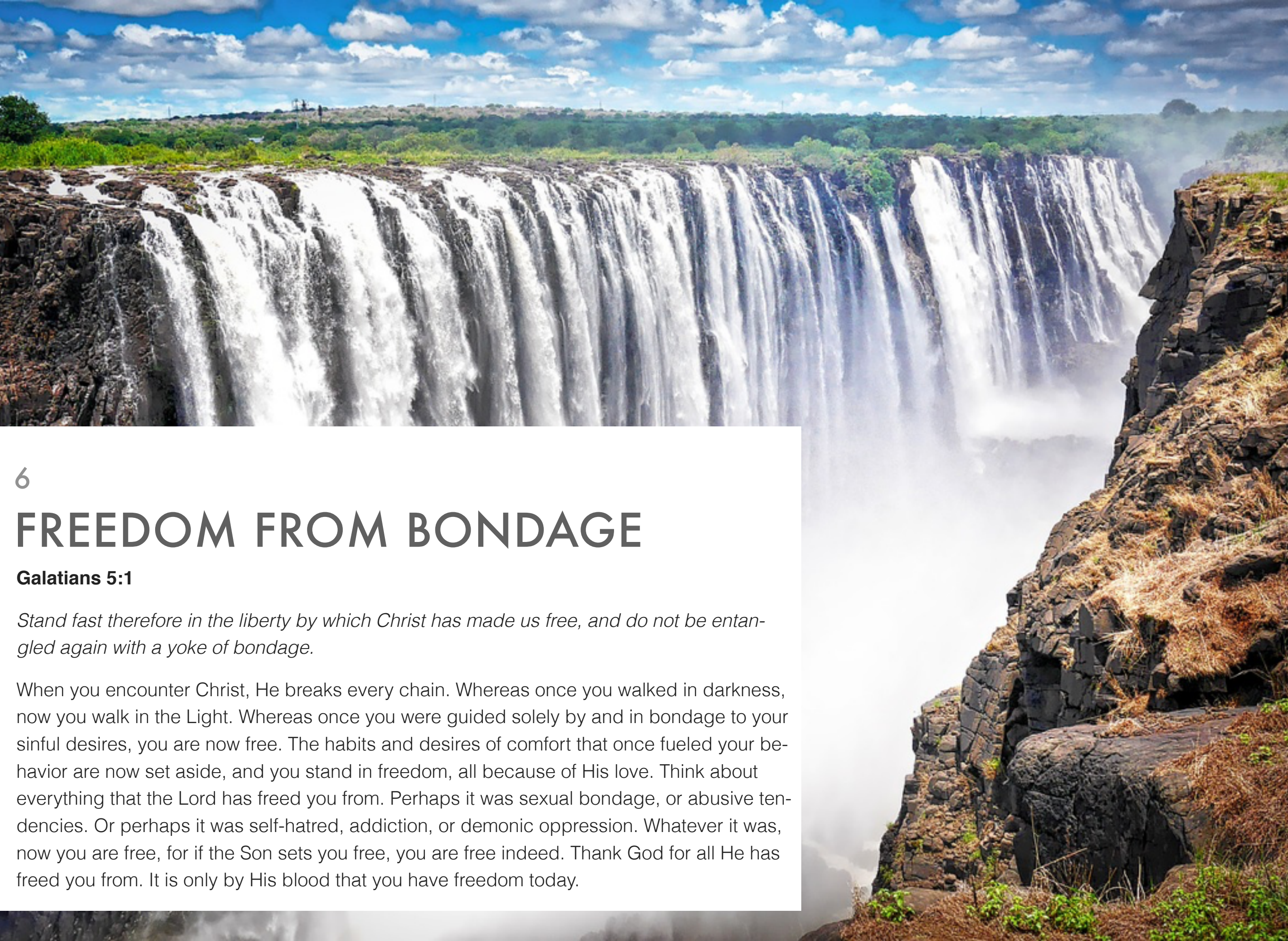
# EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

**Ephesians 1:3**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*

As a child of God, the Father wants to bless you. In fact, He's blessed you more than you can ever imagine. He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, which is something that we can only begin to imagine. An infinitely powerful, all loving, all knowing, all good, all merciful, all present God who loves you and thinks about you more times per day than the number of grains of sand - He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing. While we might not know what that entirely means, we know that it is our inheritance because of what Jesus has done for us: He created a path back into God's family, and in the process carved a way for us to receive every spiritual blessing in heaven.





6

# FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

## **Galatians 5:1**

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

When you encounter Christ, He breaks every chain. Whereas once you walked in darkness, now you walk in the Light. Whereas once you were guided solely by and in bondage to your sinful desires, you are now free. The habits and desires of comfort that once fueled your behavior are now set aside, and you stand in freedom, all because of His love. Think about everything that the Lord has freed you from. Perhaps it was sexual bondage, or abusive tendencies. Or perhaps it was self-hatred, addiction, or demonic oppression. Whatever it was, now you are free, for if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. Thank God for all He has freed you from. It is only by His blood that you have freedom today.



A large herd of wildebeest is grazing in a vast, open savanna landscape. The grass is dry and yellowish-brown. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy sky. The wildebeest are scattered across the field, with some in the foreground and others further away.

7

# HE TOOK OUR PLACE

**Romans 5:8**

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

We are all sinners, and each and every single one of us falls short of the glory of God. What's more is that the penalty for sin is death - for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). In other words, we all deserve to die; we all deserve eternal separation from God and damnation. But God, in His infinite mercy and love, sent His Son Jesus to redeem us, to die in our place, and to restore order. Jesus, through His obedience to the Father, took our place. He who knew no sin was brutally tortured, hung on a tree, and died in our place. He took the penalty you and I deserve. And in doing so, He brought us from death to life.





8

# REPAIRED RELATIONSHIP

**Mark 15:38**

*Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

Through His death on the cross, Jesus gave us so much, including a repaired relationship with the Father. Before Jesus, only the high priests could go into the holy of holies, and they could only do that once per year. Just outside this most sacred place was a thick veil, about the size of a human fist, that separated the outer layer from the holy of holies. At the moment of Jesus' death, this veil tore in two, signifying that there was no more separation between man and God: we can enter into the throne room of God at any time, and lift our petitions up to Him. In other words, because of Jesus' work on the cross, we can go directly to God. He was sacrificed. We reap the rewards. This is the crazy love of God for you and me.





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# RICHES IN THE AGES TO COME

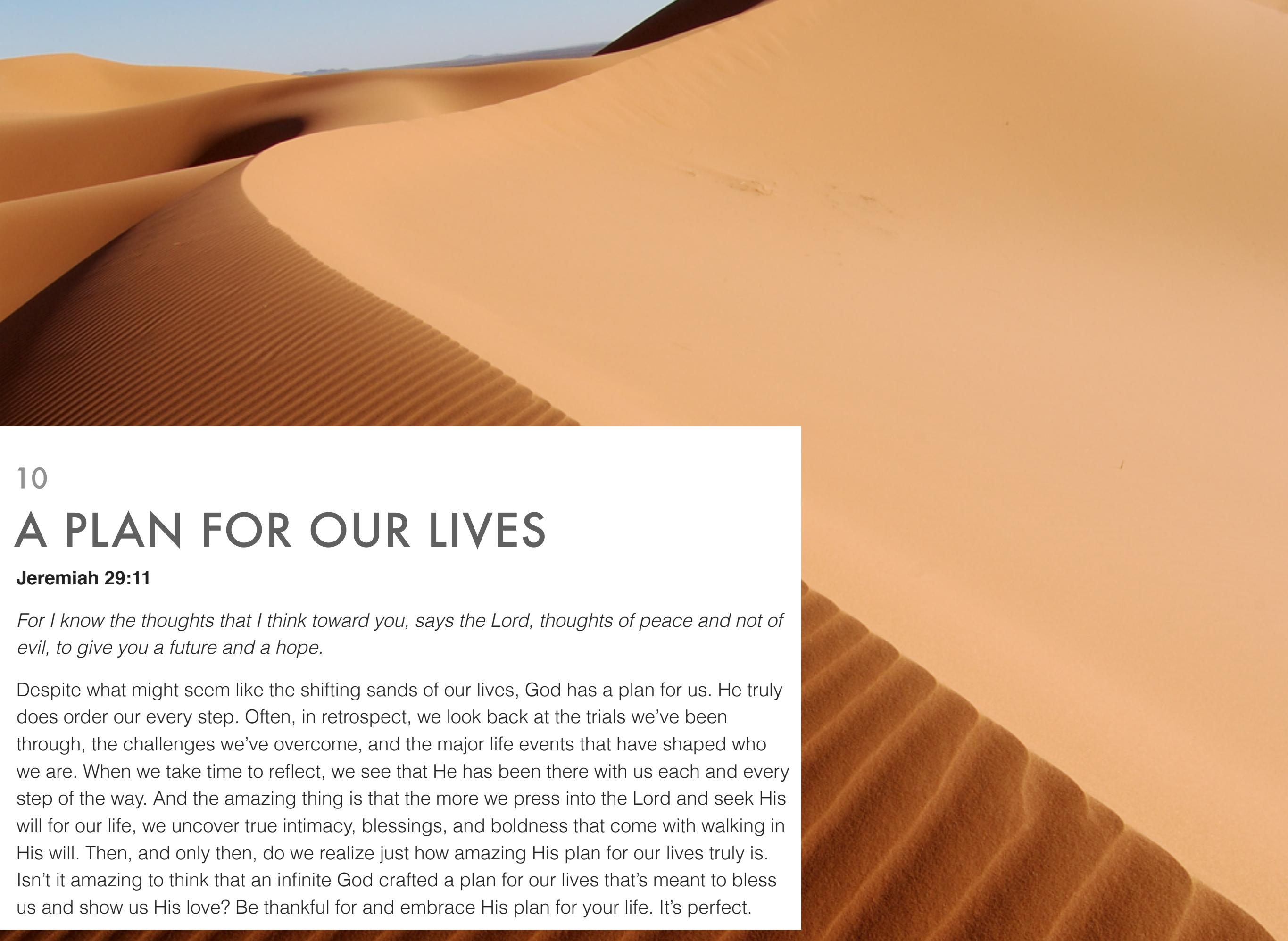
**Ephesians 2:7**

*that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

For humans, the concept of an age is mind boggling. We're currently in the age of grace, where people have the opportunity to accept God's free offer of eternal life. Given that we've been brought from death to life, and have been given eternal life because of Christ's work on the cross, we have eternity with Jesus to look forward to. And the Word says that God will continue to demonstrate His love for us, not only in this age, but in the ages to come. We cannot even begin to fathom what those riches of His grace are, and how blessed we are. Be thankful for the gifts we have and those yet to come:

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, not ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)*





10

# A PLAN FOR OUR LIVES

**Jeremiah 29:11**

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Despite what might seem like the shifting sands of our lives, God has a plan for us. He truly does order our every step. Often, in retrospect, we look back at the trials we've been through, the challenges we've overcome, and the major life events that have shaped who we are. When we take time to reflect, we see that He has been there with us each and every step of the way. And the amazing thing is that the more we press into the Lord and seek His will for our life, we uncover true intimacy, blessings, and boldness that come with walking in His will. Then, and only then, do we realize just how amazing His plan for our lives truly is. Isn't it amazing to think that an infinite God crafted a plan for our lives that's meant to bless us and show us His love? Be thankful for and embrace His plan for your life. It's perfect.





11

# HE TAKES ON ALL OUR CARES

**1 Peter 5:7**

*casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

We were never meant to do life on our own. In fact, we were created by God for God - to be in relationship with Him. Now that Jesus has restored our relationship with the Father, we have access to Him at any time. And like any good father, our heavenly Father wants to take care of us. He wants us to tell Him about our struggles, our anxieties, our joys, and our sorrows. He desires for us to give Him everything, to let Him worry about everything. He knows that the world is a complicated place, and He knows our hearts and our desires. He wants to show us His love in so many ways, and to receive His love we need to give Him all of our cares. He wants us to. He asks us to. He can handle it. And He wants to take care of you. So take some time today and surrender all your cares to Him. He's waiting.





12

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**Ephesians 4:8**

*Therefore He says:*

*“When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men.*

The Holy Spirit distributes a wide range of spiritual gifts to every believer - ranging from prophecy to healing to discernment of spirits and others. These gifts represent a portion of the gifts that Jesus had - He had all the gifts, as He was perfect. Today, think about the gifts you've been given: they have been perfectly distributed to you. God has entrusted you with them to build up the body of Christ. These are gifts, they bring unity to the body, and they represent just a small fraction of the spiritual blessings that the Lord has for us. Have you taken some time recently to thank Him for your spiritual gifts?



A photograph of a snowy mountain peak under a dark night sky with a vibrant green aurora borealis. The aurora's light reflects on the snow-covered ground in the foreground. The scene is serene and majestic, with the green light of the aurora contrasting sharply with the dark blue and black of the night sky.

13

## HE LIFTED THE VEIL

**2 Corinthians 3:16**

*Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

Before we followed Christ, the Bible didn't make a whole lot of sense. We wandered around in darkness, attaching our lives to a narrative of lies perpetuated by the enemy. However, once we encounter the living God, everything changes. Among one of the most important thing that changes is that He lifts the veil from our eyes so that we can see the world for what it is: a fallen world that has been redeemed by the blood of Christ. As we ponder what our lives were like before and after Christ lifted the veil, consider how many people may have never heard the gospel, and still walk around with their minds veiled. Be grateful for the things He shows you, how He guides you, and the gift of revelation He's given you.





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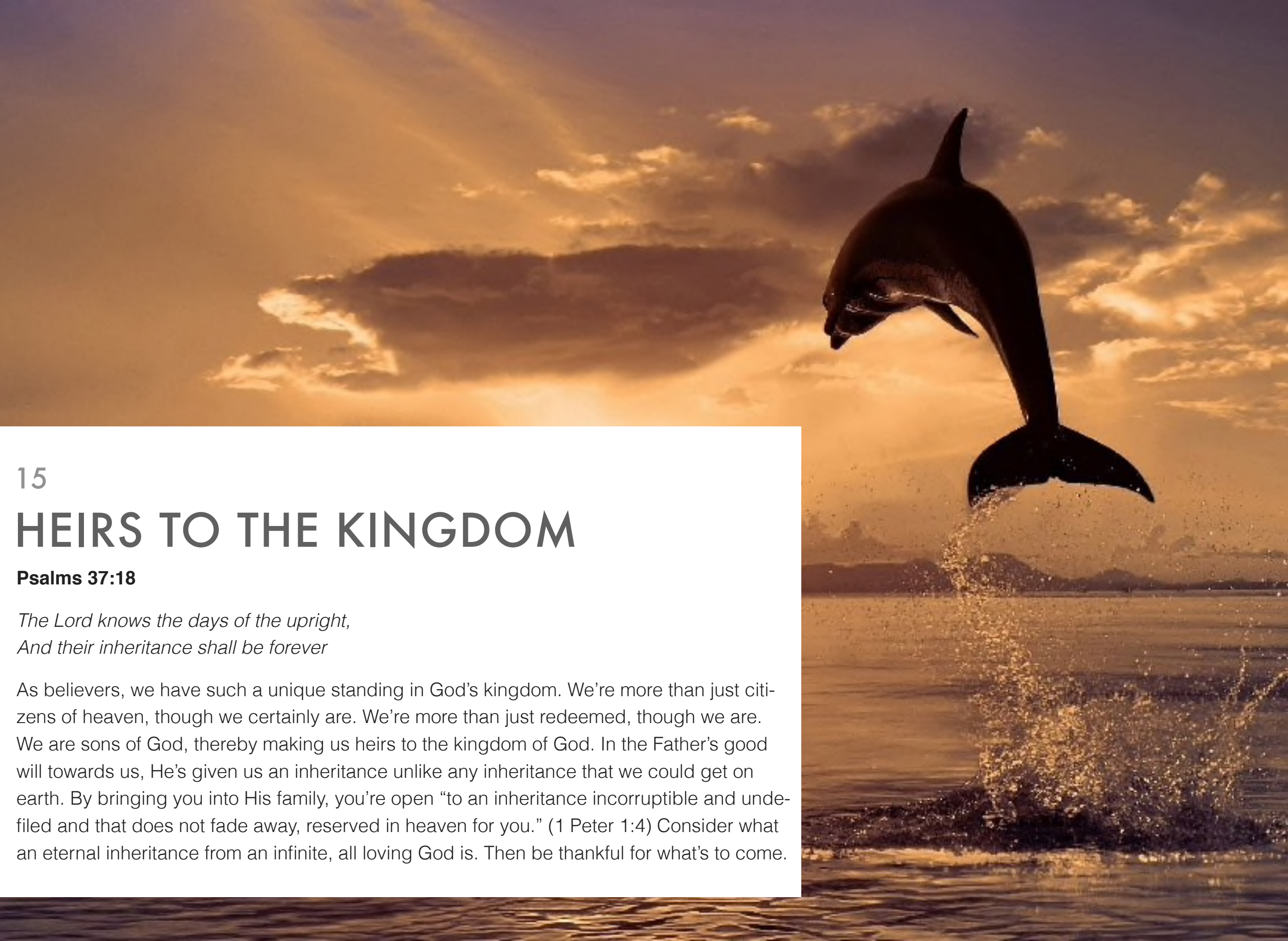
# ADOPTION AS SONS

**Ephesians 1:5**

*having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

At one point, we were all alienated from God's family, as we were under the influence of sin, and were motivated largely by our sinful nature. Therefore, we were subject to death. But, by God's grace, He lifted the veil, and revealed Himself to us. The moment we put our trust in Him, a supernatural transaction occurs: we go from alienated rebels to being adopted as God's sons (and daughters). By being brought into His family, we have the benefits of calling God Father, and going to Him with our every need. Take some time today to talk to your heavenly Father in a deeply intimate and personal way, thanking Him for adopting you into His family, accepting you as you are, and taking care of your every need.





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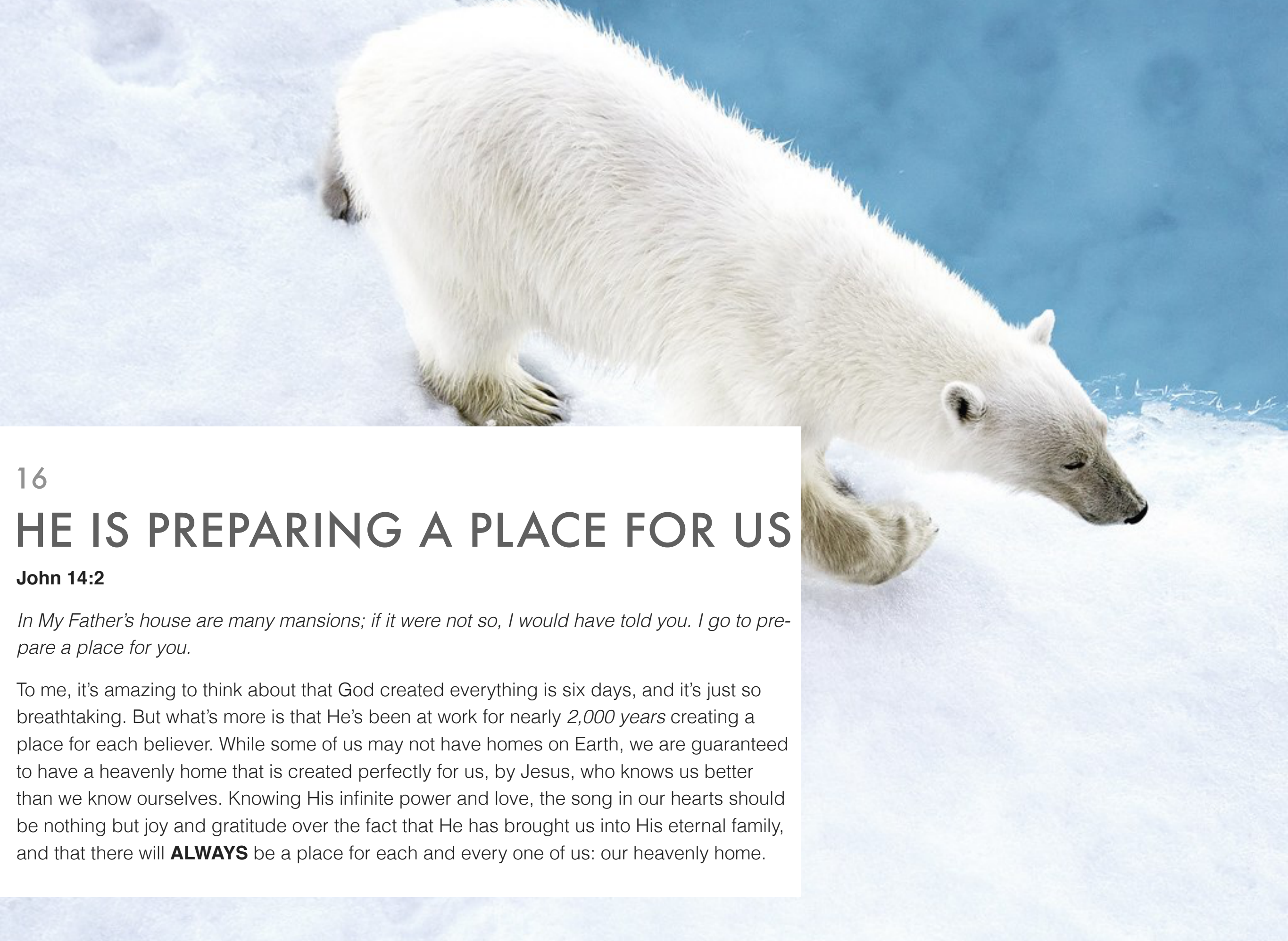
# HEIRS TO THE KINGDOM

**Psalms 37:18**

*The Lord knows the days of the upright,  
And their inheritance shall be forever*

As believers, we have such a unique standing in God’s kingdom. We’re more than just citizens of heaven, though we certainly are. We’re more than just redeemed, though we are. We are sons of God, thereby making us heirs to the kingdom of God. In the Father’s good will towards us, He’s given us an inheritance unlike any inheritance that we could get on earth. By bringing you into His family, you’re open “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4) Consider what an eternal inheritance from an infinite, all loving God is. Then be thankful for what’s to come.





16

# HE IS PREPARING A PLACE FOR US

**John 14:2**

*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.*

To me, it's amazing to think about that God created everything in six days, and it's just so breathtaking. But what's more is that He's been at work for nearly *2,000 years* creating a place for each believer. While some of us may not have homes on Earth, we are guaranteed to have a heavenly home that is created perfectly for us, by Jesus, who knows us better than we know ourselves. Knowing His infinite power and love, the song in our hearts should be nothing but joy and gratitude over the fact that He has brought us into His eternal family, and that there will **ALWAYS** be a place for each and every one of us: our heavenly home.





17

# FORGIVENESS OF ALL SINS

**Colossians 1:4**

*in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

Sin separates us from God. When sin entered the world, one major consequence was this separation, along with a whole host of other things, which we are still reeling from today. The good news is that Jesus took the penalty of sin upon Himself, and through His shed blood on the cross, He paid the price for all sins: past, present, and future. So matter what you’ve done, whether it is the most gruesome, shameful, or disgusting thing to you - know that Jesus paid the price for it with His blood. And now, because of Jesus’, the Father does not see our sin, but rather sees the righteousness of Christ in us, freeing us from the penalty of sin: death. His final words say it all - “It is finished.” That is, forgiveness of **ALL** sins.





18

# A WAY OF ESCAPE FROM ALL SIN

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

Even though we've been redeemed and forgiven of all sins we've ever done and will ever do, we still live in a fallen world and have a sinful nature. As part of God's promise to us, He is faithful to provide us with a way out of each and every sin that we are tempted with. Though we are sure to be tempted by the enemy, we not only have authority over the enemy, but the Lord will show us the way to overcome the temptation, and to continue to move in the righteousness that lives inside each of us. Celebrate His faithfulness today.



A giraffe stands in a dry, yellowish-brown savanna. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with heavy, dark clouds. A bright, jagged lightning bolt strikes down from the upper right corner of the sky. The giraffe is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing slightly towards the right but looking back over its shoulder towards the viewer. The ground is covered in dry grass and some small, dark, spiky plants in the foreground.

19

# ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD

**Romans 8:28**

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who the called according to His purpose.*

No matter the storms that come at us in life, we have an incredible assurance that they will work together for our good. This means everything - from job losses, to lost relationships, to the death of loved ones and more - God loves you so much that He is working everything out for your good. The only response that we should have is to adore and love Him with everything we have. The deepest desire of our souls should be to match the magnificent love of God. He runs interference for us. He overflows with blessings and love for each and every one of us. Open your heart to Him today and thank Him for all the ways that He's turned a tough situation out for your good, and rest assured that He is doing that for every situation you're facing.





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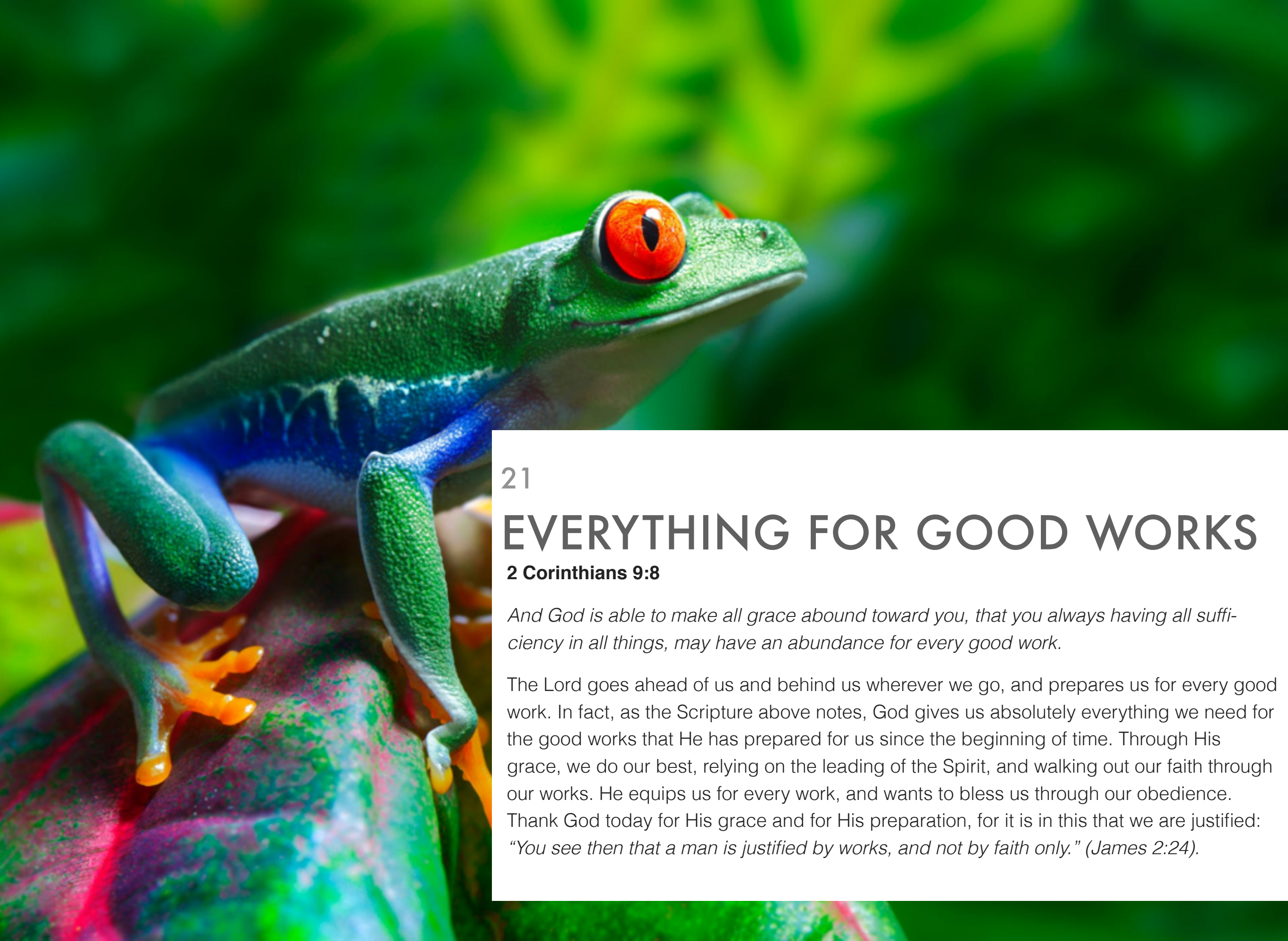
# FAITH

**Romans 12:3**

*...as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

Yes, that's right, even our faith is a gift from God. That means that faith that you walk with, and even your ability to believe in God through faith, is a gift. Recall all the times you've leaned on your faith to get through a challenging time. Remember the times you've prayed in faith that God would move and He did. That faith, the very thing that defines us as Christians, is a gift from God. So therefore we cannot boast in the slightest, because we truly did not choose Him, but He chose us before the beginning of time, before the foundations of the world, so that in due time, when we were born, and we were ready, we used the measure of faith He had given us to turn our hearts to Him. What an awesome God we serve!





21

# EVERYTHING FOR GOOD WORKS

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

The Lord goes ahead of us and behind us wherever we go, and prepares us for every good work. In fact, as the Scripture above notes, God gives us absolutely everything we need for the good works that He has prepared for us since the beginning of time. Through His grace, we do our best, relying on the leading of the Spirit, and walking out our faith through our works. He equips us for every work, and wants to bless us through our obedience. Thank God today for His grace and for His preparation, for it is in this that we are justified: *"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." (James 2:24).*





22

# TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Jesus is perfect, and lived a perfect life. He never sinned, and was fully empowered by the Holy Spirit throughout His ministry. As such, Jesus did miraculous things that are still talked about today. As we walk in the Spirit and listen to His guidance, we ourselves are being transformed into the image of the Lord, into the image of Jesus. Our hearts are being transformed. Our minds are being renewed. The things we used to desire have fallen away, and our uttermost desires are being conformed to His desires. With every step along the way, we move closer to reflecting His glory through us, as we become a reflection of His image.





23

# WISDOM

**James 1:5**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Wisdom is to be greatly pursued, and God is the source of all wisdom. Luckily for us, God desires for us to be wise, regardless of what situations life throws our way. Whenever we find ourselves in a predicament, where we are unsure what to do, we can ask the Lord for wisdom and He will give it to us. As Proverbs 2:6 says, “For the Lord gives wisdom, From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Thank God today for all the wisdom that He’s given you, and for His reliability. He will give you all the wisdom you need and more.



A large monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is in flight in the foreground. The background features a lush green field with rolling hills under a sky filled with dramatic, dark, and light clouds. Two other butterflies are visible in the distance on the horizon.

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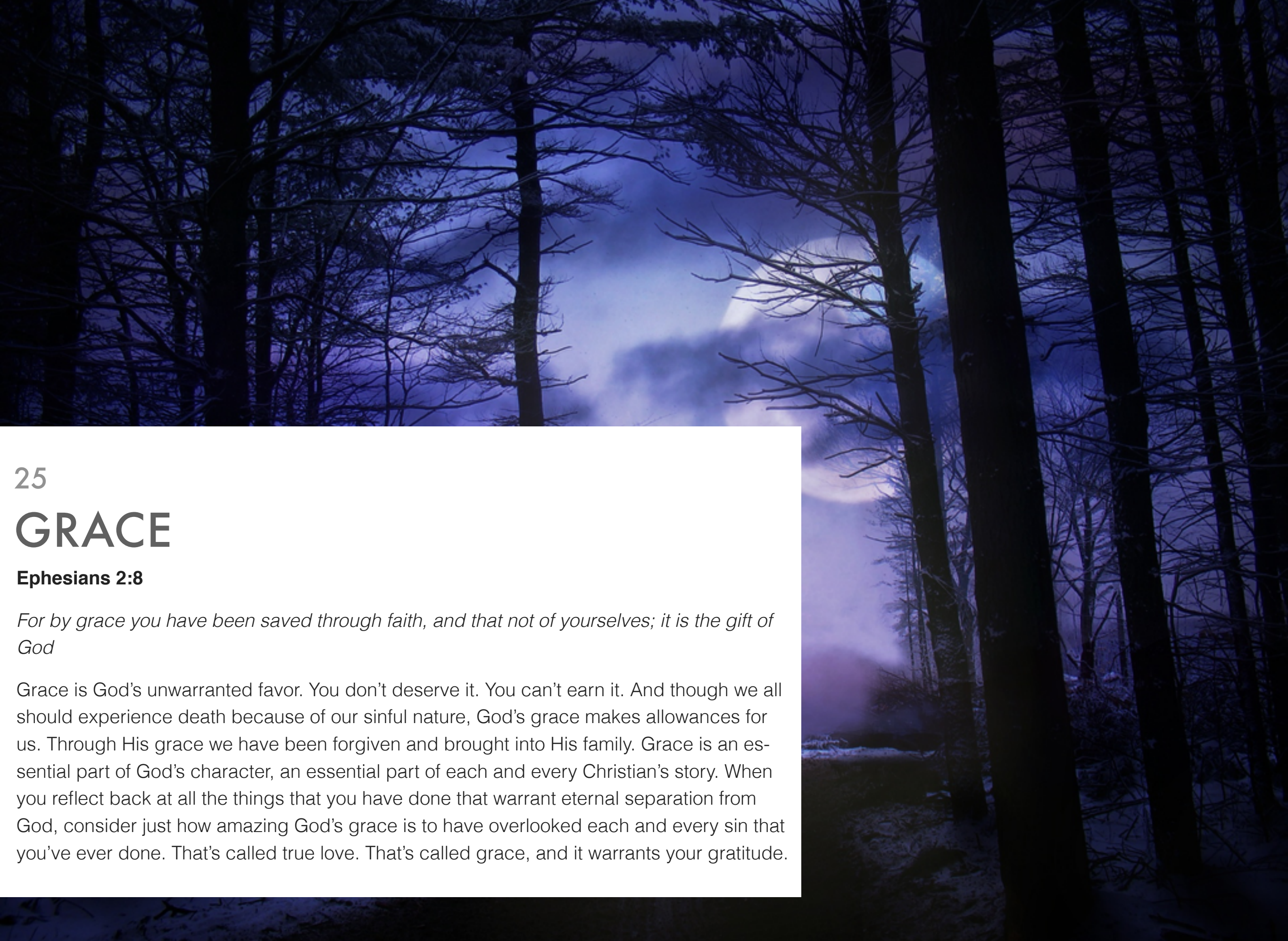
# CREATION

**Genesis 1:31**

*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

The intricate beauty of nature is indisputable. God's handiwork is all around us: from the beautiful landscapes made perfect by God's hand as an artist, to the most intricate details of plants and animals, we see evidence of God's infinite creativity everywhere we look. From the simplest details to the largest ones, God created Earth for us as paradise. And even though we live in a fallen world, we are promised that in the end God will create a new heavens and a new earth. Take some time to appreciate the details of God's hand throughout your neighborhood, and say thanks for the beautiful gift that is His creation.





25

# GRACE

**Ephesians 2:8**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*

Grace is God's unwarranted favor. You don't deserve it. You can't earn it. And though we all should experience death because of our sinful nature, God's grace makes allowances for us. Through His grace we have been forgiven and brought into His family. Grace is an essential part of God's character, an essential part of each and every Christian's story. When you reflect back at all the things that you have done that warrant eternal separation from God, consider just how amazing God's grace is to have overlooked each and every sin that you've ever done. That's called true love. That's called grace, and it warrants your gratitude.





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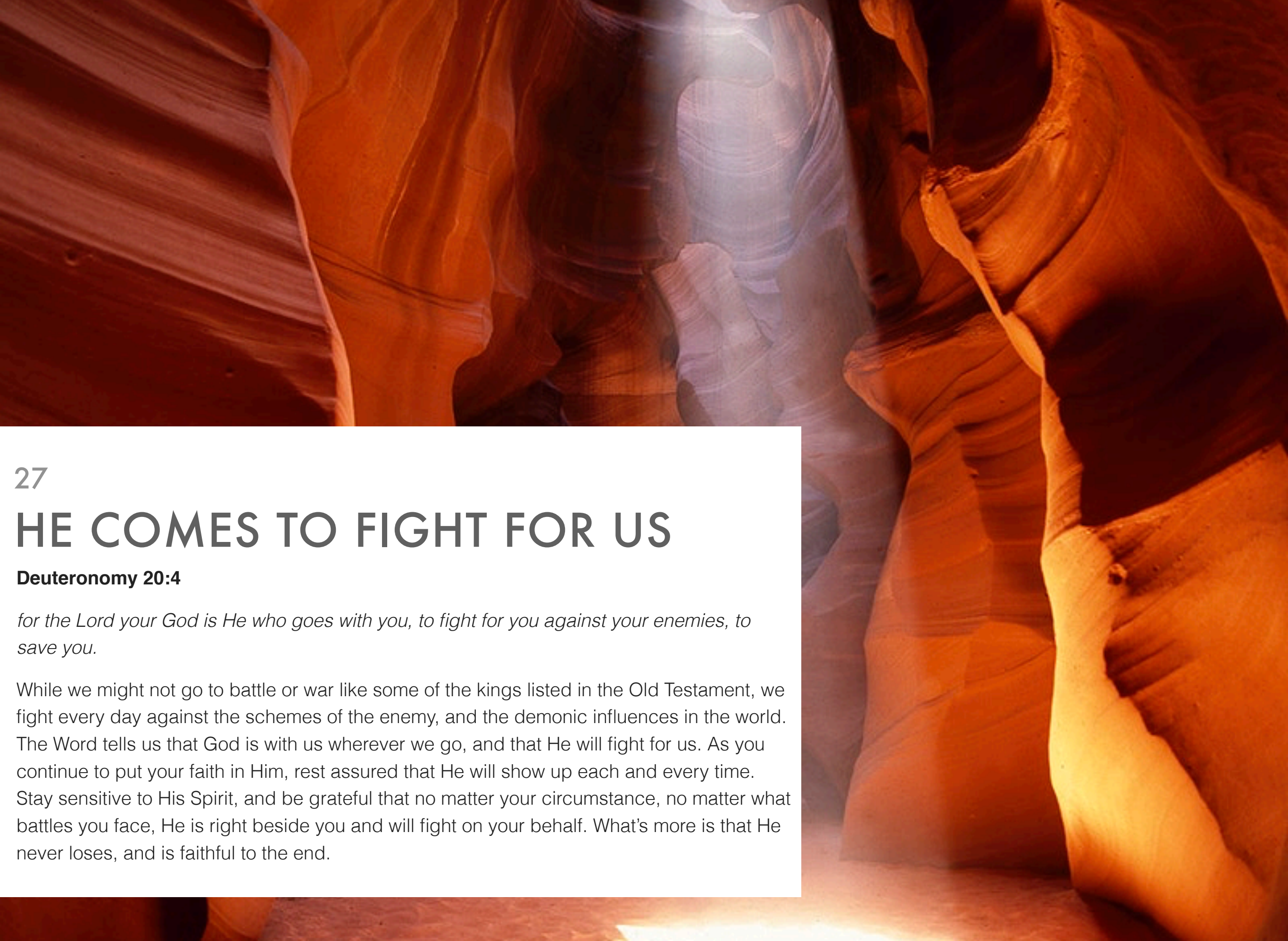
# GLOBAL FAMILY

**Ephesians 4:5**

*one Lord, one faith, one baptism*

It never ceases to amaze me when I meet another believer from a different part of the world. Even if we don't speak the same language, there's a supernatural fellowship that's rooted in love that occurs from the beginning of our interaction. Sometimes its a smile of knowing that we share in eternity. Other times it's the sheer joy of mutually knowing an all loving and giving God who lives inside of us. This fellowship is one of the most precious things we have - and as the global body of Christ - His bride - we are so thankful for the astounding family we have: each member with his or her own talents, each one with a strategic purpose in God's kingdom. Let's continue to joyfully and passionately love each other, giving ourselves away as a single global family that shares in an eternal inheritance.





27

# HE COMES TO FIGHT FOR US

**Deuteronomy 20:4**

*for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.*

While we might not go to battle or war like some of the kings listed in the Old Testament, we fight every day against the schemes of the enemy, and the demonic influences in the world. The Word tells us that God is with us wherever we go, and that He will fight for us. As you continue to put your faith in Him, rest assured that He will show up each and every time. Stay sensitive to His Spirit, and be grateful that no matter your circumstance, no matter what battles you face, He is right beside you and will fight on your behalf. What's more is that He never loses, and is faithful to the end.





28

# THE PEACE OF GOD

**John 14:27**

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Hours before Jesus went to the cross, He spoke to His disciples about the peace that He was leaving with them. This is a different kind of peace than the world offers. It is an eternal peace, a peace that is unwavering. Since we have built our lives on the rock of Jesus, no matter what storms come against us, we can experience the peace of Jesus. As we continually turn to Him with prayer, supplication, and praise, His peace settles in our hearts, and allows us to walk through whatever is in front of us. Be thankful for the peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7), which we have access to at all times.



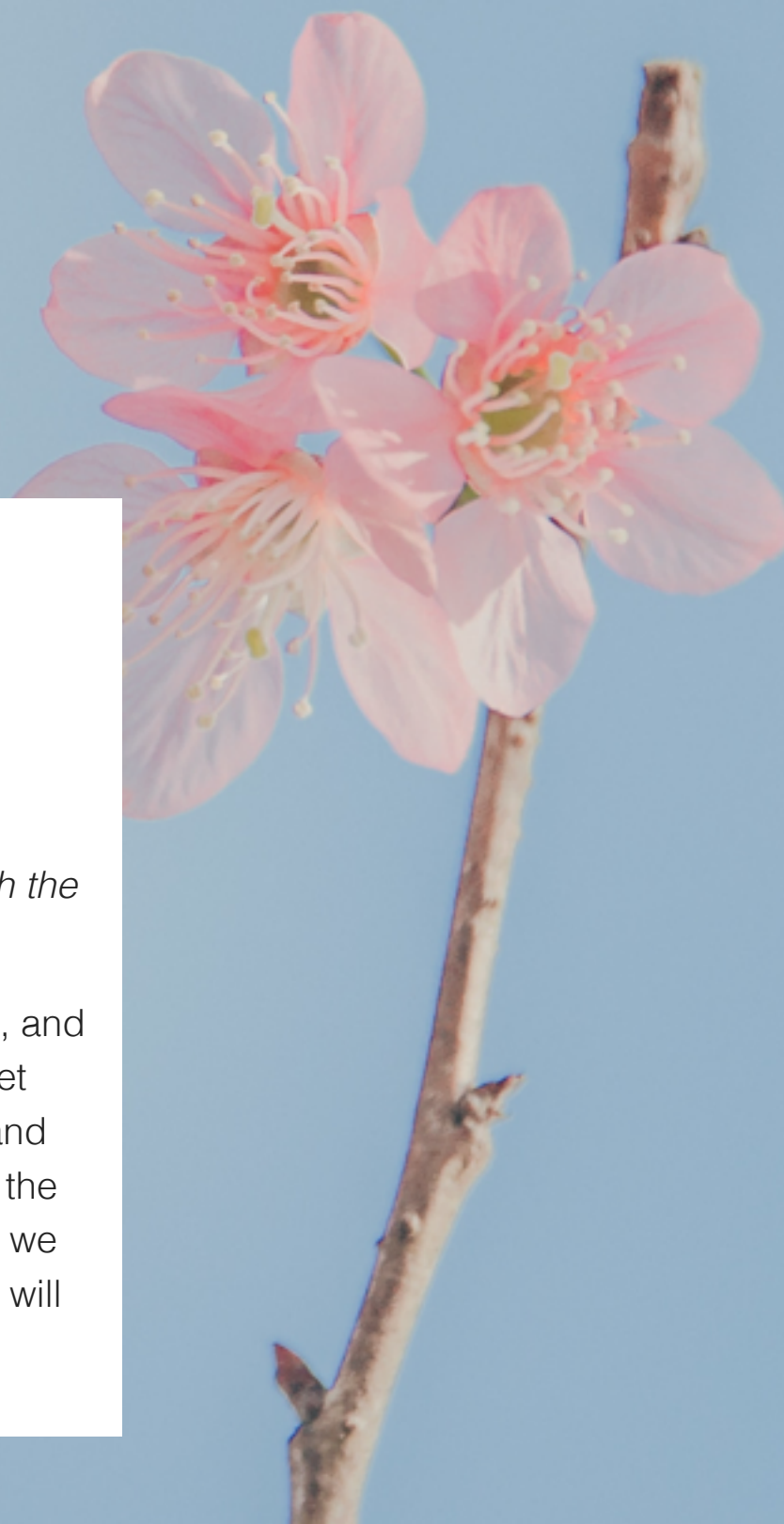
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# EVERYTHING FOR GODLINESS

**2 Peter 1:3**

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue*

In short, God has given us everything we need, both for this life in our earthen vessels, and to pursue, seek, and achieve the godliness He desires for us. He calls us to be holy, set apart, as He is holy, and He equips us with the tools, desires, thoughts, preferences, and other things we need to be holy. Through His Holy Spirit and His word, we have two of the absolutely essential things for godliness, and His Word tells us that for everything else we need, we can ask Him for it. And when we pray according to His will, we know that He will give to us what we ask. (1 John 5:14-15)







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# DIRECT INTERCESSION

**Hebrews 8:1**

*Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.*

Jesus is our High Priest, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. As our High Priest, He makes intercession on our behalf according to the will of God. This literally means that Jesus sits before the throne of God and prays on our behalf. He knows our needs. He knows our hearts. He knows our desires. He sits, days and night, making intercession on our behalf - all because of His love for us. So the next time you start to feel alone, or the concerns of the world start to feel too much, remember that you have the best possible advocate going directly to the source on your behalf: Jesus.





31

# EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

**James 1:17**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

That's right: every good gift you've ever gotten is from God. It doesn't matter what it is. It could be a relationship, an unexpectedly financial blessing, a healthy life, children - each and every good gift that you've ever received is directly from the hand of the Father. Through His constant presence in our lives, He seeks to bless us, to guide us, and to show us the boundless love He has for each of us. Take some time today to reflect back at the good and perfect gifts that you've received over the past month alone, and then thank Him for never leaving or abandoning you, and for always orienting to you with His profound love.