

# THE *Vision*

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*365*  
DAYS OF  
LIFE-GIVING  
WORDS FROM  
THE PROPHET  
ISAIAH

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## *The Vision.*

365-DAYS OF LIFE-GIVING WORDS FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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Those who entwine their  
hearts with Yahweh will  
experience divine strength.  
They will rise up on soaring  
wings and fly like eagles,  
run their race without  
growing weary,  
and walk through life  
without giving up.

ISAIAH 40:31





# Introduction

The book of Isaiah is a vision that spans the plan of ages. It is a message of overcoming, hope, comfort, and restoration. It is an invitation to those who have become a spiritual Zion. It is a call to those who long to live in God's realm of glory every single day, which is why we have penned a devotion for each day of the year.

Isaiah was a man who spoke with fire-touched lips. His words are the reflection of God's desire for humanity. The entire book reveals the Father's mercy and desire to restore us to him. At times, it is experienced through refining fire, and at other times, through the gentle compassion that overwhelms our souls. But rest assured, his glory is tangible on every page.

The book of Isaiah has come alive to me in ways I never knew possible. Each day as I sat to write, the presence of Yahweh gripped my soul with such passion and power, I could scarcely write. The encounters of the Word, this living, fiery breath of life, whispered revelation that awakened my heart. With tears streaming down my face, I was completely undone by the treasures of love found in Isaiah. This is our prayer for you—that this devotional will usher you into his presence, where you come face to face with the King of love, mercy, and perfect desire.

*Gretchen Rodriguez*



*January*

# THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Come now and let's deliberate over the next steps to take together. Yahweh promises you over and over: "Though your sins stain you like scarlet, I will whiten them like bright, new-fallen snow! Even though they are deep red like crimson, they will be made white like wool!"

ISAIAH 1:18

*A*t the beginning of our journey, the Lord initiates relationship. His offer of forgiveness and cleansing opens the door to communication. "Come and let's deliberate," he says, extending not only salvation but also friendship to those who have yet to know him. Will we remain in darkness, or accept his offer? We are free to choose.

This invitation to walk with him into freedom isn't forced. Love is not demanding or imposing. Even while we are yet sinners, love reaches out. Although he could have stopped there—offering freedom from sin and the gift of eternal life—he beckons us into friendship. Into oneness. Into partnership. Together we walk the path that leads to holiness. In complete surrender to his unselfish love, we find our identity. We find our joy. We discover who we were created to be by surrendering to the One who redeems our soul. Come, explore the mystery of holy union. Come, take his hand.

*Lord, thank you for your unfathomable love. For extending the gift of salvation. For continuing to draw me close, with passion and mercy. I confess my great need—not only for your cleansing but to be fully consumed by you until nothing remains in me but your holiness.*



## A WILLING HEART

"If you have a willing heart to let me help you, and if you will obey me, you will feast on the blessings of an abundant harvest."

ISAIAH 1:19

*W*hat incredible mercy the Lord shows us! Not just once, but every time we yield to the enemy or our own weakness, Jesus rushes to us and shows us the way out. Instead of slamming us into a chair of shame, punishing us for failure, he pulls us close. He gently places us on his lap and says something to the effect of, "Beloved, I have more for you than you can possibly imagine. Come closer."

Jesus holds the key to prisons of fear, disillusionment, and sin, and he longs to set us free. The only requirement for freedom is a willing heart. When we surrender our past and our unhealthy mindsets, allowing him to help us, he releases the blessing of a fruitful life. Today, let's yield every area of our lives that isn't producing his character. Let's recognize the mindsets that aren't leading to joy and peace. Let's be honest about what we're mentally feasting on, and invite him into every thought.

*Lord, I desire to walk with you in fullness. To know you and experience a life of abundance. My heart is willing Lord! Cleanse me and reveal areas of my heart, which still need to be fully yielded to you. Heal me. Restore me. I am yours.*



JANUARY 3

# YOU ARE THE HOLY PLACE OF HIS GLORY

Many peoples will come and say, "Everyone, come! Let's go up higher to Yahweh's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God; then he can teach us his ways and we can walk in his paths!" Zion will be the center of instruction, and the word of Yahweh will go out from Jerusalem.

ISAIAH 2:3

When the glory of God kisses our hearts, it stirs a passion in us to be near him. To know him. To walk with him in righteousness. To behold our King as he rules in righteousness. This invitation to experience his glory is extended to every believer. We are not only invited to Zion, the realm of his Kingdom, we become Zion. We become the dwelling place of his Spirit.

To rise in his presence, we first bow low in humility—allowing him to reign as King over our lives. He illuminates our lives with purity and power. Within us is all that he contains. What an incredible thought! We become the Mountain of Zion (Hebrews 12:22), the place where his greatness is displayed. There is no reason we cannot live each day led by his Spirit, learning his ways, and walking in his paths.

*Lord, you have held nothing back from me. Now make your greatness known in me. Establish your throne upon my heart. Perfect your beauty within me as I seek you above all other loves. I long to walk along your righteous paths and to shine with your glory to the world around me.*

JANUARY 4

## OUR FAMILY TREE

In that day, the branch of Yahweh will be beautiful and glorious  
and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and glory of the  
remnant of Israel.

ISAIAH 4:2

Jesus is the vine, and we are his branches. We could say Jesus stands at the head of our family tree. Our beauty, wisdom, and divine nature have been passed down to us from him. All of heaven looks at us and sees the offspring of glory. Is this what we see when we look in the mirror? Is this the truth we pull from when we reach out our hands to bless others? His very life, the expression of his power and majesty upon the earth, lives inside of us, waiting to be released.

We are radiant. Take a moment and think about that. Our beauty isn't based on how we look or feel each day. It isn't temporary, and it isn't as fickle as what's on the outside. We are true vessels of perfect glory. When we imagine Jesus's beauty, we mustn't forget that same beauty is alive within us.

*Jesus, you are the delight of heaven. You are fathomless beauty swirling inside of me. All of your mystery is contained within my flesh. All of your glory has been entrusted to someone as fragile as me. I honor all that you are and stand in awe—not only for who you are but for who you are in me.*

## THE SPIRIT OF FIRE

The Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion  
and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem by a Spirit of justice  
and by a Spirit of burning.

ISAIAH 4:4

God's mercy doesn't slam the gavel upon our sin and leave us to suffer his wrath. Instead, his kindness leads us to repentance. His perfect justice brings conviction, and we cannot help but bow in humility, crying out for his refining fire. We trust his judgment because he clearly discerns between what is holy and what is not. There is no partiality with God. No prejudice clouds his vision. He not only convicts of sin, he has made a way for us to be cleansed.

We long for his blast of justice and breath of fire—pure, holy, and necessary. His passionate love causes us to see our condition through his eyes. It creates a holy desire within us for purity. We respond with unyielding surrender, inviting his Spirit of fire to burn away all that does not mirror him.

*Lord, I cry out for your cleansing fire! Purify me. Free my mind from thoughts that don't focus on your truth. Set me ablaze with unquenchable passion to live before you in righteousness and purity. Seal my heart with the fire of your love. I invite your searching gaze into every area of my life.*

JANUARY 6

## THE COVERING OF HIS LOVE

Then Yahweh will create over all of Mount Zion and over every gathering a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night. And all this manifestation of dazzling glory will spread over them like a wedding canopy.

ISAIAH 4:5

The Lord's love for you is immeasurably intense and deeply personal. Think of the great lengths he takes to explain his passion. Imagine the King of kings and Lord of lords pulling you aside and explaining that his dazzling glory is the covering for your holy union. This glory isn't only the foundation for all that he created. It is also an intimate symbol of his outrageous passion for you.

Jesus holds nothing back, nor does he spare any expense to prove his love. Day and night, his care continues. He never forgets us—not for a moment. It's hard to believe that we can grow accustomed to such outrageous displays of devotion, neglecting him even for a moment. Today, let's live with the continual awareness of the One who gave up all for us. Let's stand daily under the canopy of his grace.

*Lord, you lavish me with unceasing love and unyielding commitment. It's hard to comprehend such love. Love that gives without expecting anything in return. Love that isn't ashamed to call me your beloved, even when I become distracted. Give me the grace to love you the same way you love me. Thank you for the glory light that illuminates my life.*



## COVERED IN HIS GLORY

It will be a tabernacle as a shade from the scorching heat of the day and a safe shelter to protect them from the storm and rain.

ISAIAH 4:6

The Lord never promised a life free of storms. Though we wish it were not true, trials are a normal part of life. Yet in times of trouble, the righteous have been promised a place of protection. When adversity rears its head, we run to him and find safety under the shadow of his presence.

Sometimes, in our weariness, running to him isn't an option. If we're honest, it's all we can do to utter his name as we fall prostrate at his feet. But here too, we discover his unmerited grace as he extends his glory and covers us. He is unceasingly compassionate. Though the storms of life come, in his kindness he pulls us close so we can hide ourselves in him. And in him, in his glorious presence, we can breathe again. Hope again. Believe, despite the storms that rage. This is the place we were designed to live in. Created to draw strength from.

*Father, thank you for allowing me to come into the fullness of your glory. For being with me in every season of my life, and for protecting and covering me, even when I'm not aware that you are. You are my strength and you will never forsake me, especially in life's darkest moments.*

JANUARY 8

# THE GARDEN OF YOUR HEART

Let me sing a song for the one I love,  
called "My Lover and His Vineyard."

ISAIAH 5:1

*B*efore Jesus was born, Isaiah caught a glimpse of Jesus's passion for his vineyard—for us, the ones he would give everything for. This revelation stirred a song of love from deep within Isaiah for the One he loved.

And now, springing up from the depths of our souls, we too cry out with songs of loving worship to our Beloved. We are the Lord's beautiful garden. He comes and meets with us in the quiet of our soul to share his secrets. To walk with us and be our Friend. His Spirit tilled this inner garden of our hearts. Seeds of incorruptible beauty have been planted within us. We must maintain this vineyard by nurturing our personal communion with God. To quickly tend to the weeds of wrong thinking, bad attitudes, and worldly behaviors, which seek to choke the fruit of our garden.

*Father, I turn my heart to you. Meet with me in our secret garden. Let my life blossom with life and bear fruit for your glory. Speak to me, hold me, heal me, and laugh with me. Help me keep my heart soft and pliable in your hands so nothing hinders my relationship with you.*

## LIFE-ALTERING REVELATION

In the year that King Uzziah died, I clearly saw the Lord.  
He was seated on his exalted throne, towering high above me.  
His long, flowing robe of splendor spread throughout the temple.

ISAIAH 6:1

*T*his chapter is considered Isaiah's prophetic commissioning. Though he had already prophesied many "woes" to Israel, the Lord unveiled his eyes and gave him a Throne Room encounter. The revelation of the Lord's beauty and splendor transformed Isaiah's life and ministry. Instead of only seeing what was wrong, he tapped into God's solution. Only a glimpse of his glory could do that.

Today, many spew out judgment without having a clear understanding of God's love and mercy. It isn't until we understand our own condition and need for the personal touch of his mercy that we can offer something more powerful than a reprimand. Until we understand his love and have a true encounter with his radiant splendor, we will only notice the faults and sins of others. A glimpse of his glory will draw us into love. It will give us answers that truly set our hearts free.

*Father, draw me into your presence. Like Isaiah, bless me with a life-altering encounter of your glory. Cleanse me and purify my lips. I long for a fresh touch. I long to see you. Help me keep my heart clean so I can release truth that is seasoned with your truth and compassion.*

## BURNING ONES

Standing above him were the angels of flaming fire, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces in reverence, with two wings they covered their feet, and with two wings they flew.

ISAIAH 6:2

*S*eraphim means the burning ones or fiery beings. Seen as guardians of the holiness of God, seraphim are the anointed, fiery custodians of the Throne Room. Winged creatures that swirl around the throne, ignited by God's burning presence. We are not told how many Isaiah saw or their size, only that they use their wings to cover themselves in humility and reverence. They cover their faces, symbolizing humility. They cover their feet, disavowing any intention to choose their own path. And with two wings they fly, conveying availability and ready obedience. Their supreme task is to hide before the face of God.

If these exceedingly glorious creatures hide themselves before God's holiness, how could we strive to display ourselves, our gifting, anointing, or works? Though these shining ones burn with holiness, they pale in comparison to the All-Glorious One. Let us take our cue from them, bowing low in humility, awe, and wonder, as we gaze into the eyes of the One of infinite beauty, and surrender all.

*Father, I want to burn with holiness and passion for you. As I remain close to your sacred flames, ignite me with your presence. Purify me as I humble myself before you. Cleanse me so I may shine for you, giving you all the glory!*



# THE HOLY ONE WHO BECKONS US TO COME CLOSE

One called out to another, saying:  
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, Commander of Angel Armies!  
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

ISAIAH 6:3

*I*magine listening to the seraphim as they cry out in antiphonal song, praising and magnifying God. Picture these glorious creatures, calling out to one another in continual awe and unbroken praise. More magnificent and breathtaking than the sound of any choir or symphony, the seraphim sing their continual song of holiness, in response to their revelation of God’s glory.

This same God, who dwells in unapproachable light, invites us to come close. To not only join the angels as they declare his glory, but to know this Glorious One as our Savior, Lord, and Friend. To not only observe as he fills the earth with his glory, but to partner with him while he does. We do not worship him from afar but draw close until we too cry out in awestruck wonder, overwhelmed by this same glory, which incites the angels’ praise.

*Lord, you are glorious and magnificent. The awareness of your beauty and holiness leaves me undone. You are here with me now. I sense your presence all around me. May I never grow accustomed to your glory but honor it always. I want to praise you with as much understanding as the angels, yet love you even more profoundly.*

# YOUR PRAISE SHAKES THINGS UP

The thunderous voice of the fiery angels caused the foundations of the thresholds to tremble as the cloud of glory filled the temple!

ISAIAH 6:4

*I*f the thunderous cries of the angels shake the foundations of heaven, what do you think your praise does? You are a child of God. A vessel of his Holy Spirit. A carrier of his glory. When you stand to praise him in the midst of adversity, every opposition begins to shake and tremble before you. You are powerful, and your praise is a weapon of mass destruction against the enemy.

There is no shortage of the glory of God in heaven. As a vessel of his Spirit, there is no shortage of his glory in you. Just as the angels' praise resounds throughout heaven, your praise resounds in heaven and earth. The songs of love and words of thankfulness that flow from your lips are alive and powerful. You have the ability to usher in the King's glory into every situation you face. Never underestimate the efficacy of your praise.

*Father, let me be like the fiery angels of heaven—exploding with praise that shakes the foundations of the earth. Let my passionate praise roar with authority and faith. Fill me with the revelation of who you are. As I yield to your majesty and bow in humility, may you rise within me and reveal yourself through me.*

## HE IS THE ANSWER

I stammered and said, "Woe is me! I'm destroyed—doomed as a sinful man! For my words are tainted and I live among people who talk the same way."

ISAIAH 6:5

The revelation of God's glory will always bring us to our knees. Though it causes us to recognize our own sinfulness and the areas we fall short, it also leads to the One who holds the answer. It's not enough to know we are needy; we must know the One who fills that need.

The urgency of our great inadequacy should always lead us to a face-to-face encounter with Jesus. It must compel us to invite the intense light of his holiness to pierce us through and through. Seasons of crisis ought to send us running to the One who exchanges our doom and gloom for restoration and glory. The awareness of our sinful state is meant to incite a desire for the One who takes away our sin. Like Isaiah, let's throw ourselves before the Lord as cries of "Holy, holy, holy!" pour from our lips.

*Father, you alone make all things new. You are the answer to every problem and the healing for every soul-disease. You are the light for every darkened path. The crown of glory that replaces my cloak of shame. Thank you for redeeming me and for piercing me with the revelation of your love.*

## THE BURNING COAL

Out of the smoke, one of the angels of fire flew to me. He had in his hands a burning coal he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, "See? The burning coal from the altar has touched your lips. Your guilt is taken away; your sin is blotted out."

ISAIAH 6:6-7

The Lord hears the words of a sinner who cries out to him. When Isaiah cried, seraphim took a burning coal from the altar of the Lord, touched Isaiah's lips, and cleansed him. If he could be purged of his sin, how much more can we? His vision of glory resulted in a visit of healing grace. It is the same for us—our recognition of his glory and our great need humbles us and invites his remedy.

In the presence of God is an altar of incense that burns continually. It speaks of God's satisfaction with the finished work of Christ. It is an emblem of the cross and what Jesus did when he was consumed as God's perfect sacrifice. Isaiah was touched by the burning coal, but we are eternally cleansed by the fire of the cross.

*Lord, I need you, today and always. As I stand before you, aware of your holiness and glory, I'm undone. Let the fire of your passion consume my heart! Set me free from lesser loves and let me burn for only you. I long for my life to be a sweet-smelling fragrance before you.*



# WILL YOU BE THE ONE?

I heard the Lord saying, "Whom should I send to my people?  
Who will go to represent us?" I spoke up and said,  
"I will be the one. Send me."

ISAIAH 6:8

*T*ransformed by our encounters with his glory, we are invited to collaborate with the Lord. Though he never forces us, he does compel us to walk alongside him in ministry. We are the vessels he desires to move through. The Lord stirs the hearts of those around us, but we are the ones who lead them to him.

Each day, you have the opportunity to share a part of him by your actions and words. You don't need a title, a platform, or anyone's permission, only a tender and obedient heart. Partnering with him is different for everyone. Sometimes it looks like praying for the sick person in front of you at the store. Sometimes it means comforting a sad coworker. If you pay attention to the people around you and avail yourself to him, you will see him touch the world through you.

*Lord, today I take the bold step of saying "yes!" to you. Give me your heart for the people I encounter each day. Help me not to dismiss your gentle nudges when you want me to talk to someone. Instead of focusing on my inconvenience, I will allow myself to be moved by your compassion. I will be the one. Send me!*

## STAY CALM

"Give him this message: 'Stay calm!  
Be quiet and guard your heart!  
Don't panic or be discouraged  
over these two smoldering stubs of firewood.'"

ISAIAH 7:4

When it feels like all hell has launched an attack against you, this advice still rings true today. Stay calm. Don't let your emotions overtake you, but bring each one to the Lord so he can refine you. Don't explode. Don't overreact. Don't exchange faith for fear. Guard your heart. Don't panic.

Some of our biggest and seemingly insurmountable trials are nothing more than smoldering stubs of wood in our Father's eyes. If we could see things from his point of view, we would all feel a lot less stressed. But this is the crux of it all, isn't it? To go immediately to him in times of crisis and find his presence so we can get his perspective. Too often, we depend on our intellect, frantically searching for answers that only he can give. In times of trouble, let's not react but intentionally step back to find him.

*Father, in times of trouble, you alone are my refuge and peace. When it feels as if the world is crumbling around me, and I feel myself succumbing to fear, wrap me in your arms and pull me close. Help me to remember that you are in control, and I am not. You will work out the details.*

## STRENGTH TO STAND

"If you do not stand firm in your faith,  
you will not be able to stand at all!"

ISAIAH 7:9

There is no middle ground between fear and faith, and faith is the only way we're going to make it! It's time we stop allowing the enemy to trick us into thinking that obsessing over problems will change them. It won't. Fear and faith cannot coexist. All that the Lord does, he does through faith. It's time to tear the enemy of fear from our souls!

Our strength to stand in the face of opposition depends on our ability to trust him and to lift our attention to his love, faithfulness, and goodness. When we lower our gaze to our situations, it stirs our anxiety and causes us to falter. If we feel overwhelmed, heavy, and stressed, it's not because we don't have the power to shake it off. It's because we haven't fully released the problem to him.

*Father, forgive me for agreeing with fear and not fully trusting you. Instead of focusing on the weightiness of this problem and losing my footing, I choose to stand in faith. You know me. You see every situation with clarity. You have the answer, and because I know you love me, I will trust in you.*

## FEEDING ON HIS PROMISES

"The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold—the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will name him God Among Us. He will eat curdled milk and honey, and he will know enough to refuse the evil and choose the good."

ISAIAH 7:14–15

One of Isaiah's most profound prophecies was of the coming Messiah and his virgin birth. He spoke of the Lord who would come to dwell among us. Come to lead us back to him. Come to give us an example of how we could live. And this is exactly what happened—Jesus came, feasting on Kingdom promises, revealing to us the importance of God's Word for victorious living.

Jesus feasted on the promises of God. Milk and honey represent the promised land where God fulfills every oath. Feeding on the Word enables us to choose the right. We aren't deceived by the enemy's lies when we spend time feasting on the truth. Like Jesus, we too can live in the promised land, here on earth. We are invited to feast upon his Word and the revelation of Jesus, the Word of God, dwelling within us.

*Father, I want to spend my life feasting on the ongoing revelation of your life within me. I want to be so consumed with truth that the lies of the enemy never find a place to land in my mind. Your promises and the reality of God Among Us have become my daily bread.*



JANUARY 19

# YOU HAVE BECOME HIS INSTRUMENT

The Lord Yahweh said to me, "Take a large tablet and engrave upon it these words using the stylus of a man."

ISAIAH 8:1

*W*hat an encouraging word to creatives. The Lord moved through Isaiah's pen, all those many years ago, and he still flows through our hands today. The Lord loves to use ordinary people and ordinary instruments to convey extraordinary truth. Writers, painters, musicians, bakers, doctors—it doesn't matter how we release his voice and presence. It only matters that we make ourselves available to do it. Though we are ordinary, frail people, we have the grace to speak for God. We are the vessels the Lord has chosen to speak through. The ones he longs to touch the world through.

Never underestimate the power of your craft. You are filled with his Spirit. Life, anointing, revelation, and tangible encounters flow through your hands, your body, your art. God can use what is written or composed by man to touch man. You have become the instrument he has chosen to move through.

*Father, I avail myself to you. Anoint the work of my hands. Infuse my words and my art. Flow through everything I do and create. I want to release your tangible touch and power to break through to all who I meet. Let what appears ordinary become extraordinarily blessed.*

# HIS HAND IS UPON YOU

The Lord's mighty hand rested on me, and he warned me with these words not to act like these people.

ISAIAH 8:11

*T*his was a divine revelation released to Isaiah. The strong hand of God was upon him. He was seized by God. A compelling, gripping power fell upon him, and he prophesied. God is so merciful to us. He loves us so much that he doesn't leave us alone to figure things out on our own. He knows it takes his strong hand on our lives to keep us free from the world and the tug of the flesh.

You never need to fear missing the Lord. Just as the Lord had his hand upon Isaiah, his hand is upon you, today. He knows how to point you in the right direction. Never believe the lie that your inability to hear him is greater than his ability to speak to you. He is God, after all. He knows how to get your attention. Only the hand of God can deliver you from your fears and keep you walking in the awe of God.

*Lord, I invite you to guide my life. I bow before you today, knowing that no matter how smart or talented I am, I need you. I need your wisdom. I yearn for your grace in all I do. I cry out for your mercy and strength so I never stray.*

## THE FEAR OF THE LORD

"Fear nothing and no one except Yahweh,  
Commander of Angel Armies! Honor him as holy.  
Be in awe before him with deepest reverence!"

ISAIAH 8:13

The Hebrew word for fear means holy awe, to venerate, deepest respect, worship, adore, to regard as holy. This holy fear anchors us. It keeps us rooted and grounded and inspires us with awestruck wonder. As we set him apart in our hearts as holy, it stirs a desire to please him more than any other. The fear of God keeps us from defiling ourselves. We want every thought, word, and action to honor him.

A *spirit* of fear is not the same thing as the fear of the Lord. God does not give us a spirit of fear or panic, but he does insist we approach him with reverence, awe, humility, and surrender. We have always known that love is the foundation of our relationship with God, but now the Lord wants us to discover the fear of the Lord as equally foundational. Love and the fear of God are the twin truths that stabilize the church.

*Father, I long to live before you in holiness and complete surrender. I want every motive and thought to honor you. Help me to guard my heart at all times and to remain undefiled from this world. I want to know you as you yearn to be known. May love and the fear of the Lord keep me close to you.*

# WHEN GOD SEEMS TO HIDE

I will wait for the Lord Yahweh, who hides his face from the family of Jacob. And I will place all my hope in him!

ISAIAH 8:17

*W*hen God feels distant and prayers seem to go unanswered, faith must rise. These are the seasons when it feels as if God has hidden his face from us. Sometimes God hides himself in order to stir our longing. We begin to yearn for him with desire, which we can barely utter. Longing consumes us and all other distractions fall to the wayside.

Then there are times when it feels as if God's judgment has come to the people of the earth. To those who know him, it's a time to make him our dread and holy fear as we hide in our knowledge of his love as a sanctuary. Peace in a time of judgment comes from knowing that God is good and kind. We trust that God will fulfill his promises because faith is for the dark days. True faith is designed to be your strength when God seems absent.

*Father, I bind the testimony of your faithfulness to my heart and hide myself in you. You are my confidence and Strong Tower. I turn away from distractions, and by faith, lean into your love. I long for your presence more than anything else. Let me see your face. Let me feel your tangible touch.*



## BE HIS VOICE

Now, suppose someone says, "Consult mediums and spiritists . . ." You are to answer them: "Listen to the teaching and instruction of the Lord! If their speech does not line up with his word, they will have no light of dawn!"

ISAIAH 8:19-20

*We* have been created for the holy, outrageous, and indescribable. People everywhere are crying out for revelation. "Give me illumination. I want an experience of the supernatural!" They aren't satisfied with the mundane and ordinary because they were created for so much more! The problem is, when Christianity doesn't have the signs and wonders the world looks for, they search for it in the occult or other false expressions.

One of the most remarkable and important things we can do is give the world a taste of heaven—a tangible expression of God's love. It's one thing to say he knows and loves them, but when we reveal secrets only he knows, it brings the reality of his love to them personally. God alone can foretell the future and guide our lives, but he wants us to tap in to hear what he knows and release it to the world.

*Father, I want my life to reflect the reality of heaven. I want to remain close to you and hear your heart for others. Keep me grounded in the Scriptures so I remain free from error. Keep me close to your heart so when you speak, I hear you clearly and follow your leading easily.*

# HIS LIGHT IS SHINING UPON YOU

Those who walked in darkness have seen a radiant light shining upon them. They once lived in the shadows of death, but now a glorious light has dawned!

ISAIAH 9:2

*T*his Scripture is fulfilled every time we feel the darkness closing in and turn to him. Regardless of what we face, despite our trials and even our own sin, mercy is always reaching out. Grace ceaselessly finds a way to illuminate the darkened crevices of our lives. The Savior of the world graciously shines upon all that involves us and draws us close to his heart, where no shadow exists.

When circumstances have distracted us and dragged us down a darkened path, Jesus calls us to shift our gaze. To become aware of the beauty of the dawn as he awakens us to a new and promising day. To embrace his light as it shines upon us. His will for all humanity is clear—we were created to live in the light of his radiant love. Today, the invitation to join him in the place of perfect peace that surpasses understanding is being extended to you.

*Lord, when darkness tries to consume me, bathe me in the light of your love. Let wave after wave of your tangible presence overtake me. Lift the heaviness that seeks to weigh me down as I choose to rejoice despite every obstacle. Your love is powerful enough to save the whole world, and you never stop pursuing me!*

## JOY IS COMING

Lord, you have multiplied the nation and given them overwhelming joy! They are ecstatic in your presence and rejoice like those who bring in a great harvest and those who divide up the spoils of victory!

ISAIAH 9:3

This is a prophetic promise of coming revival. God has a fountain of mercy reserved for this day. As the light of Jesus shines forth on the earth, it will bring in a harvest of rejoicing. The people of God are about to arise and spoil the kingdom of darkness as we collaborate with him and take our place in the world.

A sign that God is moving among us is an outbreak of joy. When we embrace our identity and find freedom, confidence, and purpose, we sense his joy rising from deep within. True joy is found in him and experienced when every thought leads to him. He is the One who gives us fullness of joy, and apart from him, we will not have it. He fills our mouths with laughter as a sign that the great ingathering of harvest is here.

*Father, magnify my joy as I receive the light of your truth. Increase it as I release this truth to others. Let me be known as someone who keeps my peace and joy, despite opposition. Help me to remain in your presence where there's fullness of joy. Give me grace to share the good news with those around me so they too may know the depths of your love.*

JANUARY 26

## SHAKE OFF HEAVINESS

You have broken the chains that have bound your people and lifted off the heavy bar across their shoulders, the rod the oppressor used against them.

ISAIAH 9:4

*You* weren't created to carry heavy burdens. It isn't God's will for your mind to be glued to your problems. It's time to live with faith-filled expectation and stop rehearsing every negative detail and to finally—fully—trust him. Take a breath. Remember, you're free to laugh in the face of opposition and oppression, especially in those seasons. Free to praise yourself into joy. To dance yourself into freedom. To worship until you come into the very presence of God.

Jesus paid the price to free you, but you must do your part. Shake off the heaviness. It's nothing more than a weighty lie. Exchange negativity for peace and joy by reminding yourself of the good. No matter how hard things are, there's always something to be thankful for. Depression is anchored in negative thinking. So today, create a list of your blessings and coax your attention back to the One who loves you.

*Father, take me higher so I can see my journey from your vantage point. I believe there is more happening behind the scenes, and even in my own heart, than I realize. I lift my heart in praise, knowing you are lifting the burdens from my soul. You are turning my tears of sorrow into tears of joy. I believe it!*



# HE IS YOUR SHALOM

Great and vast is his dominion. He will bring immeasurable peace and prosperity.... The marvelous passion that the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, has for his people will ensure that it is finished!

ISAIAH 9:7

Think about this: The Omnipotent God, who created heaven and earth, is moved by you. Cares for you. Gave all he possibly could to ensure you would have everything you need in this life and the life to come. He commands angel armies, has dominion over all living things, yet he takes time to protect, provide, and nourish you.

No matter how it feels, you do not face problems alone. For every opposition, Jesus has already given you the victory. In the midst of every hardship, you were created to experience peace that surpasses understanding. You were created to experience the *shalom* of God in every area of your life. *Shalom* can be translated to mean peace, prosperity, wholeness, and success. Trust in his passion for you. Believe he is for you. You don't have to fight for peace; you simply must resign yourself to it. You must give yourself permission to experience it, regardless of what you're facing.

*Lord, you are my fierce protector and faithful provider. You never leave me. You care about the things I care about. I reach out by faith and receive your immeasurable peace. I expect wisdom to guide me. I yield myself to you and trust you fully. You alone hold the answer to every question.*

## BURNING ONES

The Light of Israel will become a fire in their midst,  
and the Holy One will become a flame!

ISAIAH 10:17

When Moses knelt before the burning thorn bush, God ignited a fire in his heart. God's majesty brings us to our knees. We bow before him in reverence, humbly submitting every part, and his touch ignites a holy flame. Looking into his eyes, we are overcome with glory. His love sparks holy passion within us—a fire burning deep within that cannot be ignored.

Zeal consumes us when we encounter this Holy One. His love, like holy fire, burns away all desire for frivolous pursuits. We long to be those who know no complacency. Are we willing to take risks and step out on the waters with Jesus when he bids us come? As we draw near to him daily, his touch kindles a desire to live with unrelenting devotion. We have become vessels of the Living Flame, kindling the hearts of others everywhere we go.

*Father, ignite my heart with a passion that never ceases. I want to know you. To honor you. To see and hear you clearly. Let the fire of your love burn away everything that's contrary to your Holy Spirit. Remove the barriers I have unknowingly created. Let nothing come between us so I will burn with zealous love, forever.*

## OUR TRUE SHEPHERD

In that day, neither the remnant of Israel nor the survivors of the house of Jacob will lean anymore upon the one who abused them, but they will lean fully on the faithfulness of the Lord Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel.

ISAIAH 10:20

The Lord doesn't want you to sit under the hand of a harsh taskmaster but under the anointing of a true Shepherd—someone who leads according to God's heart. These are leaders who walk in authentic authority, wisdom, and compassion. They never demand your submission but build you up and encourage you to trust in the Lord and in the glory you carry. Most importantly, they point you to Jesus and not to themselves.

Our hearts belong to the Lord. Our loyalties must lie with him, before any others. When we know him and understand our identity, we won't submit ourselves to the abuse of others. We will set healthy boundaries, have courageous faith, and experience deep-seated peace. It is a joy to lean fully upon Jesus. And when we trust him, he blesses us with shepherds, according to his heart.

*Lord, may I always remember that you are my Source, my Counselor, and my closest Friend. No one leads me as purely as you do. I trust you and trust you'll bring true spiritual mentors into my life. I bless the leaders you've placed in the body. May they become true fathers and mothers to the body—parents who cheer their family on and encourage them to seek you for themselves.*

JANUARY 30

# THE OIL OF HIS PRESENCE

In that day the Lord will remove the heavy burden from your shoulders and break off the yoke of bondage from your necks because of the heavy anointing upon you!

ISAIAH 10:27

*W*hat burdens are weighing on your shoulders today? The Lord longs to lift everyone. The only thing he wants you to be overwhelmed with is the weight of his glory. Bondages of fear, sin, and doubt melt in his all-consuming presence.

Regardless of what you're facing today, despite trials, disappointments, and failures, his nearness is like a warm refreshing wind, gently pushing your mind in the right direction. Most of the anxiety we experience is the result of wrong thinking. When we're mentally rehearsing what's wrong, it pulls us like a magnet, further into discouragement. The enemy wants to strangle us—to wrap his hand around our necks and force us to look at everything that's wrong. But we are overcomers! Let's release our cares to the Lord and lift up our worship. Soon, the anointing will flow like oil and cause the enemy to lose his grip!

*Father, come and smear me with the oil of your presence. Let every burden slide easily from my shoulders as I turn my heart to you. Help me resist the temptation to doubt or be drawn into discouragement. You are the joy set before me each day!*



# THE SPIRIT OF YAHWEH IS UPON ME

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: *the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him*, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, the Spirit of Mighty Power, the Spirit of Revelation, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1–2

In Hebrew culture, to say “the Spirit of Yahweh rests upon” someone meant the Spirit of prophecy was upon them. The Spirit of Yahweh is the Spirit of prophecy. This is the manifest presence of God, which rested upon the Lord Jesus.

We have no problem believing Jesus was in tune with the Father. We accept that he prophesied. If Jesus came to earth as a man yet was able to do what he did because of the anointing upon him, what makes us doubt our ability to do the same? Yes, we are human. So was Jesus. All that he did, he did to demonstrate what the Spirit of the Lord could do through flesh and blood. The difference is faith—truly believing that the One inside us wants to speak through us to others.

*Father, thank you for your Spirit that has anointed me to follow in Jesus’s footsteps. I believe that the Spirit of Yahweh is upon me and resides inside me. I am created in your image, able to hear your voice. Grace me with the gift of compassion so I will not withhold your heart for others.*



*February*

## SKILLFUL WISDOM

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, *the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom*, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, the Spirit of Mighty Power, the Spirit of Revelation, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1–2

*T*he Spirit of extraordinary wisdom is also the Spirit of skillfulness. It is this aspect of the Lord that releases the ability for music, art, business, writing, creativity, and wisdom for judicial decisions.

The Spirit of the Lord released through us is not limited in expression. He manifests through us in a plethora of ways. The Creator of all set things in place with precision and creativity. He not only formed the idea but also placed it in existence with perfect wisdom. This same ability is within us. To limit ourselves is to limit the One inside us. We have what we need to do—what he's destined us to do—because we have his extraordinary wisdom. This wisdom gives humanity the skill for new inventions, designs, and radical ideas that change the course of history. When we fully lean upon the Lord, we can do amazing things!

*Lord, I don't want to limit what you can do through me. When I'm stuck, remind me that I can lean in and draw from your wisdom. When what's on my heart takes a team to bring to pass, surround me with those who flow with your wisdom and skillfulness.*



## PERFECT UNDERSTANDING

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, *the Spirit of Perfect Understanding*, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, the Spirit of Mighty Power, the Spirit of Revelation, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1-2

When we walk in the Spirit of perfect understanding, we are able to discern truth. The prophet Daniel, who knew the meaning of riddles and deciphered parables and allegories, is a wonderful example. This anointing is also called the Spirit of intelligent insight. It is like wisdom, tuned into the nitty-gritty details that are often hidden from others.

Perfect understanding also unveils the finite intricacies of wisdom. It isn't enough to have wisdom; we must know how to apply it. This wisdom, or insight, reveals how to use the ideas and anointing we tap into. It is getting the particulars in life, spiritually, by helping us hone in on what the Lord is revealing and understanding how to apply wisdom in the natural.

*Father, I want all that you have for me. I not only want to have the gifts of your Spirit, but I also want to know how to use them. I want to walk in this anointing so I can help others decipher the secrets you're revealing. Bless me with the Spirit of perfect understanding so I can walk in your will and help others follow you more veraciously.*



## WISE STRATEGY

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, *the Spirit of Wise Strategy*, the Spirit of Mighty Power, the Spirit of Revelation, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1-2

*T*he Holy Spirit has a strategic way of doing things. Though he rarely unveils every detail of his plan, he does draw us into union where his counsel leads us perfectly. With each step, listening hearts hear his wisdom for each leg of the journey. Too often, we want to know his exact plans when all he wants is for us to trust he will reveal them in his time. His faith won't let us miss his cues.

Wise strategy comes from the Hebrew word *etsah*, which is used numerous times in the Old Testament for counsel, advice, or purpose. It is also used for steering (guiding) ships. Picture the Lord gently guiding you down the right paths at the right times. His purposes for your life will not fail when his faithful counsel leads your heart.

*Father, I ask for your Spirit of guidance to impart the wisdom and counsel I need every day of my life. Lead me. Don't let me miss out on a single thing you have for me. Not only so I can stay in sync with your plan for me, but so I can help steer others in the right direction.*

# YOU ARE A MIGHTY WARRIOR

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, *the Spirit of Mighty Power*, the Spirit of Revelation, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1-2

*T*he spirit of a mighty warrior is upon you. You are bold and courageous because the Spirit of the Lord lives inside you. You are not a weak, faint-hearted Christian. You are called to stand in the Lord's strength and anointing. *Now*, the Spirit of power comes upon you so you can rise up with tenacious faith. Do not relent until you have all God promised. Believe his Word. It's given for your benefit.

God wants you to know who you are. You are dynamic and powerful. You wear his armor. When the enemy sees you coming, he thinks God is approaching because you're walking around in your Father's clothes. You are not just a bride who rests in his arms; you are the confident bride who stands by his side and knows who she is.

*Father, I feel a roar of faith rising inside me! Infuse me with courage and confidence. Let it never be said of me that I was too afraid to go after all you've promised. I am powerful, filled with your Spirit and made in your image. Let's run together so I will fulfill your call upon my life.*

## REVELATION

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, the Spirit of Mighty Power, *the Spirit of Revelation*, and the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh.

ISAIAH 11:1-2

God's revelation is poured out in the lives of those who hunger for greater insight. We are discontent with only hearing stories about what he's done. We want to understand his secrets for ourselves. We're leaning in close to hear his whisper and know his heart, tapping into the mysteries of his Kingdom because we believe it is his will.

The Holy Spirit, in all his gifts and graces, abides within us and never leaves. He is still speaking. Still revealing truth to those who long for it. When we cry out for revelation, he answers. Dreams, visions, angelic encounters, throne room visitations, and more are poured out, all to reveal himself in a deeper way. When the Spirit of Revelation comes upon us, we flow in the prophetic and release the desires of his heart to others.

*Father, I cry out for the Spirit of Revelation in my life. Draw me closer to you than anyone has ever been. Give me the grace and wisdom to know what to do with what you reveal. Keep me humble as you share your heart. I ask for dreams, visions, and encounters with your glory unlike any I've ever known before.*



# HOLY AWE

The cut-off stump of Jesse will sprout, and a fruitful Branch will grow from his roots: the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of Extraordinary Wisdom, the Spirit of Perfect Understanding, the Spirit of Wise Strategy, the Spirit of Mighty Power, the Spirit of Revelation, and *the Spirit of the Fear of Yahweh*.

ISAIAH 11:1-2

*O*f all the things we yearn for, one is more precious than any other. This truth anchors us and ushers in the tangible reality of Jesus. It's the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. The anointing of awe and wonder as we prostrate ourselves before the Living God.

The Hebrew concept of *yirah* can include reverent worship. This sense of awe, dread, and worship compels us to bow low in awestruck wonder. This type of fear doesn't cause us to be afraid of him; it actually draws us close. He inspires us to stare in amazement. He alone is stunning. Breathtaking. Jesus isn't tame and predictable but glorious. The Beautiful One merits endless praise from the angels. He stirs worship that rises high and seeps in deep. Awe and wonder revive our hearts and awaken those around us.

*Jesus, I am undone. My heart is bowed before you in reverent wonder. You are glorious. Breathtakingly beautiful. I'm so grateful to be your child. Undone by your tangible love that greets me each day. I want to walk in your palpable glory, carry it everywhere I go. Help me to live in this place of awe forever.*



## FINDING TRUE DELIGHT

*He will find his delight in living by the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.*

He will neither judge by appearances nor make his decisions  
based on rumors.

ISAIAH 11:3

*W*hen we embrace every aspect of the Lord and live in the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord, our souls find perfect delight. There is nothing more fulfilling than our relationship with him. Nothing brings greater peace than knowing we are walking in perfect unity with him. We stand confident and true, our feet firmly planted in righteousness, when we live in absolute loyalty to Jesus.

Many delight in temporary pleasures, but true delight—the kind that settles our souls and fills us with joy—can only be found in the heart of one who has fully surrendered to him. We can search our entire lives for something to satisfy this longing in our souls, but until we choose to center ourselves in holiness and give ourselves entirely to him, we will never know true delight.

*Father, I surrender all that I am, every thought, action, and motive to your holiness. Fill me with the desire to please you always so I never stray. Captivate me with your glory. Let me encounter your presence every moment of every day. You are the center of my life, and I live to please you more than any other.*

FEBRUARY 8

# HE SEES YOU

He will find his delight in living by the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.  
*He will neither judge by appearances nor make his decisions  
based on rumors.*

ISAIAH 11:3

*I*t is such a great comfort knowing the Lord understands our hearts. He doesn't base his opinions concerning us on what others say behind our backs. He takes the time to know us, to peer into our hearts and understand our deepest intentions. He is gracious and kind, merciful and loving. When our behavior can potentially cause our hearts to grow cold and indifferent, he will correct us.

If we are to embrace his grace and forgiveness, we must also allow ourselves to be empowered by his loving conviction. He never places a cloak of shame upon our shoulders, but he places a crown of royalty upon our heads and reminds us who we are. True conviction is freeing. It draws us closer to him where he provides the grace to overcome. As we grow in our relationship with him, let's embrace not only mercy and grace but also the all-encompassing Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.

*Father, I open myself to you completely as you gaze knowingly into the deepest part of my soul. No area of my life is closed to you. Thank you for seeing me and knowing me. For believing in me. For taking time for me. For mercy and for grace. May nothing in my life ever distance me from you.*

## OUR DEFENDER

*With righteousness he will uphold justice for the poor and defend the lowly of the earth. His words will be like a scepter of power that conquers the world, and with his breathe he will slay the lawless one.*

ISAIAH 11:4

Jesus is our Faithful Defender. The One who rushes to our side when it feels like all hell is coming against us. In times when we feel as if we've been taken advantage of or neglected, he comes as our righteous judge to defend and uphold. He is our strength when ours has dissipated.

Everything about Jesus is pure, righteous, and untainted. He judges the world with matchless wisdom. Sees things others have missed. Knows the truth the deceitful try to hide. If you have been misused, exploited, or misunderstood, I have good news. Your Righteous Judge is also your Comforter and Friend. He will not only expose darkness, his healing balm will mend your heart. Whatever injustice you're facing today, know that you do not face it alone. The confidence of the humble is the strength of the One inside.

*Jesus, reach down and lift me up so no evil can touch me. You are the God of Justice. The One who rules in righteousness and sweeps away oppression. As for me, I will walk before you in innocence because I know there is great reward in loving you. You will keep me safe from my enemies.*

# OUR RIGHTEOUS KING

Righteousness will be his warrior's sash and faithfulness his belt.

ISAIAH 11:5

*M*ore than any other, you can trust the Lord. His very being resonates with faithfulness and righteousness. He cannot be tempted to break his promises to you because he not only walks in righteousness—he *is* righteousness. He is trustworthy. He is true. He is pure and holy, clothed in fairness and truth. He stands tall, undefeated, ties his warrior's sash around his waist and fights on your behalf.

Yield every care, each question, disappointment, and fear to the One who knows how to take care of you. Let's honor the Lord by tipping the scales with faith instead of doubt and unbelief. Let's focus on who he is and stop being so impressed with the enemy. Our God is a righteous King who deserves our trust. Today, let's bring him an offering of trust.

*Lord, I come before you today and submit every thought. I want to live my life from a posture of true faith—one that believes you are exactly who you say you are. Instead of being overwhelmed by the enemy's tactics, I am going to live in perpetual astonishment of who you are. I want to honor you with my faith because you are faithful.*



# TAMING OUR WILD NATURE

The wolf will be subdued and live with the gentle lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the gentle lamb. The young calf and the ferocious lion will be together, and as a shepherd drives his flock, a small child will guide them along!

ISAIAH 11:6

There is something unique about the life of a believer. Something dynamic and mystifying yet often misunderstood. It is the way we find freedom, by committing our lives to the Lord. It seems like an oxymoron—this lifestyle of surrender that actually bestows true indulgence upon us because it leads to the joy and peace only he can give.

Yielding to the Lord, surrendering all that we are, have been, and hope to be, actually extricates us from the snags that grip our souls. Frees us from what has held us back from a truly satisfying life. When we live from a posture of humility, we give the Lamb the power to subdue all things in us. His nature, the very Life of Christ within us, rises to the surface. Every dark thing or wild nature in us will lie down in submission under his dominion. Our submission is our ultimate source of freedom.

*Father, I invite your searching gaze into my soul. Highlight the areas that haven't yet bowed in submission to you. Free me from bad attitudes, judgmental thinking, temptation, and pride. Help me walk humbly with you so every dark area in me will lie down in complete surrender to you.*

## RELEASE THE LIGHT WITHIN

The nursing child will play safely near the rattlesnake's den, and the toddler will stretch out his hand and shine light over the serpent.

ISAIAH 11:8

*You* are a child of God, filled with light. *The Light*. The nature of Christ, the very glory of the Father, dwells within you so it can be released through you. You are a vessel of radiant hope, created to encourage the world around you.

You may not *feel* qualified if your attention is on yourself and your shortcomings. You may not hold a theological degree or even have a desire for pulpit ministry. But that's okay because the true call of ministry is to release light, hope, and freedom everywhere you go. You are the light of the world because the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you. Even a child filled with Kingdom power has authority to heal the sick and dispel darkness. So let's become like little children and, with innocent boldness, believe the truth and act on it. Let's give darkness no place to hide.

*Father, shine your light through me. Increase my faith and give me grace to boldly release your love. When I find myself surrounded with darkness, I will grasp your hand and trust you with childlike abandon. You long to infiltrate the darkness with your holy light, and I will not hold back but will go forth in unfeigned wonder and trust.*

# YOU ARE FILLED IN ORDER TO POUR OUT

On all my holy mountain of Zion, nothing evil or harmful will be found. For the earth will be filled with the intimate knowledge of the Lord Yahweh just as water swells the sea!

ISAIAH 11:9

Zion can be known as more than a location. It is a realm where God is enthroned. Zion is a synonym for the people of God and the dwelling place of his Spirit. We are Zion. We are a vital part of his plan. A plan to fill the earth with the glory that abides within us. We are meant to release hope to the people we meet each day. As we walk in sacred intimacy with the Lord, we are able to release the reality of his Kingdom everywhere we go.

We are carriers of his glory. Called to discover his heart and plan for the world around us in order to help bring it to pass. Yes, this all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God is able to sovereignly flood our streets and nations with his glory, and in time, he will do just that. But right now, he has given us the honor of releasing him into every situation.

*Father, thank you for the joy of knowing you, for the honor of leaning in to hear your secrets. I long to know your heart and discover your will for those I meet. Thank you for choosing me to carry your glory, but most of all, thank you for the intimacy we share.*



FEBRUARY 14

## THE ONE WITHIN

On that day, the root of Jesse will be lifted up as a miracle-sign to rally the people. Gentiles will diligently seek him, and his resting place will be glorious!

ISAIAH 11:10

Jesus is the One who was lifted up on the cross in order to bring us salvation. This act of love and unrelenting devotion has brought us to his side. More than that, it has cleansed and purified us so that we, the Bride of Christ, could become his resting place.

Do you realize how loved and wanted you are? Do you understand how valued and cherished he says you are? The Creator of all that is seen and unseen could have chosen anywhere to dwell, but he chose you. Think about this for a moment. Imagine all of his greatness, power, and majesty alive inside of you. Look in the mirror and know that within you lies the beauty of the Eternal One. You, beautiful one, are the home he's always longed for.

*Jesus, I honor the reality of your life inside of me. I want to spend my days fully persuaded of your love. I am in awe that you would desire me as your own. Overwhelm me with your tangible magnificence as I contemplate your beauty. You fascinate me, and for the rest of my life, I will esteem and celebrate your Spirit within.*

# THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION

On that day, the Lord will extend his hand a second time to restore the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the coastlands of the sea.

ISAIAH 11:11

*T*he Word of God is a love story. It is real. It opens us up to know him. It is a gift. All throughout his Word, we read of his relentless love. Our eyes are opened to the revelation that he not only sacrificed his life for us, but that this God of restoration also never gives up.

Over and over again, he extends his hand. He reaches for those who are lost. He doesn't turn away from those who have turned away from him. In his mercy and loving-kindness, he seeks the very people who have stopped seeking him or have never sought him to begin with. We may fail him miserably, and others may have walked away, but he continues to whisper words that enflame our being and draw us back to him. Never underestimate his fierce desire to restore us and the ones we love. He is the God of restoration.

*Father, thank you. Thank you for never giving up on me or on those who have yet to embrace you fully. I set myself in agreement with your mercy and ask you to awaken the hearts of those who have grown cold. Let your promise of restoration chase down the lost with irresistible love.*

# PRAISE YOUR WAY TO VICTORY

In that day you will sing, "I praise you, Lord Yahweh,  
for even though you were angry with me, your anger turned away,  
and now you tenderly comfort me."

ISAIAH 12:1

Let the phrase "In that day" resound loud and clear in your spirit. There is no better time to sing your praise than in *that day*. In the day when all hell seems to be coming against you. On the day when, not only has the rug been pulled out from under you, but the whole world also feels as though it's tilted off its axis. Or, in the day when we come face to face with our failures and shortcomings, instead of the Lord punishing us, he draws us near.

We all have days like *that*. These are the days when, instead of hiding or focusing our attention on the negative, we praise our way into victory. It's easy to praise the Lord when we feel his tender comfort, and we should praise him then. Praise is also a powerful tool to silence the enemy's voice.

*Father, I praise you as my Lord, my Savior, my gentle Counselor, and my righteous King. Help me to remember that when I have days that seem to suck me dry, you are still worthy of my praise. I will sing my way into your presence, and there I will find the victory!*



## THERE IS NO OTHER

“Behold—God is my salvation! I am confident, unafraid, and I will trust in you. Yes! The Lord Yahweh is my might and my melody; he has become my salvation!”

ISAIAH 12:2

Salvation comes from no other place than our Lord. Not only has he saved us from hell but also from the pressures of hell in this life. There is no other as mighty. No other who makes a way when there seems to be none. No counselor as aware of our hearts. No teacher as wise. No friend as faithful. No person in the world who turns the ashes of defeat into a beautiful breakthrough. No other who miraculously shifts mourning into joy.

Let's praise him and put ourselves in remembrance of his goodness. Let's stand in extravagant faith—faith that believes he is exactly who he says he is. Let's praise him for answers to prayers we have yet to see with natural eyes. Let's sing in advance of breakthrough. Let's celebrate our Savior who continues to save and deliver, each and every day!

*Lord, I delight myself in you. I release every care into your safe hands. You will bring me the breakthrough and wisdom I need. I align my thoughts to yours instead of allowing them to be consumed with angst. You are perfect in every way. Trustworthy. My faithful Savior, to whom I yield every fear and question without reservation.*

## DRINK DEEPLY

With triumphant joy you will drink deeply  
from the wells of salvation.

ISAIAH 12:3

*O*ur salvation isn't meant to secure a spot in heaven and then leave us to fend for ourselves until the day we get there. The awareness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is meant to bring unspeakable joy now. Joy that displaces sorrow. Joy that triumphs over tragedy and pain. Joy that confounds the mind but feels absolutely reasonable to our spirits.

Today, lean back and allow the rivers of his love to stream through every dry and dusty place. Like the parched ground that doesn't readily absorb the refreshing rain, an anxious soul may need more time to soak in his love for it to penetrate. As you submit your thoughts to his overwhelming love, you will open up and be revived. Drink deeply of the love you were created for and choose to laugh in the face of opposition. You were made to experience the joy he paid for.

*Jesus, I believe you have created me to experience joy so profound that I can't explain it. Regardless of the circumstances around me, I decide today to agree with joy. To embrace laughter instead of heaviness. To walk in the copious joy I was created for as I become aware of your nearness.*

# AWAKENING TO HIS GOODNESS

In that glorious day, you will say to one another, "Give thanks to the Lord and ask him for more! Tell the world about all that he does! Let them know how magnificent he is!"

ISAIAH 12:4

Your breakthrough isn't meant for you alone. It is meant to be shared. Designed to become an undeniable certainty inside of you that cannot be feigned. As you awaken to his irrefutable goodness, you begin to understand that your victory is first for you and then for those around you.

No matter how dark the darkness feels, the Light is always shining, ever ready to illuminate our situations with truth and success. Jesus is eternally glorious, and as we remember all that he's done, it creates substance for us to walk upon. It initiates a type of domino effect, where truth sparks more truth. Instead of becoming fixated on the negative, we encourage others with a testimony that cannot be refuted. Never underestimate the power of your story. With zeal and compassion, share his magnificence with the world!

*Jesus, thank you for all you've done in my life. I ask for your grace to keep my mind set on the many ways you've shown yourself faithful. When you bring people across my path who need to hear the testimonies I have to share, I will be ready in an instant. You are supremely magnificent! The way you answer my prayers never ceases to amaze me.*

FEBRUARY 20

## A NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done marvelous wonders,  
and let his fame be known throughout the earth!

ISAIAH 12:5

It's time to stir ourselves up and praise the Lord for the marvelous wonders he's done. Each day we have a choice—we can allow ourselves to be consumed with negativity and issues in the world and in our lives that seek to suck us into despair, or we can choose to remember his kindness.

The choice to be a positive person will change your life. It's probably safe to say you would rather be around someone who is encouraging and steadfast than someone who is always complaining and depressed. You were created to be one of those hope-filled people. The one who has a healthy outlook on life and inspires others.

One of the ways we can become positive people is by turning our hearts to the Lord throughout the day and finding things to be thankful for. To allow praise to arise continually, even when circumstances contradict truth.

*Lord, teach me the power of praise. I decide today to adopt an attitude of thankfulness. To remind myself continually of the many ways you've blessed my life. To meditate on the many truths I find in your Word, and to praise you in faith for each one.*



# HE IS WITH YOU RIGHT NOW

Give out a shout of cheer; sing for joy, O people of Zion, for great and mighty is the Holy One of Israel who lives among you!

ISAIAH 12:6

Stop for a moment and think about the Lord. Think about him standing beside you right now. Imagine him holding your hand in that stressful situation. See him laughing with you at the silliest things. Believe he's with you every day, in every moment. Know that he doesn't only love you, he enjoys you.

Would we live differently if we recognized the reality of his presence in each moment? We know he sees it all—the things we do, the conversations we have, the temptations and trials, even the secret musings of our hearts. But have we actually embraced this truth so we're interacting with it daily? Are we communicating continually with him? Looking for him in the homeless person on the side of the road? Asking him for wisdom when we normally fall back on our own? Let's pay attention and notice his presence as he lives among us.

*Father, I sense you now—standing beside me as I read this devotion. As I go about my day, nudge me with gentle reminders of your nearness. You don't have to say a word, but let me feel your warmth in every moment. I want to live in the awareness of your presence every day.*

FEBRUARY 22

## THE SEASON OF WAITING

The Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, makes this solemn decree: "Be sure of this: Just as I have planned, so it will be. Every purpose of my heart will surely come to pass."

ISAIAH 14:24

*We've* all been tempted to doubt God's promises. Waiting can make us weary. If we're not careful, disillusionment will take hold, eventually turning into despair or anger. The Lord, so acquainted with our frailty, knows this. In his kindness, he tells us over and over again: Believe.

The best way to guard our hearts from discouragement is to keep ourselves in remembrance of this. When he firsts reveals his promise, the goal is to stir us. To let us in on his plans so we'll agree with them and pray for their manifestation. In many cases, there are years of preparation between the promise and its fulfillment. Let's not become disheartened when facing delay. We are growing. Getting to know him. Being strengthened for the day the promise comes to pass. Let this be your reminder today: His plans will come to pass in your life!

*Father, you are faithful. Today, I take this message to heart. I remind myself that nothing is impossible with you. That every purpose of your heart will surely come to pass in my life. Complete your work of preparation in me. Bless me with wisdom to know how to partner with your promises.*

## HE IS OUR CENTER

What will be the answer of the messengers of the nations? That the Lord has laid the foundation of Zion, and in her his needy ones will find shelter.

ISAIAH 14:32

God has the answer to every one of our questions. He hides them in his heart, waiting for us to come close enough to discover them. As we rest and lean upon his chest, truth resonates within us, stirring us to trust. It is in this place of accepting his truth as fact that we are pulled into sync with his Spirit.

This is the place where we find shelter—in the safety of his presence. Though storms rage, we are secured by the anchor of his unfailing care. Jesus is our foundation, and when we strive to stand on anything else, we will eventually find ourselves slipping. The Lord must be our source—the One we depend on most of all. Our wisdom, our job, our friends, our pastors or counselors—nothing and no one will ever take his place. He is our center. The core and place of absolute protection.

*Father, I come before you today, laying every question at your feet. I choose to fix my eyes on you, not striving to find an answer that can only be found in your presence. Thank you for reminding me that in the safety of your presence, I find my footing.*

# PRAYING FOR OUR GOVERNMENT

A government of unfailing love will be established,  
with a faithful king in the tabernacle of David,  
passionate for justice and swift to do what is right.

ISAIAH 16:5

There is no law against love. No taxes paid on gifts of mercy and compassion. No way to stop those who emulate their righteous King. When we take our cue from Jesus, we don't get bogged down by the negativity streaming across our newsfeed. We don't view the problems in our society or government with a defeatist attitude because we know he will come and set things in order.

While it is nearly impossible to ignore the injustices and evil that spew from unrighteous leaders and governments, we don't let it consume us with hopelessness. We are people of faith. Chosen to partner with God as we pray for the answers that drip from our lips like sweet honey. With wisdom and compassion, we not only pray for righteousness to flood our land, but we also become living examples of our faithful King.

*Father, bless our government. Give our leaders godly insight to judge rightly and mirror your integrity. Fill them with divine wisdom so they will walk honorably and give justice to all. Let the earth overflow with your glory, your children douse their communities with love, and every mountain of influence blossom with exemplary fruit.*



## THE MINDSET OF MERCY

Like harp strings, my heartstrings throb for Moab,  
and my inner being sighs for your broken walls, Kir-Hareseth.

ISAIAH 16:11

God's heart was moved with compassion, even for pride-filled Moab. How much more does his heart swell with mercy and benevolence for his children who are walking in error? We tend to be much harsher judges, on a daily basis, than the Lord of all eternity.

In order to pray righteously, we must be moved by the things that move him. We must cry out to taste his love for those who appear to be making huge mistakes. It isn't until we relate to the above verse, by truly grieving over the sins of others, that we can also be trusted with God's unconditional love for them. It is this posture of absolute mercy that softens the hardest hearts. It is this mindset of humility that empowers us to pray truly effective prayers.

*Father, soften my heart. Give me eyes to see the pain, fear, and insecurities hidden in the souls of those who walk in error. I bow myself before you, knowing it is by your mercy alone that I stand. Help me to love others the way you love them. Give me the grace to pray for them with wisdom and compassion.*

## FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOSITY

In that day, people will gaze toward their Creator . . . They will not be infatuated with the religious altars their own hands crafted nor by what their own fingers have made, nor with their sacred groves or altars of incense.

ISAIAH 17:7-8

*T*his is the day to turn from religious piety to holy union. We can do our best to behave in a manner that is acceptable to religious leaders, or we can live each moment honoring the Lord. The two are seldom parallel.

Religion often focuses on the outward appearance: the way someone dresses, the way they wear their hair, the music they listen to, whether they are in church every Sunday, and the like. Many have been taught that loyalty to a dress code reveals the purity of the heart, as if the impurities of the heart cannot be covered by flesh alone. The truth is, not only can we fool others, we can also fool ourselves. The Lord alone must hold the affections of our hearts, so we *do* or *don't do* because of love, not duty.

*Father, I feel so much freedom in my relationship with you. Freedom to be who I am without concerning myself with rules or a false sense of obligation. Come, examine my heart and motives. Cleanse me of a need for man's approval. Remove any mask of pretense. I simply desire to live out of my identity in you.*

## OUR VINDICATOR

The nations are roaring like the roar of a massive waterfall, but when God rebukes them they disperse like chaff on the mountains, like a tumbleweed whirling in the wind . . . Such is the fate of those who plunder and try to rob us.

ISAIAH 17:13-14

*W*hat do you hear when you turn on the news? The roaring opposition against purity, integrity, and Christianity can be just as overwhelming as the demonic attacks against defenseless children, family values, and morality. Even if you choose not to watch the news, the state of our society and the injustices around the world cannot be ignored.

What do you hear when you tune into heaven? You hear God's heart for the innocent. You sense his righteous anger against the sin-laden atrocities around the world. You are reminded of his love and his promise to vindicate his own. God will end transgressions, but he's calling us to pray. To release his heart of mercy and justice into every situation. To pray for all who suffer at the enemy's hand, even those who are tools in his hands.

*Father, I invite your glory to invade every wicked and godless situation. Expose the darkness lurking in the shadows. Tear down the kingdoms that oppose righteous government. Release the victims of human trafficking. Infiltrate the media with those who speak truth. Let there be a turning of the tide, making morality, respect, and a value for honesty the norm. In wrath, remember mercy.*

# THE POSTURE OF REST

Here is what the Lord Yahweh said to me: "I will rest calm and confident as I look from my dwelling place, serene as on a pleasant summer day or a cool, refreshing cloud in the heat of harvest."

ISAIAH 18:4

Can't you just hear the Lord whispering to you through this verse? The message of "I've got this" comes across with absolute clarity. God isn't surprised by what he sees, and he wants us to have the same confident attitude he has. He wants us to trust him even when we don't understand how we'll make it through.

Though he calls us to mirror his serenity, he knows that sometimes it's a process for us to get there. As we lean into his Father heart, he soothes our anxiety. He is our safe place to cry, vent, and even scream. But we mustn't stay in a puddle of self-pity. We must shake off discouragement and agree with him. Remind ourselves of his promises and put them on our lips. To laugh at the enemy's plans the same way the Lord does. To choose faith by finding the posture of rest.

*Father, thank you for reminding me that freaking out will not lead me to an answer. For admonishing me to find my peace, because until I do, I won't see or hear your instructions clearly. Give me grace so I can fully let go and trust you. I completely release my concerns to you and receive your peace.*





*March*

MARCH 1

# LIVING IN AWE OF OUR DELIVERER

They will cry out to him when they are oppressed,  
he will send a mighty deliverer and champion to their rescue!

ISAIAH 19:20

*L*et's be honest, our thoughts don't always line up with the truth we know in our spirits. Too often we pay more attention to the attacker than we do our Deliverer. If we have a habit of letting every trial pull the rug out from under us, it's time we acknowledge it and bring it before the Lord. We were created to live in the awe of God, not in astonishment of the enemy.

Right now, despite the harshest opposition, there is only one Rescuer who saves spirit, soul, and body. How comforting it is to know that the Lord's love doesn't dissipate, nor does his patience with us fade. He never ignores the cries of those who call upon him, but he does ask that we cry out in faith. Let's become awestruck by who he is and what he is capable of. Let's give him more attention than our temporary circumstances.

*Father, forgive me for giving the enemy and his attacks more attention than he deserves. I lift my gaze to you today. I don't have to live in defeat because you are the Champion who has already won my victory. I shake off heaviness and praise you instead. You are coming to my rescue!*

# A HEART FOR THE LOST

The Lord Yahweh will wound the Egyptians, but when they turn back to him, he will heal them. Yes, the Lord Yahweh will listen to their hearts' cry, and he will heal and restore them.

ISAIAH 19:22

*He* is the God of promises, the One whose mercy is beyond understanding. When we see people who have turned away from him, we mustn't shake our heads and disregard them as some "poor lost soul." We are called to intercede. Prayers of faith must bridge the gap. Hearts of compassion must prevail over soulish walls of judgment.

Never forget that seeing people's sin or knowing their faults isn't an invitation to write them off. After all, it is God's mercy that keeps *us*. As those who know his mercy first hand, we mustn't forget and become prideful. No one is too far gone. God is just as powerful and merciful as he's always been. Leave pride at the door when praying for those who appear to be too far gone. We all need mercy, after all.

*Father, I want your heart of compassion. To see people through your eyes. I want to pray with untainted love and extraordinary power for those living in sin. Reveal yourself to the lost. Draw them to you and remove the veils from their eyes. May they come to know you and surrender their all to you.*



## TRUST HIS TIMING

I will place upon his shoulders the key to the treasures of David's palace. He will open doors that no one can shut, and he will shut doors that no one can open.

ISAIAH 22:22

*G*ive the Lord your burdens. Allow him to free you from the cares that have wrapped their tentacles around your mind and made you think he has forgotten you. You're striving, constantly running your mind with scenarios and questions, when he's asking you to remember one thing: *him*. To set your mind on heaven's reality and not the earthly way things are done.

He's so much more creative than anything you can imagine. You may have ideas about how to turn things around, and maybe the Lord sparked those ideas. But only he can breathe life into your dreams. When he decides it is time to unlock the doors that have prevented you from moving forth, nothing and no one will hinder him. Trust his timing. Trust the One who holds the keys to your breakthrough.

*Father, help me to be content as you prepare me for our next great adventure. I want to be ready when you open the door to my breakthrough. Mature me. Bless me with your wisdom. Encounter me with the divine. Give me downloads that will be like keys unlocking the blessing I need.*



# IT'S TIME TO SING

The remnant lifts up its voice with a joyful shout . . .  
From all over the world we hear their songs of praise—  
songs of glory and beauty to the Righteous One!

ISAIAH 24:14, 16

*I*n the middle of your mess, Jesus is with you. In the blissful center of your joy, you will find him as the source. It's time to remember. It's time to be one of the few who dare to believe with radical faith. It's time to stop allowing negativity to rule your mind and heart. Listen as he whispers to your heart, "It's time to sing!"

Jesus is calling you forth into a life of joy. To leave behind what no longer is so you can see what is yet to be. He's already cleared a space for your victory dance. Spread your wings; it's time to break out of that cage of fear so you can soar in freedom. This is your season! This is your opportunity to watch the giants fall. Stand tall and confident, praising the One whose glory outshines all others. He is with you. He is for you. He is the Beautiful One.

*Father, you are worthy of every breath. Of every shout of joy-filled expectation. You alone deserve my trust. I reach out and take your hand as you lead me in this dance of joy. I will fly into freedom with you and sing your praise forever!*

## CHASING AWAY OPPRESSION

Lord Yahweh, you are my glorious God! I will exalt you and praise your name forever, for you have done so many wonderful things.

Well-thought-out plans you formed in ages past; you've been faithful and true to fulfill them all!

ISAIAH 25:1

Thankfulness is a precursor to joy and a catalyst for miracles. Every day is a fresh opportunity to remind yourself of God's goodness. Focus on his faithfulness. Aim to be more optimistic, and chances are you'll have less anxiety, more peace, and more joy. Light always illuminates the darkness. This is true even in the way you think. Truth, faith, and hope will chase away oppression and pessimism.

Find things to be thankful for. Create a list and see how many you can add to it each day. Let your thoughts be filled with his love for you as you rehearse the ways he's come through in the past. Reminisce with the Lord, allowing your heart to overflow with gratitude. A thankful attitude is like a springboard, launching you into a more joy-filled life. It's a perfect way to start each day!

*Father, knitted throughout my past, amidst seasons of hardship, a beautiful tapestry of your faithfulness is evident. Help me to remember and to be more thankful on a daily basis. Highlight the treasures of gold I've forgotten about. Fill my life with the joy that comes with a thankful heart.*

MARCH 6

## LEAN BACK AND REST

You have been a fortress-protector for the poor,  
a mighty stronghold for the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the sudden storm.

ISAIAH 25:4

*T*uck yourself into his loving arms today. Lean back and rest. Allow his breath to fill your lungs as you exhale your cries of love. He is here. He is with you now. He is strong enough to handle this.

The One who gathered the oceans in place and taught the stars to dance on the edge of his fingertips knows how to keep you during the storms. He is enamored with you. Even when you feel alone and confused, he is by your side, wooing you back into peace, into trust. Though the sky above grows dark, he is the brilliant wonder of hope, igniting your heart to believe again. Lay your weariness before him and let his love strengthen you today.

*Father, some days I feel strong and confident. I sing my praise and see the sun rising on the horizon. Other times, I falter and can do nothing more than rest in your arms. I rest, having nothing to say except "I love you." You are my safe place. The only One who can heal and restore. Come and breathe hope into me today.*

MARCH 7

# HEALING TRAUMA

You subdued the heat under the shade of clouds.  
You alone silence the song of tyrants.

ISAIAH 25:5

**U**nafrail. Uninhibited. Protected, as you rest beneath the expanse of his wings. The Lord is your safe place. He is the refreshing breeze blowing in from beyond the fires that rage against your soul. He is your song of joy, drowning out the shrill lies of fear the enemy plagues you with.

During those days, when it feels the enemy has flip-flopped what had finally begun to feel normal, don't take the frustration and questions to heart. Don't succumb to the temptation to sink into the dark, dank pit of disillusionment. The initial blow may have knocked you off balance, and it may feel like it has knocked you off course. But you must get back up. You must remember him. You must let go of the pain, the shock, the trauma of it all and pour it out to him as your truest, most vulnerable worship.

*Father, I prostrate myself before your throne. There are a million things running through my mind. A million more questions. But I choose to lay them all at your feet. Come and make a way. Heal the trauma of my soul. Breathe life into me again. I choose to agree with victory. I choose to believe you are good.*



# THE ABUNDANT LIFE

The Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, will host a rich feast on this mountain for all peoples—a feast with plenty of meat and well-aged wine, with an abundance of food and the finest of wine.

ISAIAH 25:6

Throughout the Bible, the Lord reveals his will: He came so that we would have and enjoy an abundant life. Life that starts *with* him. Life that starts *in* him. Life that releases joy unspeakable, consuming us with glory. A joy that often carries the sounds of laughter and praise. A joy much deeper and considerably more profound than our ability to laugh. His presence becomes our feast. Our relationship with God fuels our passion.

The abundance of our life in his Kingdom is so much more than the clothes we wear or the delicacies we enjoy. Though he loves to lavish us, we don't weigh our deepest delight on a scale that measures outward pleasures. This Christ life, this intimate, ongoing communion with heaven's King, has filled us with satisfaction and delight that can only be obtained by an inward feast.

*Father, your presence has become my delight. I love that you care about the big and small details of my life. I'm so blessed to know that the concerns of life are safe in your hands. Draw me closer. Satisfy the longing of my soul—to find absolute satisfaction and joy in you, first and foremost.*

## PAIN IS SWALLOWED IN HIS VICTORY

God, Lord Yahweh, will wipe away every tear from every face. He will remove every trace of disgrace that his people have suffered throughout the world, for the Lord Yahweh has promised it!

ISAIAH 25:8

There are seasons of joy and seasons of sorrow. Sometimes sorrow lasts longer than expected. Occasionally, lying just under the surface of our good seasons, is unhealed trauma. These are the areas where the Lord wants to come close. The places he desires to pour out his healing balm. With him, the heavy, unresolved spaces of pain become your greatest victories. Golden, priceless treasures for you to share.

Take a moment and imagine him coming into your room. He stands in front of you with a smile that lights up the room. He lifts your chin so your eyes meet—eyes abounding with love. With a tender touch, he wipes away the tears, understanding each one. He not only pulls up the root of pain, he plants peace and healing in its place. Memories of suffering and disappointment are swallowed up in the truth of his love. Forevermore, you will know his unchanging love.

*Father, thank you for being my Savior, Healer, and Friend. For coming to heal years of pain in an instant. I surrender my traumatic memories to you and ask you to drain them of pain. Fill me with peace that makes no natural sense. You are the breath of hope in me.*

MARCH 10

## THE DISCOMFORT OF WAITING

In that day they will say, "Behold! This is our God!  
We've waited for him, and he saved us!  
This one, the Lord Yahweh—he is worth the wait! We will keep  
shouting with joy as we find our bliss in his salvation-kiss!"

ISAIAH 25:9

Let's be honest. Waiting isn't fun. It's also inescapable. However, these moments that often spill into years have a purpose. Waiting reveals a lot about us. It unveils truth about our faith that we can't face without it. It causes us to hold on tighter, to embrace humility, and to recognize our great need for his grace.

We only see in part. Too often, that part arrests our attention more than the faithfulness of God. The strain of the process exercises our faith, and we feel it. But, in truth, this is good. If you find yourself in the discomfort of waiting, yield to it. Don't fight it. Don't try to figure it out. Sing through it. Find him in it. Let it make you stronger. Let it teach you whatever lessons he wants you to learn.

*Father, I recognize that this moment of waiting is my opportunity to love and trust you in a way I may never have again. It's not always easy to keep myself from getting stuck in my head, but I am determined to wait with dignity, to honor you with my trust. I will remember your faithfulness. You will come.*

MARCH 11

# HIS PEACE FLOWS THROUGH OUR THOUGHTS

"Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently trust in you."

ISAIAH 26:3

Our imaginations frame our reality. We spend more time in our thoughts than anywhere else. The images, ideas, fears, and musings that make up our day play a huge role in our level of peace. The Lord gave us imaginations for a reason. He loves to give us mental pictures to stir our hearts. However, because our minds are so powerful, they can either draw us into peace or create angst and fear.

Pay attention to what you're thinking about. If you're often pulled into painful memories or fearful images of the future, catch those sneaky little things and immediately give them to the Lord. Then ask him for his take on whatever you're thinking about. Each thought and subconscious picture beneath the surface is important. The enemy loves to sow anxiety, but intentionally turning your thoughts to the Lord creates an impenetrable shield of peace and joy.

*Father, thank you for reminding me that my thoughts are vital to my mental health. I will intentionally turn each one to you throughout the day. In the quiet of my mind, I will use my imagination as a way of ushering me into the beautiful realities of peace that you have for me.*



# THE FAITHFUL ONE

“Yes, trust in the Lord Yahweh forever and ever!  
For Yah, the Lord God, is your Rock of Ages!”

ISAIAH 26:4

There is no one as faithful. No other on the face of the earth whose heart is always for us. He is our strength and our protector. He doesn't come and go—he is with us at all times. Eternally good. He is for us and we belong to him. Lies may try to root themselves into our hearts, but these are truths we focus on.

Every day of our lives, we have opportunities to advance in our love walk with him. As we surrender to the One who holds it all together, veils of uncertainty effortlessly slip away. We see his faithfulness in ways we never could before. There is something mystifyingly powerful about learning to stand on the Rock of Ages. Trials will come, but he truly is the Trustworthy One who will get us through.

*Lord, you have revealed yourself to me, not only as a faithful and powerful King, but also as a kind and loving Father. When everything feels haywire and I don't even know how to pray, I find solace in your presence. May every opposition reveal your love and faithfulness in new ways. Yours are the strong arms I run to every day.*

MARCH 13

## WHEN YOU'VE GOT IT ALL TOGETHER

"He knocks down the high and mighty,  
and the lofty city he humbles and levels down to the dust."

ISAIAH 26:5

Pride is one of the most tragic and potentially disastrous states to be in. Subtle, hidden beneath the surface, pride wraps itself in perfect little packages. Let's talk about the devious ways in which pride sneaks in.

When we desire to please the Lord, we don't intentionally embrace pride. The enemy's trap sounds something like this: "Do right, act right, and don't let people know that you have problems." What an exhausting way to live. The truth is, when we always appear to have it all together, we're setting ourselves up for a great fall. How will we get help when we need it if we're always pretending things are perfect? How will others feel comfortable enough to trust us if they think we never fail? It's time to embrace humility and vulnerability. Time to face the fear of what others think. To truly have no desire other than to please God.

*Father, forgive me for showing the world a one-sided view of my life. I repent for caring so much about what others think. You are the One I long to please. Teach me how to be real. How to embrace vulnerability and let people in. May my struggles become my victories and feasts by which I can feed others.*

## A CLEAR PATH BEFORE YOU

The path of the righteous is smooth and level;  
God, the Just One, you make a clear path for them.

ISAIAH 26:7

*W*hat an incredible promise. On days when it feels like life is tripping us with one problem after another, this scripture is a foundation we can stand on. God didn't promise we wouldn't be surrounded by problems, but he did promise to clear a path for us to walk right smack through the middle of them.

When we find ourselves in the center of trials, disappointments, and fears about the future, this is one of the scriptures we should pull into our hearts and declare with faith. When every area of our life is submitted to the Lord in righteousness, we have this promise—God himself will move the obstacles out of the way. All we need to do is believe it, agree with it in prayer, and stay so close to him that he can guide us with his eyes.

*Father, thank you for reminding me of this scripture. Examine my heart and reveal the areas of my life that keep me from walking in absolute sync with you. Clear the path before me according to your Word, and keep me close to you. Lead me and guide me in the right direction.*

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

We will follow your ways, Lord Yahweh, and entwine our hearts with yours, for the fame of your name is all that we desire.

ISAIAH 26:8

The Lord's plans can only be discovered by first searching for his heart. As we wait upon him in trust and joyful anticipation, we're opening ourselves up to fresh encounters that have the ability to radically alter our entire lives. Our connection with him and our times of entwining our hearts with his become the glue that binds us to his will.

It's easy to get caught up in prayer lists. To become so focused on what we're asking for that we forget to simply enjoy him while we wait. His blessings will come, but unless we stay close to him, we may forget the One who blesses. Let's aim to spend time each day allowing ourselves to enjoy his tangible presence and encounter his heart. Let's make our relationship and connection with him more of a priority than anything we ask for.

*Father, come and meet with me. Saturate my heart with your love. Consume me. Flood my being with exceeding glory so I forget about my needs. I know you love and take care of your own, so I will find your heart and not be distracted by my needs. You will take care of each one as I focus on you.*



# THE YEARNINGS OF OUR HEART

At night I yearn for you with all my heart;  
in the morning my spirit reaches out to you.

ISAIAH 26:9

*Day* and night, let your soul yearn for him. Call unto the Lord and ask him to make his presence evident to you—a rushing warm infilling that cannot be ignored. A tangible substance that overtakes you from the inside out and floods you with the undeniable awareness of his love.

Yearn. Reach. Never stop. This is the lifestyle of a worshipper—to reach for the Lord with movements of our soul that scarcely find words. Our longing for him is so much more intense than we can describe. And he is more than happy to answer the cries of a lovesick worshipper.

Tonight, release your cares to him and let his love fill your thoughts as you drift off to sleep. In the morning, purposefully turn your mind and heart to him before anything else.

*Father, may my every breath become a movement of worship. Become more real than anything else in my life. Your love fulfills me in ways nothing else can. I'm reaching for you, so come meet with me. Let my awareness of you blossom and become more fragrant with each passing day.*

## SUBMITTING OUR WORK

Lord Yahweh, you will establish peace and prosperity for us, for all we have accomplished is the result of what you work through us.

ISAIAH 26:12

When we dedicate our actions, work, and motives to serving and honoring the Lord, they become a desirable offering to him. Whether our endeavors are a huge success or didn't end up the way we had planned, when we've done them with him in mind, we can rest assured he's pleased.

The truth is, sometimes plans don't flow as expected. It can be disheartening, leaving us to wonder if we've wasted our time. But in him, everything we do has value, and he will reward our hard work. Others may pass us by and doors may shut in our faces, but the Lord knows how to prosper our ways and open doors only he can open. If you've faced a recent disappointment in your ventures, don't allow discouragement to defeat you. Take a season to refresh in his presence and find your peace. God will breathe new ideas into your heart and give you wisdom.

*Father, establish me in peace and prosperity according to your Word. Bless the work of my hands as I seek you for wisdom and guidance. May your favor surround me like a shield as I run with you to fulfill the desires of my heart, which you have given me.*

MARCH 18

## FIND HIM FIRST

Go, my people, into your inner chambers and close the doors behind you. Hide for a little while, until his indignation is over.

ISAIAH 26:20

When trials are wreaking havoc with our peace and we find ourselves battered by the stormy winds of chaos, the Lord tells us what to do: Be still and hide in his presence. While there are many things we *can* do, like fast and declare his promises, the first thing he tells us to do is to slip away to be with him. Before we run around seeking advice, we must close the door to distraction, shut off the rest of the world, and find the Lord's heart.

Seeking the Lord's presence must become our first instinct in times of crisis. Before crying out for wisdom, venting our frustration, or laying out our prayer list, we need him. We need to go somewhere private and find the stillness of his presence. We aren't told to strive for answers, only to strive to enter his rest. When our hearts are open wide, fully surrendered to him, he will set things in order.

*Father, everything I need is found in your presence. As I set time aside to quiet myself with you, pour out your perfect peace that is beyond natural understanding. I know the answers I need will come as I hide myself in you and seek your face.*

MARCH 19

# YOU ARE HIS VINEYARD OF DELIGHT

"I, the Lord, watch over my vineyard of delight. Moment by moment, I water it in love and protect it day and night."

ISAIAH 27:3

*You* are the Lord's vineyard of delight. The sacrifices you've made to follow him, the yes that streams from your heart, and the yearning to know him has captured his attention. Nothing has gone unnoticed. In triumph or weakness, you still move his heart.

He loves to watch over you, his fruitful vineyard. At this very moment, he's drawing you near. Beckoning you to come close and spend time with him. To notice the refreshing waters of his love being poured out upon your soul. Can you feel his delight rising within you as you turn your attention to him? The Lord's love and protection never ceases. He is with you—loving and protecting you every moment. Take some time to soak in that love today.

*Father, rain upon my heart. Saturate every inch of my dry ground with the pleasures of your love. Reveal anything that may choke the fruitfulness of your Word in my life so nothing but beauty streams forth. May the garden of my soul emit the fragrance of your life everywhere I go.*



MARCH 20

## CLING TO HIM

"Let the branches cling to my protection when they make true peace with me. Yes, let them make me their friend."

ISAIAH 27:5

*J*esus is the beautiful vine who stretches out to pervade each life with his magnificence. We are the branches, ever flowing with the endless supply of his glory and life. We are one with him, our true source of peace, found in no other person or place.

Sometimes, when things don't turn out the way we'd hoped, we become disillusioned. The enemy loves to throw questions at us that he knows we have no answer for. He wants us to live in the fury and uncomfortability of the unknowing. But God asks us to trust beyond what we understand. To make peace with hard questions the Lord has yet to answer and to trust in his goodness and timing. As we cling to him and release the need to understand, mystifying peace will be imparted as a gift.

*Jesus, you are my faithful Friend. Today, I make the decision to separate myself from the questions that have plagued me and simply cling to you. Help me to see things through your perspective and with your understanding. Infuse me. Flow through every cell of my body with your life-giving power and peace.*

## WRAPPED IN HIS BEAUTY

Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, will be a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty for the remnant of his people.

ISAIAH 28:5

Close your eyes for a moment. Envision the grace and exquisite splendor of the Lord streaming from his being. The brightness of his glory is almost more than we can handle. A dewy mist is tangible, enveloping us with the heavy thickness of love. Colors that have no comparison seem to dance in the air around him. This is our King. This is our Lord. This is the One who shared his glory with us.

Jesus has taken his splendor and placed us inside of it. The same beauty surging from him has been wrapped in this package of flesh. Entrusted to these vessels of skin, bone, and imperfection that he has deemed perfect. Peel back what is seen with the natural eyes and you will find glory. The most extraordinary, undeniable glory. Glory within. Glory pouring out. The unmistakable, absolute beauty of the Yahweh inside of us.

*Father, I'm undone. How your beauty and utter perfection could be entrusted to live inside of me makes no sense. Yet I embrace it and allow myself to sink into this truth. Give me grace to carry it well. To share it. To look for it each day. To acknowledge and honor it with every breath.*

# LIVING STONES

Here's what the Lord God says: "Behold, I set in place in Zion a Foundation Stone, fully tested and proven to be faithful and secure. And written upon this precious cornerstone is this:

'Those who trust in him will not act in haste.'"

ISAIAH 28:16

*T*his faithful One, this Rock we have steadied ourselves upon and secured ourselves to, is the foundation of eternity. The foundation of our very existence. Jesus is undeniably real to all who dare thrust their lives before his mercy. To those who have recognized him as their strong, unmovable Protector.

We cleave to him—this One we cannot see but feel, sense, and know in a place much deeper than words can express. He is the piece that holds everything together. The Son—our example of unyielding commitment. And now we, the sons and daughters of God, have become living stones, being assembled into a holy sanctuary for his glory. Every one of us is vital. Every one being set in place around the world.

*Father, you have proven yourself to be faithful, trustworthy, and secure. I unite myself to you with total devotion. Draw my strength from you. Stay fastened to you by faith. Your strength has become mine, and when I meditate on these truths, I too will never be shaken.*

# TUCK YOURSELF INTO GRACE

Here's what the Lord God says: "Behold, I set in place in Zion a Foundation Stone, fully tested and proven to be faithful and secure. *And written upon this precious cornerstone is this: 'Those who trust in him will not act in haste.'*"

ISAIAH 28:16

Our fullest life, this yearning, burning desire for fulfillment, joy, and peace, starts with the simple act of enjoying the Lord. It seems too simple, doesn't it? But it isn't. He is our cornerstone. He is our all. He is the One whose fingers move the hands of time. He is the One whose heart guides ours through that time.

We want to rush into the spectacular. To dive into a pool of blessing we believe will drown out every contrary thing. But we're told to wait. To trust. To rejoice in the truth that our Father knows best. In learning to wait—that is, by fully surrendering to these unexpected seasons of trust—we will find joy because we will find him.

When you want to run and *do*, God says to stay and *be*, to tuck yourself into his grace. Wrap your heart with his. Be still and know.

*Father, you are teaching me about trust. Give me the grace to completely and utterly surrender my need to know the how and when. To hand you my timetable and not worry about the future. I still myself in your presence and wait. My times and seasons are in your hands.*



## BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN

Does a farmer plow continually at planting time and never plant a crop? Does he continually break open the clods of the ground and never sow his seed?

ISAIAH 28:24

**D**on't resist. In these moments when we experience the cutting edge of God's Word plowing the soil of our hearts, we mustn't protect ourselves. These times, these trials, these painful woes that tear us to shreds because they break us open and leave us raw are necessary. It's here, in this place where we have nothing but God, we discover that he is enough.

Only he can take pain and give it a purpose. A beautiful, sacred home in which to plant his glory. Soon, the wounds will heal. They will shine with power, resilience, and the confidence only those who've found him in pain can truly understand.

Don't resist. Don't kick at this opportunity to open yourself up to the Master's hands. The enemy cannot win when pain becomes an invitation for God's love.

*Father, I yield to you without reservation. Break up the hardened clods of soil and till the ground of my heart. Prepare me. Plant your glory in me. Fill every crack and crevice with the beauty of your faithfulness. In this place of absolute surrender, I will discover that you are enough.*

MARCH 25

# WISDOM

His guidance is unfathomable,  
and the heavenly wisdom he imparts is magnificent.

ISAIAH 28:29

*D*on't you love those *aha* moments when Jesus sparks an idea, and you know exactly what to do? This glorious One, this wise, mysterious, brilliant Lord has the best thoughts. The most ingenious solutions. He's not only creative, he's strategic, understanding exactly how to navigate through every quandary and bring it to resolution.

Wisdom will come when we cry out for it with faith. Let's be honest, it's usually when we are in dire need of wisdom that it feels the furthest away. But consider this—wisdom is worth seeking after. It is a treasure that cannot be found without the compass of a truly yearning soul. We don't ask in desperation, even when we're desperate. We ask in faith. We rejoice beforehand that wisdom is a gift he wants us to have. It is gentle. Often subtle. Because of this, wisdom often lands upon a soul at peace.

*Father, my soul longs for the wisdom that only comes from you. I still myself in your presence, preparing myself to receive. May the faith rising from my heart be like a magnet, pulling your wisdom close. Speak to me. Enlighten me. I wait in faith. With joy, I anticipate your insight.*

## START LOW

"They come near to me with hollow words and honor me superficially with their lips; all the while their hearts run far away from me! Their worship is nothing more than man-made rules."

ISAIAH 29:13

*You* can do all the right things. You can twirl and dance with the best of them. But if your actions are motivated by a need for man's attention, you've missed the point. It's actually easy to *do* because we've been taught to. A clap, a shout, a memory verse spilling from our lips—all of these things are great, *if* they are an extension of what's really inside.

The place to start is low. Bowed low before the Lord. Bowed low, heart open, when no one else is watching. To understand how you worship, to know exactly what the real, vulnerable, and authentic you are like in his presence, all you have to do is worship alone. Alone is a great place to be. A freeing place. A vital place to go, often. Alone with him.

*Father, I don't need a meeting to stir my heart. I run to you now, my heart swelling with love. Forgive me for caring what anyone else thinks. For depending on someone else to stir my passion. Thank you that every day I have the opportunity to give you my truest praise and deepest worship.*

MARCH 27

## RESTORATION

Those who make the innocent appear guilty, those who ensnare others with deceitful tactics, and those who lie to keep the innocent from getting justice will likewise be destroyed.

ISAIAH 29:21

*U*nfair. Untrue. Unjustly treated. Almost everyone has been assaulted by judgments and assumptions that are untrue. It hurts. It scrapes us down to the bone. Reveals a need to be known and understood. Catches us and snags us in a trap of mistaken identity. Feels like our reputations are darkened. We want to scream the truth, but it rarely makes a difference. Only One can make a difference.

As painful as being misunderstood is, it is inevitable. Being misused and treated poorly does happen. While we cannot change the actions of others, we can be in charge of our own hearts. We can stand in our identity, choose to forgive (sometimes more than once while God heals our hearts), and take our pain to him. Remember, God alone can reveal the truth. Our job is to stay close to him, pray for those who have sinned against us, and keep our hearts clean.

If a situation or person has popped into your mind, let's pray about it.

*Father, I lift (name the situation) before you. I pray you would reveal truth and bring every lie to the light. Soften the hearts of those who are deceived and bring restoration to this situation. I forgive any wrongs and bless those involved.*



## AWESTRUCK

“Yes, they will honor the Holy One of Jacob  
and stand in awe of the God of Israel.”

ISAIAH 29:23

*W*hen trials squeeze you dry and leave you weak, find him. When slammed in front of your face are all the demands of busyness and impossibility, seek him. Pause and find that place again—that place where deity and humanity meet.

Whether it's a time of rejoicing or grieving, a season of trials or blessing, despite your busyness or absolute stillness—etch the Lord deeply upon your heart. Set him first, before all else, and honor him with your time. Be attentive, and with heart open wide, spirit drawing his presence like a magnet, stand in awe of the One who holds every moment. This magnificent God who has implanted himself within skin and bones, whose voice colors the winds of winter, whose eyes of eternity see our hearts, deserves our deepest adoration.

*Father, I stand in awe of you. I am undone. Overwhelmed with this surging glory I feel inside of me. Fulfilled yet yearning for more. Running after you. Running with you. On my face before you. You alone are God. You alone are aware of each breath I take.*

# RETURN

Lord Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, says: "Come back to me! By returning and resting in me you will be saved. In quietness and trust you will be made strong."

ISAIAH 30:15

Can you feel the Lord's love and longing for you in this verse? Seeing our great need and knowing the answer, he calls us near. He offers the solution to every problem by extending his hand. This beautiful, merciful, gracious Father never stops encouraging us. He is consistent in his love toward us. Pointing us in the right direction, he simply says, "Return to me."

Returning to the Lord doesn't necessarily mean you've left him. It could be as simple as being busy and allowing work, chores, and the like to engage your thoughts. It may mean you've been neglecting to nurture your relationship with him. Perhaps something has filled the space in your heart that is meant for him alone. Maybe time has become a taskmaster, and your loving Master is calling you to come away and surrender your agenda.

*Father, forgive me for allowing the preciousness of our communion to become secondary. I love that I can find you in every moment of the day, but I long for the depths of your love. Your presence is a gift that I will cherish and honor. Your presence alone is the strength I need.*

## HE WAITS FOR YOU

"You refused."... For this reason the Lord is still waiting to show his favor to you so he can show you his marvelous love. He waits to be gracious to you.

ISAIAH 30:15, 18

*W*hat a kind and caring Father we have. He offers us grace in such abundant measure. Not only does he tell us the first and most important step toward helping ourselves, he waits patiently when we refuse to heed his advice. He waits to be gracious to us.

Too often we allow ourselves to get sucked into life. We may wonder why we feel unfulfilled. Looking around, searching in every direction to find something to satisfy this longing in our soul, we take for granted the One who never leaves. The One who never forsakes us, who only waits for us. In earnest desire, as only a patient Father can, he lingers and watches, desiring to capture our attention again. All we need to do is turn to him and surrender afresh. To trust. To rest. To know he is good.

*Father, I give you my lists. I invite you into my busyness and give you permission to interrupt my day. I want you more than anything else. Even when my days rush to an end without my permission, I want each moment to be filled with you. Teach me how to return to you and give you more time and more trust.*

# HIS PROMISES TO YOU

He sits on his throne ready to show mercy to you.  
For Yahweh is the Lord of justice, faithful to keep his promises.

ISAIAH 30:18

*E*ither God is God or he's not. It honestly boils down to that. This is the crux of our faith. Our belief that he keeps his Word is only a by-product of what's truly going on in our hearts. When we doubt, we need to pause and get to the root. We need to run to him and ask him to examine our faith and reveal thoughts we haven't faced.

Seasons of disillusionment come. You don't need to feel guilty when they do. But you must not ignore them. Most importantly, you cannot get stuck in them. One of the greatest ways to shake off doubt is to remember his faithfulness to you. To oppose discouragement with a grateful heart. To think of things (big and small) you're thankful for—creating a list and adding to it every day. As you focus on his blessings, it will stir your faith and joy afresh.

*Father, forgive me for doubting. Examine my heart and replace doubt with truth. Highlight passages that stir my faith, and I will do my part to surrender my unbelief. Thank you for \_\_\_\_ (write five things you're thankful for, then add to it each day.)*





*April*

APRIL 1

## A LIFESTYLE OF BLISS

Overwhelmed with bliss are all who will entwine their hearts in him, waiting for him to help them.

ISAIAH 30:18

There is something so mystifying and unnatural about a lifestyle of surrender. To be faced with opposition and yet choose to offer our pain, questions, and feelings of obscurity is actually the key to living in peace. Peace doesn't play by the rules, which is great news because neither does fear. Peace is greater. Deeper. Filled with light. Peace has the ability to launch us into his presence so we can experience the bliss of his overwhelming love.

In order to tap into the rivers of delight found in heaven's atmosphere, we first must turn our attention to the Lord. We must be willing to give him our impatience and absolutely release every ounce of control. Entwining our hearts with his starts with our decision to pull him into every situation by setting our attention on him. It flows into unimaginable bliss as this becomes a way of life.

*Father, I want your presence to be my daily reality. Even when my mind is focused on other things, let my heart continue to yearn. Teach me to make every second count. Give me grace to walk with you in everything I face. I release control of my life into your safe hands.*

## HERE HE COMES!

How compassionate he will be when he hears your cries for help!  
He will answer you when he hears your voice!

ISAIAH 30:19

*T*he Lord knows your voice. In your great distress, when you cannot seem to find your way and all you can do is cry out for his help, he will not reject you. This compassionate, powerful, healing Father will rush to your side.

Too often, we think that unless we have a clear word from the Lord, he must not be answering. That is far from the truth. Pay attention to the way he answers. An encouraging email, a passage of Scripture, a devotion that feels tailor-made for you, even the embrace of someone who cares. Stress has a way of dulling our spiritual senses. It makes it hard to feel his presence, even when his arms are wrapped around us. But know this—if we need him, he will come. In the middle of anxiety, take a breath. His presence is found in the center of stillness.

*Father, when situations consume me, come with your power and save me. It's not always easy to quiet my soul, but by your grace, you'll lead me into your presence. I trust that you're here with me now, and I will take time to let your peace heal my heart.*



APRIL 3

## LET PAIN LEAD YOU

Even though the Lord may allow you to go through a season of hardship and difficulty, he himself will be there with you. He will not hide himself from you, for your eyes will constantly see him as your Teacher.

ISAIAH 30:20

*T*rials come. They are a part of life. Difficult, sometimes devastating, often stripping you to the bare roots of faith. But in these times when we feel disoriented and bewildered, we are presented with an opportunity unlike any other. We are presented with the chance to know the Lord as our dearest Friend, most consoling Father, and wisest Counselor.

These dark seasons of the soul teach us about holy desperation. Some lessons can't be learned during the good times. Some must be experienced. We would never understand his healing, unless we needed to be healed. His provision wouldn't be as sweet, unless we tasted lack. Joy wouldn't be as delightful without knowing sorrow. In all things and in all seasons, we must find the Lord. For those who seek the Lord, all roads lead to him. Even pain carves a path into his presence.

*Father, I still myself before you now. I take this time to find you in the middle of this chaos. You are here. You are with me, right now. You're not hiding. Arrest this fear so I can see clearly. You will slay these giants and show yourself faithful once again. My eyes are set on you.*



## PEACE WILL LEAD THE WAY

When you turn to the right or turn to the left, you will hear his voice behind you to guide you, saying, "This is the right path; follow it."

ISAIAH 30:21

*You* are not alone. You are never, ever alone. He will speak. He will show you the way. He sees how you've stepped out upon the waters of faith. He knows what you're facing, even when you aren't sure yourself. He is not unrighteous to forget your life of devotion or your total dependence upon him. This is your moment to rise in triumph.

Pause. Lift your song. Let your heart rise to him like a magnet, drawing his presence. Listen for his voice. Release these cares. When you don't know which way to go, he has promised wisdom to those who ask. Ask in faith. Yearn for *him* more than answers. Everything we need is found in him. Lean into the peace. Find it and let it lead you. It is a far more dependable compass than anxiety.

*Father, I present my heart to you in truth. All I am is yours. You will come. You will show me the way. I breathe in your presence and allow you to saturate every part. I release my cares. You are wisdom being poured out. You will lead the way.*

## YEARNING FOR PURITY

Then you will see your idols as they are—unclean!

ISAIAH 30:22

*W*hen our hearts are consumed with desire for the Lord, and we walk in truth, he will faithfully reveal every tainted desire or belief. The purity of his presence opens our eyes to areas in our lives that aren't pleasing to him.

We want nothing to hinder the reality of his presence in our life. Every part of us longs to belong to him with no barriers to block the way. Our hearts burn for purity. To be fully his. To experience the glory for which we were created. We want eyes that see what is hidden behind the veil. We want ears finely tuned to the whispers of his love.

*Lord, consume me with the purity of your love. Burn away everything that doesn't look like you so I too will become a living flame. Remove the idols in my life. The distractions that pull me away from the reality of your nearness. Let there be nothing in me that doesn't reflect your glory. No area is off limits to you. I give you every part of me and hold nothing back.*

APRIL 6

## YOUR SEEDS WILL BLOSSOM

God will supply you with abundant rain for the seeds you sow.

ISAIAH 30:23

*H*ow wonderful it is to know that the Lord sees it all. Every prayer of faith, every seed of compassion, each act of kindness, and every dollar he prompted us to sow has not been overlooked.

Things done years ago and forgotten about haven't been forgotten by him. He pours the rains of glory upon every offered seed, and at the appointed time, life will blossom. We don't have the capacity to out-give God. When we present him with our meager *loaves and fish* (those things which seem insufficient and insignificant), he multiplies our offering so it can bless the multitudes.

For every seed you've sown, in whatever capacity, saturate it with thanksgiving and praise, for surely he will be gracious to you. He not only provides seed for us to sow but is faithful to bless each one.

*Father, let the rains of abundance come. Flood my life and the deeds I've done in your name. Saturate every seed with glory, and break it open with new life. May everything I sow into the earth be a true reflection of the One inside.*

APRIL 7

## DANCE INTO VICTORY

Every stroke of Yahweh's punishing rod will be to the sound of cymbals and strumming harps. God himself fights them in battle with dancing!

ISAIAH 30:32

It's time to dance your way into victory. To strip off the heaviness that has cloaked you and tried to restrict you and throw it away. You are a child of God. You're not in this battle alone. The enemy doesn't want you to believe it, but God is on your side. He has already paid the price for your triumph, and your faith must draw it into the here and now.

God's ways are different than ours. When we think of warring against the enemy, we may think of shouting and beating the air. But God says to rejoice and celebrate in advance. Stand on a stage of promises and dance each one. Joyfully declare every word and let those words stir your faith. Set your eyes on the end result and keep them there.

*Father, you are my victor. My Hero. My Champion. You are with me, fighting my battles. You've surrounded me with angels. I see you now, conquering the enemy with one hand and spinning me around with the other. Help me to keep my eyes focused on you, and grace me with the strength to dance my way into victory.*



## DISORIENTING CHANGE

Woe to those who run down to Egypt for help, trusting in the might of their multitude . . . Their confident trust is not in the Holy One of Israel, nor do they consult with Yahweh.

ISAIAH 31:1

It happens to us all—life throws a curve ball and smacks us right in the head. Shocked, disillusioned, and a bit disoriented, we get up and look for what is familiar and comfortable. We want something to take away the strangeness of this foreign new reality. We want things fixed, and we want them fixed now.

The truth is, when we feel unbalanced because life has shifted or taken an unexpected turn, we must return to our foundation. We must trust in the Lord's wisdom and guidance more than we trust in our own ability to fix things. This knee-jerk reaction to run back to something that God had already taken us out of is a fear reaction. We must not return to something just because we aren't willing to let go of control and trust the Lord.

*Father, I want my reality—even a wobbly, standing in the wind of adversity one—to be framed by faith. When things feel unstable, and I have no idea what the future holds, I will run to you and seek your counsel. I will not turn back to the familiar just because fear is knocking on the door. I choose you. I choose to trust you.*

APRIL 9

# THE WHISPERS OF YHWH

This is what Yahweh said to me.

ISAIAH 31:4

*T*he very name YHWH (known as the Tetragrammaton) is comprised of four consonants that, when spoken, sound like breathing. It has no definite pronunciation. Your every breath declares his name. It resonates with the presence of God. In each inhale and exhale, there is a whisper of agreement. A secret released to you in every breath. His presence is in every breath you breathe.

Tuck yourself into his presence today. Let every breath become a reminder of his inexplicable nearness. When your desire rises on wings of holy longing, the Lord will not ignore you. He longs for you to recognize how close he is. Allow expectancy to rise within you as you inhale. Feel his peace released to you through every exhale. These sounds of rest are filled with him. Lean in and be still. Listen as he whispers in ways you haven't imagined.

*YHWH, I still myself in your presence, aware of your presence in every breath. The beauty and mystery of your name releases peace. Desire to know you, to hear you, and to see you more clearly has consumed me. You are what I live for. You are the substance of my life. You are my breath, and I am one with you.*

## AWAKEN OUR HEARTS

Look—a new era begins! A king will reign with righteousness, and his princes according to justice! . . . Life will flow from each one, like streams of water in the desert, like the refreshing shade of a massive rock in a weary, thirsty land.

ISAIAH 32:1–2

Upon each believer is a call from God to release refreshing life everywhere we go. When we know who we are and to whom we belong, it's up to us to step into partnership with him. To rise as royal children and confidently release what our Father has imparted to us.

Now is the time. People are weary and thirsty, and you have a well of living water within you, waiting to be released. You may not know exactly what to say, but if you're willing to acknowledge the Holy Spirit and ask him for insight, he will give it. At first it may be a simple smile given to a stranger. Then, as confidence increases and compassion grows stronger than fear, you'll find acts and words flowing effortlessly. Simply be willing, and then watch what God can do through you!

*Father, your Spirit within me is the only qualification I need to pour out your love. Lead me and speak to me. Reveal what you want me to say or do to bless the people I meet each day. Give me holy boldness rooted in compassion. Awaken my heart to unite with you in ministry.*

APRIL 11

# GOD IS WOOING THE LOST

At last, eyes that are ready to see will finally be opened!  
Ears that are ready to hear will finally be opened!

ISAIAH 32:3

*T*he Holy Spirit knows how to woo the very hearts he created. No matter how far away from the Lord people seem, there is always hope. Always One who never gives up. He knows how to soften the hearts of those who have turned their backs on him and how to spark holy desperation in those who have never known it.

God wants us to agree with him. To pray in faith for those who have yet to see. To declare his Word over those whose ears need to be opened to his voice. To speak light into the darkness that has held them for too long. To believe. To praise. To intercede with absolute conviction that his love is enough to save even those who seem too far gone. Let's stand on his truth today and do just that.

*Father, we stand in agreement for the prodigals and the lost to turn to you. We trust you will woo them at the perfect time, when you know their hearts are ready. Open their ears! Soften their hearts! Tear the veils from their eyes and make yourself real to them in undeniable ways.*



## IT'S OKAY TO DREAM

A person of honor has honorable plans,  
and his integrity gives him security.

ISAIAH 32:8

God loves to dream with you. When your heart is fully yielded to the Lord, ideas, hopes, and aspirations are something to be excited about. While it's important to heed wise counsel, it's also vital to know the Lord's voice for yourself. To trust him for wisdom, favor, and whatever else you need to see those plans come to pass. To be open to wait.

While some plans fall into place quickly, oftentimes much needs to be prepared, both in circumstances and in hearts. Waiting not only helps us appreciate the blessing when it comes, it also gives the Lord time to prepare us. The process of time between desire and manifestation is something we can never get back. During the waiting period, we must be diligent to seek the Lord's face. To grow in character and wisdom in order to handle the blessing when it comes.

*Father, I lift the desires of my heart to you. I ask for your wisdom, guidance, and timing. I will do my part to take the steps you show me. Help me not to get ahead of you or fall behind. Tweak my plans anyway you see fit. May the desires of my heart reflect yours.*

## DEEPENING OUR ROOTS

The desolation will not end until the Spirit is poured out upon us from heaven! Then the wilderness will blossom into a fruitful orchard and the trees of the orchard will grow into a forest.

ISAIAH 32:15

In every season of desolation, there is only One who can take the dry, dusty remains and cause them to blossom with life. The joy of our salvation doesn't begin in heaven; it starts now. It is experienced in the way the Lord takes each trying day, each wilderness season, and every seemingly fruitless circumstance and transforms them into something beautiful.

Dark seasons of the soul come, but they are not meant to last. Barrenness isn't meant to humiliate or destroy us. Instead it's designed to teach us about our dependency upon the Lord. To prove his faithfulness. To cause our roots to go deeper as we draw from his strength and entwine ourselves with him. Our personal breakthrough comes when we lean upon him in full dependence and discover peace and faith rising to fill the dark crevices of doubt.

*Father, you are the joy in the midst of this wilderness. Come, flood my mind with the hope of your glory. With the promise of peace. Breakthrough starts with believing, so I choose to resist the temptation to doubt or become bewildered. Pour out your Spirit and revive me once again. You are my hope. You are my joy. You are faithful.*

## IN STILLNESS

Yahweh, be gracious to us, for we wait for you. Be our strength every morning and rescue us when troubles come.

ISAIAH 33:2

Society has become impaired by rushing. Waiting upon the Lord has become rare—a priceless treasure worth digging up. In these set-apart times of stillness, we're greeted by the reality of his presence in a myriad of ways: Strength comes, peace drowns anxiety, wisdom lands, and joy becomes real.

If early mornings with the Lord aren't a normal part of your day, I encourage you to try incorporating them into your lifestyle. Other times of the day work too—the point is to set time aside to wait upon him each day. Quiet hours and private places are a necessary component of every intimate relationship. Your holy union with the Lord is no different. When his presence greets you, you'll find the sacrifice of time isn't a sacrifice at all. It becomes a holy addiction. A yearning that must be met each day.

*Father, my heart burns for the nearness of your presence. Meet with me as I quiet myself before you. Teach me to still my mind and tune into the flow of your Spirit within me. At times, your presence is greater than I can stand, yet I long for more. Come. Pour out more until all that's left of me are the glimmering remains of love.*

## CONSTANT ONE

He will be your constant source of stability in changing times, and out of his abundant love he gives you the riches of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. Yes, the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure!

ISAIAH 33:6

*T*he One who orchestrates the wind, rotates the earth in the palm of his hand, and has woven you together is stable. Reliable. Steady. When the world around you is shaken, you can sink deep into the Lord's arms of protection and find shelter. When chaos wails its shrill cry of fear, his roar reminds you of his unlimited power and authority. The same power residing inside of you.

When you feel alone on this roller coaster ride of life, he is enough. His wisdom is promised to those who search for it and ask in faith. His peace stills the waters of your greatest storms. He is wisdom. He is love. He is faithful. He will open doors of favor, blessing, and freedom, unlike anything you've ever known. Keep your eyes fixed. Set your fear aside. He is unchanging. He is true.

*Father, I'm sorry for putting my trust in palpable things that aren't as solid and reliable as you. You are my source. My healer. My provider. You are perfect wisdom. You are my all, and you never forsake me. All I need is found in you, so I will remain here with you, always.*



# THE KEY TO THE TREASURE

He will be your constant source of stability in changing times, and out of his abundant love he gives you the riches of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. Yes, the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure!

ISAIAH 33:6

*T*he fear of the Lord is clean. Purifying. Liberating. It fills us with wonder as we look upon holiness from vessels of imperfection. The fear of the Lord isn't numbingly fearful, stripping us of clear thinking or the ability to discern truth. Instead, it is empowering—enabling us to do one of the most powerful and courageous acts any human can ever do. It gives us the strength to surrender our whole selves.

The fear of the Lord blazes through our excuses, motives, desires, and failures, and like a tornado of glory, sucks us straight into his presence where in exchange for all of us, we get all of him. It doesn't condemn us but melts away our pride. We have no desire to resist his invitation to purity. This fear causes us to run without pretense or façade straight into the blessings he has for us. It is the key to the treasures of heaven.

*Father, all of me in exchange for all of you. I want nothing in me that doesn't look or sound like you. Examine every part of my life and purify me. May nothing remain but a heart and mind consumed with you.*

## UNSTOPPABLE

"Now I will arise," says the Lord. "Now I will exalt myself;  
now I will unveil my majesty!"

ISAIAH 33:10

Nothing will stop the Lord. When he says it is time for something to happen, it will. We don't have to fret and worry about him keeping his Word. We don't have to wonder if he loves us enough to do what he's promised. We know his Word is settled in heaven. We must only submit our impatience and wait with expectation.

It's time for us to live in the awe of God. To remember that this One we enjoy as Father and Friend is also God Almighty and All-Powerful. Though we question him many times, his timing is unquestionably perfect. Absolute. The One who stands outside of time graciously determining each moment of our lives. Let's humble ourselves before him today and exchange our timetables for his.

*Father, forgive me for being impatient. I have placed my days in your hands and will not doubt your ability to direct each one. Give me grace to wait in peace and joy as you determine the perfect time to unveil your strong hand in my life. You have breathed your promises into my heart and what you have set in place is absolutely unstoppable.*

# ALL-CONSUMING FIRE

"Who can dwell with such an all-consuming fire? Who can live in the presence of the never-ending flame?"

ISAIAH 33:14

*We* are the ones who dwell with this God of all-consuming fire. We are those chosen to stand in the presence of the Never-Ending Flame. The glory of his presence is overwhelming and consuming, transforming us into something glorious. So radiant, we know it is only the result of his brilliance within us.

When we spend time with this beautiful, magnificent, divine Lord, we become more like him. With passion and zeal, the fire of his love burns away the walls we've unwittingly erected. He leaves no trace of the past, only gently brushes away the ashes with patience and mercy. The intensity of his desire for us redefines us. We scarcely recognize ourselves as we go from glory to glory.

*All-Consuming Fire, consume me with your glory. Train me to see your beauty in the set-apart times of prayer and the busyness of chores. I want to live in the wonder of your love, aware of you even when neither of us says a word. To have the privilege of sensing your presence at all times. To burn as you burn—holy, zealous, and for all eternity.*

## TASTE AND SEE

In this high place, your eyes will see the king in his stunning beauty  
and gaze upon his broad domain.

ISAIAH 33:17

There are few who dare lay down their agendas, will, and their all for Jesus. It's rare to find someone who has absolutely resigned themselves to live fully to the Lord. These precious treasures, these dedicated ones who have wholly devoted themselves to Jesus, have discovered the holy recompense of a surrendered life. They've tasted and seen his glory.

When we hold nothing back—not our trust issues, our desire to control, our longing for recompense, or our need to have our own way—we find Jesus. We don't just recognize him operating in our daily life. We also stand in astonishment as every part of our being becomes fully aware of his glory. The beauty of our King is all the exchange we need to live this way forever. To be among the few whose eyes see and heart knows.

*Father, I don't want anything to separate me from the awareness of your love. When I feel with overwhelming passion the reality of your nearness, I know that nothing is worth holding onto that dims your glory in my life. I give you all of me so nothing will hinder my ability to experience all of you.*



# UNFURL THE SAIL OF YOUR HEART

Glorious Yahweh will be there for us in a land with broad rivers and life-giving streams, where the hostile, majestic ships will not sail.

ISAIAH 33:21

*G*od desires us to live a life fully entwined with his Spirit. So close to him, neither feast nor famine can separate us. To believe that he's with us, for us, and in us, and longing to bless us. To anticipate his goodness.

Our gracious Father knows how to take the driest, most painful times of our lives and redeem them. His joy is satiating, like waters poured upon the thirsty ground of our souls. The streams of his faithful presence are life-giving and refreshing. His blessings are meant to overtake us and escort us into the deeper waters of inexplicable glory. All we need to do is unfurl the sails of our hearts and lean into the wind of his Spirit. To move with him. To dream. To drink the waters of refreshing that he's had for us all along.

*Father, I open myself to the winds of your Spirit. Move me. Delight yourself in me. I'm willing to risk it all for the sake of love and to do all you ask. Keep my heart tender toward you and toward others so I never miss a moment of opportunity to flow with what you want to do.*

## SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Seek for Yahweh's book and read it carefully. You will learn that none of these prophecies will fail; none will lack a fulfillment as its companion. For the Lord has issued his decree. It is his Spirit that has gathered them.

ISAIAH 34:16

The Words of the Lord are like soothing honey to our soul. They encourage, inspire, heal, and prophesy our future. They are unfailing and alive. When everything around us falsely points to hopelessness and defeat, God's Word graciously gives us a second wind. It directs us to his unchanging truth that is forever settled in heaven.

When everything feels indistinct and hazy, his Word is like the sun that clears away the fog. And this is where we must run—straight into the light. We must stand confidently on his promises when our natural foundations crumble because it's the only thing that has proven reliable. So, run today and search his Word for the truths he's reserved specifically for you at this moment. Meditate on them. Write them out. Know that not one of his promises will fail.

*Father, I honor your Word. As I search the Scriptures today, highlight the promises you have for me. Remind me of them as I go about my day. Let their power refocus my mind and reawaken my heart. May your Word rise within me and tether me to truth.*

# IT'S TIME TO COME ALIVE!

The wilderness and dry land will be joyously glad!  
The desert will blossom like a rose and rejoice!

ISAIAH 35:1

It's time to come alive again. Time to rejoice and jump into your season of joy. You've been in the desert long enough. You've trudged through the wilderness. Now, however, it's time for you to take God's hand and take that decisive step into breakthrough. Believe it or not, the decision to blossom with beauty is your choice.

Though we cannot always force circumstances to change, we can gain fresh perspective. It's possible to be thrown into the lion's den and come out unscathed. It's empowering when we learn to sing in the fire. There's beauty and mystery to be found in the most difficult times of life. While we wait for our never-ending list of prayer requests to be answered, we mustn't waste a single second in anxiety. Let's break our agreement with impatience, confusion, and heaviness and choose to find joy!

*Father, there are some pretty big prayers I'm waiting for you to answer, but I'll no longer wait in angst. Every day is a gift from you. Every breath is filled with the reality of your abiding protection. I'm going to step into an attitude of victory and praise until joy overtakes me. You are the joy set before me.*

# NOTHING HIDDEN

Every dry and barren place will burst forth with abundant blossoms, dancing and spinning with delight!

ISAIAH 35:2

It's time to come out of hiding. There is more freedom to be had. More glory to experience. Many more levels of revelation. Greater and more profound encounters awaiting you. All it takes is the complete opening of your heart. The uncompromising vulnerability to invite him into every part of your being.

Every dry, stained, and neglected area of your soul must be opened to him. Don't camouflage anything or sweep it under the rug. Invite him into the ugliest, messiest areas of your life. He already sees what you don't want to face yourself. Those embarrassing thoughts, feelings of anger, inconsistent beliefs, or dark temptations you've tried to ignore haven't been missed by him. He's extending the invitation to clean them up with you. It's time for beauty to blossom from the places the enemy mistakenly thought would take you out.

*Holy Spirit, search me. I prostrate myself before you and open myself completely. As the impurities rise to the surface, I won't try to hide them. Wash me clean. Set me free from even the most seemingly insignificant impurities. I want to be as close to you as I possibly can with no barriers between us.*



# EACH SIGH OF OUR HEARTS

My people will see the awesome glory of Yahweh, the beautiful grandeur of our God.

ISAIAH 35:2

*W*hat will it be like to see with unveiled eyes? To behold the One we've devoted our lives to. To stand before his glory and finally understand what's been in front of us, inside of us, all this time. How will we endure such holiness and beauty? When will we be granted the blessing of unhindered communion? I believe it starts now.

This magnificent One isn't far away. He's here, right now, reading this with you. Sensing the longing of your heart. Hearing the love rising from the depths of your soul. Each moment you turn to him, you shed more of what hinders you from seeing and hearing. He never rejects those who draw near to him. Although you may not have seen him with unveiled eyes, your vision clears a little more with each sigh of your burning heart. Each day you're offered the opportunity to experience more.

*Father, I'm undone. Overcome by the tangible affection weaving itself into every fiber of my being. I feel you here with me now—spirit, soul, and body—tangled knots of discernable affection. Unveil my eyes and touch my ears so I may see and hear more clearly.*

## BE A FRIEND

Strengthen those who are discouraged.  
Energize those who feel defeated.

ISAIAH 35:3

*You* are a vessel of healing and light. A conduit of the Lord's compassion. The victories you have under your belt are meant to become encouraging testimonies to share with others. The light streaming from your life is brightest when it's shone into the darkness of someone else's gloom.

When someone we know is feeling defeated or discouraged, we mustn't back away. We may not know exactly what to say or how to help, but most of the time, being a friend is enough. People need to know someone cares. Sometimes they aren't looking for a solution as much as desiring companionship and an ear. There is a time to listen, to console, and to navigate them into faith. The key is staying in tune to the Holy Spirit as we seek to encourage and point others to the truth. We must never doubt the breakthrough we carry for others.

*Father, teach me how to be a good friend to those you've placed in my life. Show me how to speak truth and encouragement seasoned with compassion and love. Give me a gift of refreshing as I seek to inspire and console others.*

# YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER!

"Be strong and never afraid. Look, here comes your God! He is breaking through to give you victory! He comes to avenge your enemies. With divine retribution he comes to save you!"

ISAIAH 35:4

It doesn't matter what it looks like right now. God is going to turn things around. He may not do it in your timing or in the way you're expecting, but he will come through. It's okay to acknowledge your fear, but don't hold on to it. It will only slow things down. Shake it off. Stop letting the enemy beat you up with thoughts of what he may do. Who cares what he has planned? The Lord's plans are all that matters.

The Lord has given you the power to kick fear and discouragement in the face so you can believe again. Speak his truth. Stand in your authority and refuse to be defeated. Your faithful, loving Father is working behind the scenes at this very moment to bring your victory. Don't be afraid to embrace the radical faith you once had. This is a new season. Divine retribution is yours.

*Father, strip me of all doubt. Fear is not my portion, but faith is! I choose to agree with your promise of victory. Pour out your wisdom over me in copious amounts. Cause me to remain tapped into the truth that sets me free. I refuse to be defeated. I am an overcomer!*

APRIL 27

## RELEASING WHAT YOU'VE RECEIVED

Blind eyes will open and deaf ears will hear.

ISAIAH 35:5

*C*aptivated. Overcome. Undone. These words weakly describe the sensations we experience when we tap into the awe and wonder of God. This lifestyle of holy communion does more than alter the very fiber of our being. It is much more powerful and profound than what happens within us personally. Our relationship with the Lord is meant to create a longing within us to see others touched by the miracle-working power we've experienced.

When we go beyond ourselves and our satisfaction, when we become so consumed with his tangible love, we want to pour out what we've received. The Lord desires to partner with us in ministry. The mystery of heaven is that he can move through our hands and our words to change the world around us. On our own, we can do nothing. With him, however, miracles flow as we step out and take a risk.

*Father, I want to do more than sense your desire to heal the sick and minister your love. I want to be courageous, filled with faith. Lead me by your Spirit to those around me who need a miracle. Flow through my hands, not because of me but because of your love for others.*



## TRIUMPH IN PLACE OF TRAGEDY

Gushing water will spring up in the wilderness and streams will flow through the desert. The burning sand will become a refreshing oasis, the parched ground bubbling springs.

ISAIAH 35:6-7

In the middle of your wilderness, breakthrough comes. In the most unlikely situations, your Savior shows up and turns things around completely. When life feels as though it has swallowed us and spit us into a nightmare, our Prince rides in and sweeps us off our feet. He takes us to safety and pours healing oil upon our wounds.

Every painful slash you've suffered is an opening for the Lord to infuse the golden glory of his love and faithfulness. He wants to refresh you. It's his will to turn tragedy into triumph. There is only one thing necessary—your willingness to submit your pain. It's not enough to know his desire for you. You must embrace it, and that means laying your questions, fears, and traumas before his throne.

*Father, I give you my pain. Free me from the talons of disappointment and confusion and heal me once and for all. Let the rivers of your glory rise within me, lifting all of the pain, lies, and fear to the surface. Wash me clean as I sink into the depths of your love. I receive joy in place of mourning. I receive your promises.*

APRIL 29

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

There will be a highway of holiness called the Sacred Way.

ISAIAH 35:8

*W*hen the path of life offers you options, keep your eyes fixed on the Lord. He knows your desire to follow him. He understands the choices before you and your devotion to do his will. Find your peace and lean into his presence. He's got you.

When we're faced with big decisions and aren't sure which way to go, the first step is the most important. It's the step that ushers us onto the highway of holiness—the decision to go before the Lord and submit our desires. If emotions are high or fear is nipping at our heels, it can make it difficult to tune into heaven's answer. That's why finding our peace is the next vital step. We must believe that God honors our eagerness to follow him. We can trust the Spirit inside to not only give us wisdom but to create an inclination and feeling of peace and confidence toward one particular direction.

*Father, because my heart is toward you and my desire is to do your will, I know you will show me which way to go. Steady me in your presence. Cause me to be moved by your Spirit and not my emotions. Flood me with the wisdom I need to make the best decisions for my life.*

APRIL 30

# HE IS THE WAY

Not even fools will lose their way.

ISAIAH 35:8

There is hope for every one of us. At some point, we all fall into error. Whether it's allowing anger to rule our day or our reactions or yielding to fear and slipping into doubt instead of rising in faith, we are in continual need of God's hand to pull us out of the pit.

This kind, generous, gracious Father is more invested in our future than we realize. He wants us to succeed. His plan is that we live as overcomers. God has made a highway for us to walk on, not a ditch. A way that is higher than any other way. His mercy leads us out of the *ditches* of our own choosing so we can walk with him in the ways of holiness.

If you fall, trip, or stumble, don't give up. He will make sure you don't lose your way.

*Father, tuck me into the reality of your presence. Help me to sense you every moment. To hear your gentle whispers as you guide me in the ways of righteousness. Holy Spirit, I want to walk with a humble heart, tuned into you so I will never lose my way.*





May



MAY 1

# YOUR SORROW WILL NOT REMAIN

Ecstatic joy will overwhelm them;  
weariness and grief will disappear!

ISAIAH 35:10

It's utterly astounding what moments in the Lord's presence can do. When we're afflicted by sorrow and can't seem to find our way, he tenderly covers us with his wings and pulls us close. He knows our pain. He's paid the price so we don't have to dwell in it forever. The unexpected awakening that comes from being with him illuminates the dark forest of grief. Suddenly we can breathe again and heaviness no longer grips our soul.

Jesus lifts our sorrow and takes it to the place where all suffering has been paid—he carries it to the cross. What happened so many years ago at Calvary surges with power into our lives today. The healing he bought for us not only eases our pain, it opens the door for something even more miraculous—it opens the way for joy. And this is the will of God—for you to experience joy in places of sorrow.

*Father, in seasons of sorrow when I don't have words to pray, accept the movement of my heart toward you. Pull me close so grief finds no permanent home in me. Unpin the cloak of weariness and clothe me with the garment of unmeasurable and unexpected joy.*

# STOP LISTENING TO YOUR ENEMY

"Don't let this God in whom you trust mislead you into thinking that Jerusalem will not fall and be delivered into the hand of the mighty king of Assyria. Do you really think you'll be delivered?"

ISAIAH 37:10-11

The enemy has been beating you up with lies. He's been slamming you with questions you have no answer for and doing his best to cause you to cower in fear. Are you going to continue listening, or are you going to stand up and remember who you are? It's time to pick up your shield of faith and tune your ears to the frequency of heaven.

We all go through the temptation to doubt what God has said. But just because we're tempted doesn't mean we yield. It's obvious that the enemy wants us to doubt God's promises because he knows how powerful faith is. Perhaps he understands it more than we do, which is why he works so hard to get us to throw it away and accept fear. If we feed on God's Word and fix our eyes on him, lies won't find a place to land in our hearts.

*Father, I praise you for this reminder to keep my ears tuned to you. I refuse to entertain the lies of the enemy. You are faithful and your timing is perfect. You are more than able to deliver me from every opposition and set a feast before me in the presence of my enemies.*

# YOU HAVE HIS ATTENTION

“Please lean down to hear my prayer. Yahweh, open your eyes and see me here calling out to you.”

ISAIAH 37:17

*You* have the attention of your Father. Nothing can separate you from his love. When your shouts of praise have turned to whispers, he's right there, leaning in to listen. Like every loving parent who can discern the voice of their child in a group of screaming children, your Father recognizes his own.

Your prayers of faith have captured his heart. The breath of eternity is blowing upon the garden of your soul, gently reviving you. His piercing eyes are gazing into yours, silently declaring his unchanging love. Stay focused. Remain before him—heart and soul consumed with the bliss of his presence. He's with you right now, and he won't let you go. He will keep his promises, and you will rise in victory.

*Father, come and wrap me in the safety of your arms. Revive me, your favored one. Let me know you have heard me. Speak words of life that uplift my spirit and remind me of your commitment to me. Take my hand and walk with me into the place of answered prayer.*

## SEEING ANSWERS DIFFERENTLY

"Our loving God, Yahweh, save us from the Assyrians so that the whole world will know that you alone are Yahweh, Lord God Almighty."

ISAIAH 37:20

Your breakthrough isn't meant for you alone. The explosive goodness of God in your life is meant to illuminate the darkness in someone else's. For every shadowy illusion of evil, there is light. In place of trials, trauma, and pain, God has designed destiny. He has planned for goodness to rise out of every tragedy.

What if we began to see answers to prayer, not only as a personal ambition but also as a corporate one? Would our perspective of breakthrough become that much more powerful? I believe it would. When we remember that the gold we've purchased in the fires of affliction is meant to be shared, it changes our perspective on how needed our breakthrough actually is in God's eyes. It reminds us that his ways are higher, and not only does the Lord want to bless us, but he also wants to use our blessing to empower someone else.

*Father, change my frame of mind—help me to go from self-centered prayer to seeing the bigger picture. To believe that the answers to my prayer are for a greater purpose. To imagine what it would be like to share the testimony of my breakthrough as a source of encouragement for others.*



# YOUR ARMS OF COMPASSION

Your God says to you: "Comfort, comfort my people with gentle, compassionate words."

ISAIAH 40:1

*T*hose whispers of comfort that you've received have healed your soul. The love of the Father has drawn you close and held you in your suffering. He's never condemned you and pushed you aside, even in your biggest mess. His gentleness has been made manifest in your life. Now, he wants you to pour out that compassion into the lives of others.

Keep your eyes open and your spirit in tune with the Spirit of God. Pay attention to his nudges when you notice people being ambushed by the enemy. Draw near to them, just as God draws near to you. Allow yourself to be a vessel for the Lord to pour himself through to bring hope and healing to others. Weary ones need a voice of compassion. They need the strength of those around them as we hold them within the arms of the Lord's comfort.

*Father, I want to see people around me from your point of view. I want to hear the quiet yet powerful words so I can voice them into existence, sparking hope in times of trouble. Show me how to lift the burdens of others and bring your comfort to those in need.*

## MERCY

"Her debt of sin is paid for, and she will not be treated as guilty. Prophecy to her that she has received from the hand of Yahweh twice as many blessings as all her sins."

ISAIAH 40:2

*W*hat mercy. What unfathomable love the Lord extends to us. Even the best of us, striving to live with hearts open in obedience to him, do not live perfectly. Subtle pride, anger, impure motives, and selfish desires—none of us are exempt from temptation and sin. While we are no longer sinners, we are all prone to temptations of the flesh. Our human nature puts us in constant need of his mercy and grace.

This Perfect One, this holy, gracious Lord, not only provides eternal salvation, but he also gives of himself every day. Leans into tender hearts who long for purity and releases blessing. Time and time again, he increases us. Treats us as his favored ones. Makes us aware of his great love by revealing sin and providing a way to be clean. This is the power of repentance.

*Father, thank you for the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus. For blessing me when I feel I least deserve it. It is my deepest desire to live so close to you that I recognize the subtle tendencies of my soul toward sin. I want to live above reproach. Search me; I hold nothing back. Thank you for loving me unconditionally. Thank you for your mercy.*

MAY 7

## LISTEN

A thunderous voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way for Yahweh’s arrival!

Make a highway straight through the desert for our God!”

ISAIAH 40:3

*I*n the wilderness of people’s souls, the voice of the Holy Spirit is crying out, calling us to freedom. It’s so important, during seasons when we feel discouraged by circumstances, that we pay more attention to the Lord than what is weighing on us. The Lord wants to meet with us, if only we’d turn our attention.

The desert seasons make us feel dry and lifeless, but deep within, a thunderous reminder of life resounds. Preparing our hearts and making a straight path for the Lord to reshape our circumstances is up to us. We must acknowledge the presence of his Spirit within us and be willing to lay pain on the altar. To find him in the middle of every wilderness experience. To believe that he makes a way where there seems to be no way.

*Father, I hear you calling out to me to come closer today. I open my heart without reservation to the presence and power of your Spirit. Set things in order. Make my life a shining example of your grace. I refuse to remain stuck in this wilderness when you’re calling me to freedom.*

MAY 8

## ON THE ROCKY ROADS

Every valley will be raised up, every mountain brought low.  
The rugged terrain will become level ground  
and the rough places a plain.

ISAIAH 40:4

God is brilliant. He knows how to do the impossible and loves to surprise us with the unexpected. When we live with the knowledge of his love for us, we begin to see opposition with heavenly anticipation. We believe he's going to turn things around, no matter how rocky and difficult the road.

The Lord wants us to replace every negative mindset with faith. When we stand in uncertainty and need clarity, his is the voice leading to level ground. What seems to be one way no longer bothers us or causes fear because we believe his blessing awaits us. This is what happens when we search for him in every situation—we find him to be faithful and true. We become fully convinced of his love and the murmurs of fear dissipate.

*Father, I'm beginning to see more clearly. Starting to look at trials as opportunities for you to show yourself strong on my behalf. What feels unsure and unstable will become a strong foundation of faith because I'm choosing to trust you. Determining in my heart that you are worth every ounce of my trust. Believing that your love is enough to get me through.*



## YEARNING

"Yahweh's radiant glory will be unveiled, and all humanity will experience it together. Believe it, for Yahweh has spoken his decree!"

ISAIAH 40:5

The splendor of his glory is overwhelming. His beauty leaves us undone. His love pulls at the deepest places in our hearts, and we respond with unreserved devotion. We're those who believe he wants us to encounter him, and we yearn with desire too profound for words. We've found the One our soul loves, and we will never be the same.

This is only the beginning. All that we've experienced is only a fraction of what is available. There is always more. There are always deeper depths of glory to experience right here on earth. One day we will behold him with unveiled face with nothing to hinder our fellowship. For now, we run with wild abandon to encounter him every day—seeking, knocking, believing.

*Father, your presence has satisfied my soul yet left me longing for more. I'm addicted to your tangible love. Unwilling to rid myself of this holy obsession. You are the beauty I seek. You are the One I long for. Unveil my eyes so I may see you more clearly.*

MAY 10

# DON'T IGNORE THE LEADING OF HIS SPIRIT

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I ask, "What should I say?"

ISAIAH 40:6

*T*he voice of the Lord speaks. It isn't usually a shout—more like a nudge, a gentle desire stirring, a random thought breathed by his Spirit, or a reminder from his Word. Life himself dwells within, so it shouldn't surprise us that when we hear his voice, it doesn't come from outside of us as if he isn't one with us.

The question isn't whether or not God speaks to us, but if we will reply. The random thoughts that rise to capture our attention do so for a reason. All too often, though, we brush them aside. Instead of leaning in to find out what he wants us to say to the stranger only a couple of feet away, we turn inward. We question if we're hearing the Lord and put the emphasis on ourselves—our fear, our inconvenience, our inability. Let's change that!

*Father, teach me to recognize the many ways you speak and try to get my attention. Give me the grace and boldness to follow your leading. Forgive me for brushing away your gentle nudges to talk, to engage with the people around me. Help me to care more about them than my own inconvenience, and speak through me.*

## FAITHFUL AND SURE

"Even though grass withers and the flower fades,  
the word of our God stands strong forever!"

ISAIAH 40:8

There are times when we're so broken and overcome by adversity that we cannot seem to find our way back into the Lord's presence. Though he hasn't left us, in the direst circumstances when our mind is spinning out of control, it may feel that way. Our faith seems to be crumbling, and we struggle to remember an encouraging passage of Scripture. In this place of despair, we know where to run.

When all else fades and fear's talons drag our minds into darkness, the Word of God is the light we need. Meditating on its truth opens us up to receive hope and life. It unshackles us from the lies that left us breathless. His promises remind us of love—faithful and sure. A foundation equipped with protective barriers. Suddenly we can breathe again. Inexplicably, his strength becomes ours as his Word washes away the residue of unbelief.

*Father, thank you for reminding me to run to your Word when my faith feels weak. Your promises are truth I can trust. Speak to me. Lead me to the Scripture passages I need to stand on during this season. Let your Word stir the reality of your love and become life and joy inside of me.*

MAY 12

## YOUR VICTORY IS SECURE

Look! Here comes Lord Yahweh as a victorious warrior;  
he triumphs with his awesome power.

ISAIAH 40:10

*Is* there anything in this world or in your jumbled disarray too difficult for the Lord to triumph over? Despite everything that is happening, he is good. He is love. He has your victory secured. His grace and power have the ability to transfigure the most terrible, ugly mess into a thing of unforeseen beauty.

Turn your attention and look. See the promises and goodness of God with faith-filled vision. He has already made a way for you in this wilderness. In order to find it, you must return to him in faith. You must surrender the fear and exchange it for the wild abandon of belief. He is alive. Faithful. Worthy of trust. Strong and mighty to save. Lift your hands and bow your heart, the King is coming to set you free!

*Father, you are awesome, dripping with majesty and breakthrough. Come to my rescue! Leap over these obstacles and lead me into the joy of victory. Triumph over the enemy's plan. I offer you my worship in advance of what my eyes see. You are good, and so shall my life be.*



## THE SHEPHERD

He will care for you as a shepherd tends his flock, gathering the weak lambs and taking them in his arms. He carries them close to his heart and gently leads those that have young.

ISAIAH 40:11

It isn't until we suffer weakness that we experience the power of his strength. When we are fully dependent on him to rescue us, we find him willing and able. With tender care, he lifts us up and carries us to the place of refreshing and fortitude.

It's okay to not have it all together all of the time. To recognize our need for a Savior. To rest when he invites us to. To lean back and rest in the Lord's arms and find that we've always been here, close to his heart. To remember the place of embrace, and with the uninhibited freedom of a child, return to it. In both joyous and difficult times, he is the constant that holds everything together. He is the Shepherd who watches over us.

*Father, lead me to the place of refreshing waters. Carry me into your presence when I'm weak. Your faithfulness never abandons me. You reveal your love through the nail-scarred hands that hold me. Your strength becomes mine, and I find myself energized, comforted, and refreshed by your presence.*

# YOU'RE NOT INSIGNIFICANT

Who has measured the waters of the sea in the hollow of his hand and used his hand-width to mark off the heavens? Who knows the exact weight of all the dust of the earth and has weighed all the mountains and hills on his scale?

ISAIAH 40:12

If the Omnipotent Creator cares about every detail of earth, how much more does he care about the ones he created in his image? You are important and valued. Every element of your life is important to him, and nothing is too insignificant for his attention. Never hold back any area of your heart from him because everything matters, and he wants to be the Lord of your thoughts.

When you're feeling embarrassed or overlooked, his love is powerful enough to transform every insecurity. God cares about those tiny interruptions of your peace. He notices even the slightest frustration in your voice. Though he is holy and magnificent, he always has time for you. Hold nothing back from him. More than the stars in the sky or the song of a bird in flight, you are the joy that moves his heart.

*Father, sometimes I feel insignificant and incapable of doing what is in my heart. I get stuck in the muddled disillusionment that I don't have what it takes or that my situations aren't important enough for your attention. Thank you. You care about every aspect of my life. With you, I can do everything you've placed in my heart.*

MAY 15

# THE ONE WHO SHARES HIS WISDOM

Whom does he consult to be enlightened? Who teaches him the ways of justice? Who imparts knowledge to him or shows him the true path of wisdom?

ISAIAH 40:14

*T*his God of perfect wisdom, who knows all, sees all, and whose beauty is infused into every sunrise, has no rival. Nothing can stump him. No catastrophe he cannot salvage. Not even the sin of nations sets him off course. His ways are perfect. His knowledge has no precedent.

This all-knowing One stands outside of every paradigm. Yet the mystery of his stance is that he also holds us in himself. We exist in the very origin of wisdom. All that he is and has, has been granted to the very ones he gave his life for. We have the mind of Christ. We are his chosen ones. His beloved. The beautiful remnant he trusts with his wisdom, if only we will ask in faith.

*Father, though I can scarcely fathom your inexhaustible wisdom, I believe you've promised it to me. You told me to cry out for wisdom, and you would be faithful to grant it. I ask for a download of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Counsel me and direct my paths. Let wisdom be my daily guide and faithful companion.*

MAY 16

## NOTHING COMPARES

Who even comes close to being compared to God?  
How could you ever compare God to an idol?

ISAIAH 40:18

*W*hat is there in this life that can possibly be compared to both the magnificence and availability of God? The temporary pleasures of this world, and even our flesh, cannot be compared to the eternal, glorious pleasures of the Kingdom of heaven. When humanity finally tastes and sees that he is good, they will gladly lay down the idols of their hearts.

In all of our searching for more—more comfort, money, recognition, or enjoyment—we're really searching for a hub of deep-seated joy and fulfillment. To find our source, security, and peace. What we're really looking for, even in our desire to connect with others, is something solid and unchanging, no matter what we face. We're all searching for the reality of Christ in our daily living, whether we realize it or not. And truly, when we find him, when we find our Source, we discover the foundation of hope, joy, and satisfaction.

*Father, nothing I desire compares to you. You are the center for every longing and fulfillment of my heart. Let this burning in my heart to know you always be first place. May I never allow other priorities or desires to consume me more than I'm consumed by you.*



MAY 17

## TUGGING AT YOUR SOUL

Don't you realize that God is the Creator? Don't you hear the truth? Haven't you been told this from the beginning? Haven't you understood this since he laid a firm foundation for the earth?

ISAIAH 40:21

*H*old on. Don't let go of the awareness of this holy presence inside of you. Fix yourself firmly to the anchor of your soul. He is the truth you've given your life for. Your relationship with him has changed your entire essence and will continue to change you if you keep seeking, longing, and yielding.

These whispers of truth, washing your soul with warm comfort, draw you to him. Lean into them. The quiet truths tugging at your soul will produce substantial fruit for you to share with others if you'll extend your faith with even more surrender. This brilliant Creator whom you've served and loved has seen every movement of your heart. When you begin to doubt, wonder, or grow weary, he is right there with you, ready to escort you back into the truths that will feed your heart.

*Father, I'm drawing close to you. At times, when I pay more attention to the unpleasant circumstances, I grow frustrated and weary. But you're teaching me to trust you as my unshakable foundation. I will stay close to the truths you've imparted and tuck myself inside their mystery.*

MAY 18

## UPON HEARTS OF HUMANITY

He sits enthroned high above the circle of the earth; to him the people of earth are like grasshoppers! He stretches out the heavens like a curtain, spreading it open like a tent to live in.

ISAIAH 40:22

*W*ho is this God who has called us alongside him? This Glorious One who formed earth and sky yet shares his power and authority—yes, even his very likeness—with the frailty of flesh. He is our strength and hope. He is our God, Savior, Father, and Friend.

In all of his power, magnificence, and omnipotence, he still keeps his eyes on us. Puny, insignificant, frail us. Loved, chosen, desired us. We are the joy of our Creator. Those who believe in our saving God. Those who wake each morning to the sky thrown open like a curtain so we can partake of its beauty. We are children of the most-high God—the One who sits enthroned upon the hearts of humanity and finds his joy there.

*Father, your mercy and grace leave me undone. How attentive and intentional you are with me. I am nothing without you, but with you I am a shining facet of brilliance and glory. Thank you for loving me so well. For choosing me and drawing me to your side.*

## MIGHTY TO SAVE

He reduces rulers to nothing  
and makes the elite of the earth as nothing at all.

ISAIAH 40:23

It's time to stop being more impressed and moved by what is happening around us than in the power of our God. He is the One who sets things in order. The One whose wisdom stretched out the expanse of sky and told the oceans where to stop hasn't been struck ignorant. He isn't confounded by the wisdom of man. He isn't wringing his hands, wondering how to fix things.

It's time to realize the power of our prayers. To unite our hearts and come into agreement with the Lord. Those who rule in foolishness and have unrighteous agendas aren't untouchable. They need our prayers, and God waits for us to cry out in compassion for their souls. No one is too far gone. No city or nation too far removed from his ability to save and heal.

*Father, you are mighty to save. Strong and wise in all of your ways. Though the darkness of the world gets darker still, I believe you will come in glory and set things in order. You will pour out mercy to the innocent and convict the shrewd. I cry out for your mercy upon hardened hearts and praise you for all you will do.*

MAY 20

# THE PERFECT ONE CHOSE YOU

The Holy One asks: "Can you find anyone or anything to compare to me? Where is the one equal to me?"

ISAIAH 40:25

*W*hat an honor it is to be among those who know the Perfect One. To live with hearts bowed low—awestruck and undone by this God who is beyond compare.

When he asks if there is anyone or anything equal to him, it isn't because he has a big ego. It's because he wants us to realize how loved we are. When we are fully convinced of his magnificence, it draws us closer to him. This truth unveils our hearts and creates excitement in us. We have been chosen by the God of perfection. If he is the most glorious, most powerful, and wisest, yet he chose us, what must that mean about *us*? How much more amazing must we be if we are loved and cherished by this Holy One?

*Father, truly there is no one who compares with you. None equal to you in any way. You are beautiful, yet you clothe me with your glory. You are powerful and wise, yet you entrust me with the work of your hands. Thank you for choosing me.*



# GOD IS NUTS ABOUT YOU

Lift up your eyes to the sky and see for yourself. Who do you think created the cosmos? He lit every shining star and formed every glowing galaxy, and stationed them all where they belong.

ISAIAH 40:26

Turn your eyes to the glamorous night sky. The stars sparkle and dance on the edge of his fingertips, declaring his love for you. Stand in the place of awe as you take in the brilliance of creation—this spectacular reminder that God is absolutely nuts about you.

Before we were created, God formed the gifts he would give us. Sun, moon, earth, and sustenance were taken care of before we existed. He was so excited about our arrival. He prepared what we needed and what would become a constant reminder of his love. Relish the extravagance of our Father because every rainbow, soothing sound of nature, and beauty released through his hands are given for our enjoyment.

*Father, thank you for the beautiful gifts you've given me. Remind me when I casually glance at a flower or hear the song of a bird to pause and find you in the moment. To notice your gestures of kindness and tender care. To appreciate the beauty you have placed around me, which speaks of your unparalleled love.*

# MORE RADIANT THAN THE STARS

He lit every shining star and formed every glowing galaxy . . .  
They shine because of God's incredible power and awesome  
might; not one fails to appear!

ISAIAH 40:26

There is something mesmerizing about watching the stars on a night when the sky is full. Their mystery and beauty soothe us. The extent of their light reaches around the world. No one argues about how they shine or when. The world simply receives their illumination and enjoys it.

God has placed every star in its place. Their Creator has touched each one and caused them to shine. But in all of their beauty, they don't compare to the glory of a single child of God. He is more than our Creator; he is our Father. Not only has he formed us and set us in place, he has also filled us with himself. Our very beings swell with his glory, and we emanate a light that is alive. Though the brightness of our light isn't seen with natural eyes, it is ever more radiant—releasing the essence of God everywhere we go.

*Father, shine through me. When people look at me, I want them to encounter you. I want them to feel the glory of your presence and the tangible flow of your love. Like the stars that shine, may others be drawn to light that streams from me.*

## GUARD YOUR HEART

Why, then, O Jacob's tribes, would you ever complain? And my chosen Israel, why would you say, "Yahweh isn't paying attention to my situation. He has lost all interest in what happens to me."

ISAIAH 40:27

When our thoughts are consumed with our problems, it's easy to slip into the sin of complaining. Complaining leads to wrong mindsets. It throws the door open wide for stress and anxiety. Soon, we can't even see straight. One overwhelming thought leads to the next, covering our vision like a thick wet cloth. Before you know it, we feel that God is ignoring us, or perhaps he's left us all together.

Complaining is a dangerous path to take. There is no room for God when we push the awareness of heavenly truth to the background of our thinking. God wants to break off the negativity that has glued itself to our view of life. He wants us to see that every situation can be turned around and filled with his glory. The first step to ridding ourselves of pessimism is to find things to be thankful for.

*Father, forgive me for putting so much effort into scrutinizing my problems. I repent for any negative attitude that didn't reflect the true gratitude of my heart. You have been good to me, and this is what I will fix my mind on. Restore my hope and remove a complaining spirit.*

## WHEN YOU DOUBT

Don't you know? Haven't you been listening? Yahweh is the one and only everlasting God, the Creator of all you can see and imagine! He never gets weary or worn out. His intelligence is unlimited; he is never puzzled over what to do!

ISAIAH 40:28

God is our Father, and he wants us to be real, open, and vulnerable with him. He isn't afraid of our humanness. He isn't surprised when we get worn out and discouraged. But in order to get past the doubt, we must be transparent. We must be willing to be honest about the areas where our faith is struggling.

God is trying to get our attention, but he isn't frustrated. Once we open ourselves up to the Surgeon's hands, his grace comes to heal. It gives us the ability to remember what is true. With hearts laid bare, mercy melts away our frazzled, anxious thoughts. His love strums the strings of our hearts and gives us a reason to sing again. When we've lost our way, he can deliver us from the blackness of a doubt-splotched heart. He wants our attention. He wants us to focus on what we've known all along.

*Father, may your grace help me to see clearly and to remember what you have taught me. Crack the dark shell of doubt and expand my heart. Let me ache again with longing instead of unbelief. In your presence, I can see again. You are the object of my affection.*



# HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING

Don't you know? Haven't you been listening? Yahweh is the one and only everlasting God, the Creator of all you can see and imagine! He never gets weary or worn out. His intelligence is unlimited; he is never puzzled over what to do!

ISAIAH 40:28

*We* are united with the God of all wisdom and intelligence. When swirls of uncertainty blur our vision and tilt us off balance, we can fall hard upon his promise, and he will set us rightly on our feet. The One who sees with unobstructed view knows exactly what he's doing.

This journey of seeking God's wisdom leads us straight to him. When we let go of the fear that we will make the wrong decisions, we step closer to him. We move away from our understanding and step into faith. We declare our absolute dependence on him. Our asking for wisdom must be accompanied by a believing heart. A stance of conviction—knowing that the Father wants us to make the right decisions even more than we do.

*Father, my gaze is on you. Draw me into your beauty. I know that when I'm at peace in your presence, wisdom lands softly. You will show me what to do and what not to do. I don't have to struggle to discern your will but only have to believe that you will reveal it in your time.*

# THE STRENGTH OF GRACE

Those who wait for Yahweh's grace will experience divine strength. They will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles, run their race without growing weary, and walk through life without giving up.

ISAIAH 40:31

Settle your soul and find your peace in God alone. In this season of preparation, the Lord wants you to enjoy him. Be still. Don't fight the timing. Resist the urge to think you can do it on your own. Lean into grace and when warm breezes of release come, you will rise in strength.

Everything you need to soar into this next season is found in him. Soon, you will spread your wings wide and fly higher than you ever imagined you could. Your heart to seek the Lord and to soak in his presence and his Word has equipped you. Though at times you wiggled with impatience, you faithfully returned to him and submitted to the process of maturing love. Grace will do for you what no amount of striving in the natural ever could.

*Father, your patience with me is inexhaustible. Your love sustains me through every season of preparation. I feel winds of grace rising beneath my wings, and now I will soar high above the clouds of weariness. With the confidence and focus of an eagle, I will fly into the currents of grace.*

# SURRENDERED TO HIS WISDOM

"You lands of the sea, stand silent before me! Let the people renew their strength! Let them approach me and state their case. Let's come together to decide who is right."

ISAIAH 41:1

Stand before him with hearts ablaze. You've been invited into the presence of the King. So many questions may claw at your thoughts, but they will fall silent when his love cracks open your soul. This Righteous One, whose beauty awakens faith in sleeping hearts, unrolls the scrolls of understanding and offers them to you. Receive them with joy.

In this place of face-to-face encounters where we stand in silent admiration, we discover his absolute perfection. We realize, in a place much deeper than natural knowledge, that he really has things under control. The ability to trust is a gift unwrapped by surrendered hands. Hands that have laid everything down before the holiness of Christ. It is here, in our undoing, where we're rendered speechless and our hearts are bowed low, that we find strength.

*Father, I fall to my knees in reverence. My heart swells with appreciation and desire. I want to come closer. To feel the whispers of your love upon my cheek. To be infused by your strength as I offer you my weakness. I surrender to the greatness of your wisdom and trust you to work everything out for my good.*

# THE AUTHOR OF OUR DAYS

“Who achieved all this and made it happen? Who guides the destiny of each generation from the first until now? I am the one! I am Yahweh, the first, the unchanging one who will be there in the end!”

ISAIAH 41:4

There will come a time when you will look back and see the faithfulness of God as it unfolded in your life. Your hallelujah will rise, drowning out the heaviness that once held your praise captive. God alone holds your destiny safe. No one else sees the end from the beginning and joyfully tucks it away as a surprise. Though he guides us on our journey, we only see in part.

But what if that praise began to rise now? What if we changed the way we looked at circumstances by filtering them through an expectant heart? This is where destiny is cultivated—in the place of agreement with the One who authors our days but allows us to highlight each page. Gratefulness is the emphasis that reminds us what has been written upon our hearts.

*Father, I won't wait to celebrate you. I don't need everything to be perfect in order to offer you my most exuberant praise. You are worthy of every song, each offering of love, every commitment to dig my heels in and stand in faith. You hold my life in your hands and give each day to me as a gift.*



## LOVE ALWAYS FINDS US

I drew you to myself from the ends of the earth  
and called you from its farthest corner.

ISAIAH 41:9

God has gone to great lengths to be with you, and you will never know a love as pure, as relentless, or as alive. His desire reached you, sparked something within you, before you ever understood exactly what it was.

Let this palpable awareness seep into every thought. Engage the revelation of God's love, and it will penetrate every area of your life.

Love's roar arrests our hearts and settles our souls. It speaks—through busy thoughts and silent musing. Even today, he calls us near. Tugs at our hearts and extends his hand in proposal. The choice to partake of this heavenly manna is ours. He will never force us to dine. Never hold a grudge when busyness sidetracks us. Will continue to draw us to him because love always finds a way. Love always finds us.

*Father, I've never known a love like this. Never been wooed by someone whose desire for me is so untainted and unselfish. The way you reach for me has captured my attention. Consume me—every part, every thought, every breath. Draw me so fully into yourself that everywhere I go, I drip with your essence.*

## LOVE ERASES FEAR

“Do not yield to fear, for I am always near. Never turn your gaze from me, for I am your faithful God. I will infuse you with my strength and help you in every situation. I will hold you firmly with my victorious right hand.”

ISAIAH 41:10

Fear is not your friend! The enemy does not deserve your attention. If you are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, and frustrated, it's because you've let down your guard and allowed fear to smother you. Your Father wants you to see fear for what it is—an attempt to make you doubt his love.

Perfect love will dispel fear. This is more than a mental grasp of spiritual truth. It's a transforming, pulsating, living substance that must be experienced. It is a door that opens so we can step into another dimension of living—one where these lies slide off with ease. It is a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. A slowing down of mind and soul as we engage our spirits with the truth that sets us free. It is here, in this place of holy passion, where love erases fear.

*Father, right here in this truth you've made plain come alive. Roar with passion and power against every wrong mindset. I stand in the gust of your breath, alive with love. Tear away these lies of fear that have rooted themselves in my soul and flood my sacred wounds with beauty and light.*

## HE BECOMES OUR STRENGTH

"Do not yield to fear, for I am always near. Never turn your gaze from me, for I am your faithful God. I will infuse you with my strength and help you in every situation. I will hold you firmly with my victorious right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

It's okay to feel disillusioned at times. To not only feel dazed and confused, but worn out, tired, and motionless. As difficult as life can be, these obstructions serve as launching pads to some of our greatest breakthroughs. It is in this place of utter dependence upon the Lord where we find out just how mighty he really is. We learn about his faithfulness when only his faithfulness can save us.

Unfortunately, it's not always easy remembering this when we're weary. In order to participate with these promises, we need to pay attention to our thoughts, submitting each one to him. We must select the path of faith and daily separate fact from truth. In every situation, he has the answer and offers peace. When we choose over and over and over again to grasp the hand that rescues us, he becomes our strength.

*Father, I sense your grace with me today and lay my burdens at your feet. I'm choosing to leave them there and trust you to be Lord over every one. Focusing on my problems only weakens my faith, so I will fix my gaze on you instead. Strengthen me now as I submit each thought to you.*





*June*



JUNE 1

# WHEN YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED

"All who rage against you will be ashamed and disgraced.  
All who contend with you will perish and disappear."

ISAIAH 41:11

One of the most disheartening things is when people we've trusted turn on us. There is never a way to justify gossip, division, or lies. God sees every heart. That means he knows how to get to the root. We can rest assured that in his way and his timing, the offending party will face truth. God will set things in order.

The test is whether we will attach ourselves to him or to the pain. These traumatic experiences not only reveal the hearts of others, they unmask our own. We must embrace every opportunity to keep our souls clean.

Wisdom leads the way, and often that means closing doors to unhealthy relationships. As we yield to the grace we need, we cannot forsake mercy. The process of healing always includes forgiveness.

*Father, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ (person who wounded you). Help me to release them fully. Heal my heart and set them free from whatever has shackled their souls. Use this situation to build character in me and to teach me about the power of your love. Free me from bitterness and resentment so completely that if I hear their name or see them, nothing in me will oppose you.*

JUNE 2

## HE WON'T LET GO

"I am Yahweh, your mighty God! I grip your right hand and won't let you go! I whisper to you: 'Don't be afraid; I am here to help you!'"

ISAIAH 41:13

Shh! It's time to settle your soul and tap into the presence of the Lord. Don't run off and tune out this offer of peace. No matter what is going on in your life today, it is possible to sense his nearness. You can become aware that he is holding you tightly.

Even when his whispers are vaguely discernable, his faithfulness is loud. He's with you, drawing you into the place of bliss that makes no sense to the mind, nor does it reflect your circumstances. His grace is beyond understanding, and when you accept it, it lifts you above temporary distraction. Here you can taste and see that he is good. Here in this place where all you can do is clasp the hand that grasps yours, you find he's bigger than anything you face. He won't let you go.

*Father, I want to live in the place of peace that surpasses understanding. I want to know what it's like to feel your nearness, even when all hell is breaking loose. Hold me close and don't let me go. Be my strength and my deliverer.*

JUNE 3

## TASTE THE VICTORY

"I am making you into a powerful threshing instrument,  
with teeth new and sharp! You will reduce hills to chaff  
and crush mountains into dust!"

ISAIAH 41:15

Every time you offered the Lord your heart in the midst of struggle, chose to believe despite temptation to fear, or worshipped through tear-swelled eyes, Jesus has seen. Nothing you've done to honor him has ever been overlooked. No trial has ever been wasted by this God who uses everything for his glory.

What once tricked us into feeling defeated has been turned around at the Master's command. We're becoming confident and courageous because we're learning to trust him, no matter what we face. What once would have knocked us down now stirs our battle cry of faith. His Word streaming from radical hearts of trust slices through opposition and causes mountains of resistance to crumble. The taste of victory is ours, all to the glory of our King!

*Father, you never cease to surprise me. Sometimes I forget how much you've taught me. I don't notice the baby steps I've taken, and I don't realize how much more settled I am in the ways of faith. Thank you for taking my weak offerings of love and trust and turning them into powerful weapons of war.*

JUNE 4

# HE DESERVES OUR GREATEST PRAISE!

"You will spin and dance with rejoicing in Yahweh,  
boasting with admiration in the Holy One of Israel!"

ISAIAH 41:16

*W*hen breakthrough comes and you taste the goodness you've been praying for, don't forget to praise the Lord. Spend more time celebrating than you did interceding. Don't rush off with the blessing of victory under your belt without first taking time out to rejoice in the Blessor.

It's easy to complain, yield to fear, and pour out cries of intercession when things are going wrong. But once the stress has lifted, too many say a quick "Thank you, God!" and go about their day. Let's remember to honor him. To take his hand and dance our praise. To sing and shout, declaring our thankfulness for all he's done, and then boasting of his greatness to others. Even if you feel like you have two left feet or physically cannot do much, praise is a matter of the heart. Do all you can because he deserves our admiration!

*Father, you are incredible! I give you my most exuberant praise for all you've done and are yet to do. No one loves me the way you do. No one is as kind or faithful. With all of my strength—with my song, dance, and shouts of praise, I honor and celebrate you.*



JUNE 5

## READY FOR FREEDOM

"I will open up refreshing streams on the barren hills and springing fountains in the valleys. I will make the desert a pleasant pool and the dry land springs of water."

ISAIAH 41:18

*Y*our driest and most barren seasons are just that—only seasons. In the middle of your mess, you've been extended the opportunity to encounter the Lord in ways you otherwise wouldn't. He's ready to create streams within you that you will be able to drink from for years to come. This season is about much more than your temporary need.

Go deeper, beyond the obvious things on your prayer list. What do you believe the Lord wants to teach you or *be* for you right now? Is he pointing out your need to trust? Is he addressing fear? Is he highlighting areas of your soul that need healing? Dig deeper, asking what he wants you to learn during this time, and he'll lead you to the pleasant, secret pools of the desert. These root issues, when worked through with the Lord, will become your greatest source of true blessing.

*Father, when my needs distract me, draw me into your presence. Walk me through the deeper issues of my soul that need to be healed or purified. I won't sweep them under the rug because I don't want to carry them into my next season where I'll have to face them all over again. I'm ready for freedom!*

## CARRIED IN HIS HEART

“Take a good look at my servant! I love him dearly,  
for he is my chosen one. I have taken hold of him in my strength,  
and I have clothed him with my Spirit.”

ISAIAH 42:1

**B**efore the Messiah came, it had already been decided—he would bring light and freedom to the hearts of his people. This King of kings would come as a servant because of love. He would carry the glory of God and walk in divine strength and power. God would clothe himself in flesh.

Long before you ever came to the earth, the Father knew you and created a framework for your life. Just as Jesus was chosen, so were you. Just as he is sustained by Yahweh, so are you. He carried you in his heart with as much desire and love as he had for his Son. After all, he sent his Son for the purpose of redeeming you! Your life holds value. You are, and have always been, wanted and loved. Because of Jesus, you too are clothed with his Spirit.

*Father, how could I ever doubt my worth when I see the great lengths you went to in order to redeem me? Though it's hard to fathom, I have always been a part of your plan. My life has purpose. I am not a mistake. I am deeply known by you and loved with total acceptance and joy.*

JUNE 7

## LESSONS IN HUMILITY

"He will be gentle and will not quarrel with others in public.  
He will not exalt his own voice."

ISAIAH 42:2

The Creator of all that exists, our Savior, Lord, and King, seems to have every right to demand our attention. In a world filled with leaders who push their agendas and try to force us into obedience, it's almost surreal to have a Lord who doesn't. This most powerful One is gentle, never burdensome or oppressive.

What a true example of untainted love and remarkable humility. His lessons of patience, how he doesn't force himself on those he created, teach us a great deal. Jesus doesn't start the day shouting from the sky, "Don't forget who kept you alive while you slept and blessed you with a beautiful sunrise!" He simply gives because he loves. This all-glorious Lord doesn't exalt himself. Let this be an example to us who do so much less yet feel we have the right to demand so much more from the people around us.

*Father, forgive me for carrying even the slightest air of pride, as if anything I've done could have been done without your grace. Help me to treat others with respect, never demanding their obedience or servitude. Teach me what it's like to walk in true humility, never exalting myself or my platform. Highlight any areas of my life where I seek the honor that only belongs to you.*

JUNE 8

## OUR COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR

"He would never crush a broken heart nor disregard the weak and vulnerable. He will make sure justice comes to those who are wronged."

ISAIAH 42:3

Jesus won't kick us when we're down. He never rolls his eyes or belittles the things that have pained us. Repeatedly, our compassionate Savior kneels close and draws us to his side when we are weary. So tender and kind, he isn't ashamed to acquaint himself with our weaknesses. He even went as far as being tempted in the same ways we are so he could relate to us in every aspect.

His mercy and grace abound in our times of great opposition. Not only does he know how to comfort, but he's also willing and able to strengthen. To heal our brokenness and kiss our wounds with healing love. When our whispers of faith fall silent, and all we can do is close our eyes and breathe, Jesus knows exactly what to do to infuse our weary bones with life.

*Father, I need something no one else can give but you. Release your grace over my life. Restore me. Heal me. Strengthen me in ways only you can. Teach me and train me so that with each confrontation of discouragement, I will become more confident in your love.*



## BECOMING COURAGEOUS

"His inner being will not become faint or discouraged, nor will his light grow dim before he establishes justice on the earth. Even the distant lands beyond the seas will hunger for his instruction."

ISAIAH 42:4

Jesus is an example for every facet of our lives. Courage is one of those areas where he gives unparalleled demonstration. Throughout Scripture, Jesus did things no one else had ever done. When confronted by the demon-possessed, he delivered. When tempted by satan, he stood his ground. When scoffed at by religious leaders, he spoke truth. He gave us a taste of what we can do because we have the same Spirit within us.

Of course, the most courageous thing Jesus did was to carry our sin to the cross. This too offers us a glimpse into the bravery we must emulate. When we understand our identity as Jesus did, surrendering our lives only enhances our confidence. We are fully yielded. Unafraid to be wholly his. Courageous because of our deep trust in the Lord. Trust is the starting point of courage.

*Father, thank you for Jesus's example of courage. When the fear of hell nips at my heels, I will roar with confidence and see the enemy flee. I will follow my Savior's example and trust the Spirit within me. As I remain fully yielded to you, you will lead me to victory.*

JUNE 10

## IT ALL POINTS TO HIM

He gives breath to every person  
and spirit to everyone everywhere.

ISAIAH 42:5

From the moment God breathed life into Adam, there was a merging of divinity and flesh. Man was infused with the life-giving substance of Almighty God. With each unconscious breath, we silently declare our dependency upon our Creator, whether we realize it or not.

Each breath expanding our lungs is a gift from the Father. He's given us so many things we seldom appreciate. The many details of our bodies, the complexities of our souls, and the beautiful mysteries pulsating within our spirits—if we were to think through them all, we would be consumed with continual awe. Even the way he's woven together the intricacies of our friendships, jobs, countries of residence, and the like, our lives are a careful design of a loving Father.

*Father, I don't want to take anything for granted. I want to be filled with continual gratefulness because there are always many things to be thankful for. My life is in your hands and has been from the very start. Thank you for reminding me how much you care about every detail.*

JUNE 11

# YOU WERE CREATED TO SUCCEED

"I, Yahweh, have commissioned you in righteousness to succeed.  
I will take your hand in love and watch over you."

ISAIAH 42:6

God set us up for success. The wisdom, favor, finances, and open doors we need aren't stumbled upon. They are sought out. Grabbed ahold of by faith. Bathed in prayer. Brought near by those who dare to believe despite age, race, or education level. In order to see our dreams and desires come to pass, we first must step closer to the Lord. In this place of agreement with him, seeking him above all else, we find everything we need to make our dreams a reality.

You may have faced many failures. You may feel like others succeed and you don't. The truth is, failures are only tasted by those brave enough to put thought into action. Success is enjoyed by those who are braver still—those who refuse to quit, despite failure. Your dream, when you feel the sweetness of God upon it, contains all you need to bring it to pass.

*Father, sometimes my dreams are so big they scare me, but I'm not giving up. Teach me how to walk out the desires of my heart, one step at a time. Lead me with wisdom. Download understanding. Grant me favor. Open doors that have been closed. Counsel me and purify my motives.*

JUNE 12

## SET THEM FREE

"Your mission is to open blind eyes,  
to set prisoners free from dark dwellings,  
and to open prison doors to those who are held by darkness."

ISAIAH 42:7

*You* have a holy calling upon your life. It has nothing to do with how long you've been a Christian or if you have been ordained by man. It definitely isn't determined by how you feel about yourself. As a matter of fact, whether you're confident or shaking in your shoes, the power to set people free only comes from the Spirit of God within you.

You have been ordained by God. Set apart with a divine destiny. You don't need a leader's permission to obey the Lord. You don't need a pulpit in order to be heard or seen. All you need is a willing heart and a listening ear. Pour out compassion without restraint. Love those around you. Look for opportunities to pray for people. Be a light everywhere you go, knowing that the Lord longs to release hope and healing through you every day.

*Father, let my life shine brightly with compassion, tenderness, and power. Help me to remain sensitive to your Spirit and to respond to your gentle nudges. Pour your glory through me to heal the sick and set people free. May I remain more aware of your miraculous power working in me than I am in my inabilities.*



## HEARING GOD

“Don’t you see that what I have prophesied has come to pass?  
And now I am foretelling the future.  
I declare it to you before it sprouts up.”

ISAIAH 42:9

*A*ll healthy relationships have good communication at the core. Our relationship with God is no different. It’s vital and enjoyable to hear him speak to our hearts. The problem is, many have swallowed the lie that they cannot hear from God, so they spend their prayer time constantly speaking and not listening.

The secrets of God are like treasures of gold worth searching out. Secrets he wants to share. Prophetic insight is simply hearing our Father’s heart. Sometimes this insight comes as a feeling—like having a bad feeling about going somewhere, and it later turns out we would have met danger. Other times we just seem to know something beyond natural understanding. Sometimes a word or phrase rises from within or a picture alights upon our mind. Let’s practice listening to him right now.

*Father, I still myself in your presence and lean in to hear. I have more faith in your ability to speak to me than in my inability to hear you. Would you tell me one thing today, one word, phrase, or verse that’s just for this season of my life?*

(Take a moment and listen. Then write down what he says. Soon, your confidence will grow and you’ll hear prophetic encouragement for others.)

JUNE 14

## DISPELLING THE NEGATIVITY

Sing to Yahweh a brand new song! Sing his praise until it echoes  
from the ends of the earth!

ISAIAH 42:10

*T*une yourself into the melody of his grace resounding over your life. It is streaming with joy and peace. You can hear it simply by listening. By remembering. By choosing to hold tightly to the good, while allowing the bad to slip through your fingers like sand. It is a grateful heart that cannot withhold praise.

It's time to rise higher, ascending above the clouds of heaviness and gloom. It's time to sing his praise in a way you never have before. To become so saturated with thankfulness, so aware of his love, that the only thing overflowing from your heart are sounds of devotion and gratitude. Frustration, confusion, and fear cannot exist in the same space as surrender, trust, and praise. Negativity is consumed by the beauty of your whole-hearted songs of thankfulness.

*Father, let the refreshing waters of praise rise from my soul. As I sing my thankfulness and declare my love for you, may distraction fall away from me like a cloak slipping from my shoulders. You deserve my song, my heart, my life, and every offering of my praise-drenched tears.*

JUNE 15

## ASCENDING THE MOUNTAINS

Let the desert and its villages lift their voices in praise! Let the tent villages of Kedar shout their praises! Let the residents of Sela's cliffs shout with glee, with a celebration shout from the mountaintops!

ISAIAH 42:11

*Let* go! As you climb from desert to mountaintop, from the place of your undoing to the place of victory and refreshing breezes, let it all go. With each step you take, leave behind the pain. Forsake the right to be angry. Refuse the self-pity. You're becoming stronger. You're beginning to remember who you are.

You weren't created to remain in the desert. Seasons change, and it's important to recognize when they do. If you shut your eyes and grit your teeth thinking things will never be different, you'll miss the beautiful journey to the mountaintops. Open your eyes. Look where he's led you. Your suffering has made you beautiful because you tucked yourself securely in his love. You are standing in the place of victory, so let your shouts of celebration be heard!

*Father, don't let me get stuck in a mindset of hopelessness or discouragement. Don't allow me to wallow in the murky waters of defeat. Lead me to the mountains of joy and refreshing as we walk through the archways of trust. Here in your love, I'm becoming stronger, realizing you've never left my side.*

JUNE 16

## WHAT IF TODAY WERE DIFFERENT?

Let them give Yahweh the glorious praise he deserves  
and declare his praise in the islands!

ISAIAH 42:12

*T*oo often, we enter prayer in order to receive. We need an answer, a breakthrough, a word of encouragement, or to appropriate something only he can give. But what if prayer is about more than *us*? What if we sat with the Lord and did nothing more than lavish him with praise? What if we intentionally set time aside to let him know how absolutely lovesick and grateful we are? I dare say, we would encounter him in a brand-new way.

Our Father deserves more than we can possibly give. If every breath rising from our lungs was filled with declarations of devotion, it still wouldn't be enough. This beautiful, glorious, and gracious Lord has given us everything. Today, let's honor him with our love. With our praise. With the choice to come into his presence simply to bless him.

*Father, thank you for loving me. For saving me. For the honor of living in the awareness of your presence. Receive my love today. Be blessed by the praise ascending from my heart. I want every thought and word to be saturated with the praise you deserve. My needs can wait another day. All I want is to pour out my love over you today.*



JUNE 17

## OUR HERO

Yahweh goes out to battle like a hero and stirs up his passion  
and zeal like a mighty warrior.

ISAIAH 42:13

*Here* comes the Lord, rushing to your side like a mighty warrior rescuing the one he loves. You are not alone in this fight. He hasn't forgotten you, even though the enemy has thrown out a smokescreen and fights to limit your vision. You will not be defeated because love always finds a way.

The great *I Am* is with you, right now. Take a moment and sit with him. Let his love clear the atmosphere so you can see again. So you can feel again. So you will know. His zealous passion for you never dissipates. You may not understand what he's doing behind the scenes, but as you worship in the face of pain and fear, he is working on your behalf.

*Father, I refuse to accept defeat. You are my Hero. You are the Champion who has already won my victory! You are the God of miracles, signs, and wonders. Nothing is too difficult for you. I set myself in agreement with your love. You will take this situation and turn it around for your glory.*

## GOD IS STILL GOOD

For a long time, I said nothing. I restrained myself and kept silent.  
Now I will groan, pant, and gasp like a woman in labor.

ISAIAH 42:14

God is good, and he works wonders. This truth doesn't change when the shrapnel of tragedy lodges in your soul. He may have seemed silent, but he will come without hindrance to set things in order. When terrible things happen that you have no explanation for—he is still good.

Today, take that pain, those questions, or that tragedy and look at it, squarely. Then declare the truth over each one. Though you may not understand suffering, God's faithfulness is eternal. He is the God of miracles. Beauty will blossom from the ashes of your pain. Sing, even if it's through whispered breath. Worship despite the pain. Don't let the enemy steal your affection. Find the beauty of the Lord's face and rest there. He will not stay silent. He will come to heal your heart.

*Father, even when you're quiet, I believe you are faithful. There will come a time when I will see clearly, but for now, I offer you my most sincere worship, despite the questions. Your grace has etched itself upon my heart and has carried me even when I wasn't aware.*

## TAKE HIS HAND

I will walk the blind by an unknown way  
and guide them on paths they've never traveled.

ISAIAH 42:16

When we don't know the way, our Father does. The comfort for our weary, disoriented hearts is the knowledge that he sees the end from the beginning. When we feel blind and lack direction, our Counselor has a perfect vantage point. All we need to do is extend our hand to the One who is already reaching for us.

Although we may not understand exactly where he's leading or how he intends to get us there, we trust. We follow the light of his presence. We step in sync with him along the paths he chooses. He will never steer us wrong. Even the obstacles within our own souls are moved out of the way when we lay our limited understanding at his feet and run with him in unrelenting devotion and complete surrender.

*Father, I'm standing still, gaze fixed on you. No longer trying to rush you. Unwilling to lag behind. I simply wait and reach for your hand. I recognize that without you, I have no idea what to do or where to go. Clasp my hand, as you have captured my heart. Remove the hindrances and lead me every step of the way.*

JUNE 20

## HE LEADS HIS BELOVED

I will smooth their difficult road and make their dark mysteries bright with light. These are things I will do for them, for I will never abandon my beloved ones.

ISAIAH 42:16

*You* are his beloved. You can never earn this title. This honor is given to you simply because of love. Love always leads. Love always enlightens. Love is bright and revealing. It is always trustworthy, faithful, and true.

In times of adversity, setback, and disorientation, our Father promises to smooth the road before us. He becomes The Way when we cannot seem to find it on our own. The path that has been cloaked in dark mystery, hidden from our understanding, unfolds before us like a red carpet when we choose to believe. When we relinquish the right to figure things out on our own and resign ourselves to the One who never abandons his beloved.

*Father, the road I'm on has felt unsteady, rocky, and unsure. So, in absolute, unhindered resignation and humility, I bow. I need you to either lead me to the right path or illuminate the one I'm on so I can see clearly. I am completely at your mercy. Totally trusting you to lead me because I don't know which way to go. In faith I rest, knowing I can trust you.*



JUNE 21

## A HEART FREE FROM IDOLS

Those who trust in idols, who say to their metal images,  
"You are our gods," will be turned aside in total disgrace.

ISAIAH 42:17

*T*his beautiful One, who contains within himself the whole of time and creation, sees you. Knows you. Loves you. The same God who knows the number of hairs on our heads and sees every tear we cry set in place the power, wisdom, and endurance of all that was and will be. How often we forget. How heart-wrenching to think anything within us could ever steal our affection.

Anything that arrests our attention more than the Lord is in danger of becoming an idol. Having an idol doesn't necessarily mean we bow and worship it. It simply means it has captured a place in our hearts that was fashioned for the Lord. Learning to become aware of his presence continually and communing with him in little moments while we are busy with other things helps keep our hearts free from idols.

*Father, you deserve my unshared attention. Help me to stay aware of your presence in the stillness of my heart, even when my hands and mind are working busily. Keep me free from idols as I dedicate every moment to you and seek to acknowledge you in every situation.*

# YOUR FAITH ISN'T BROKEN

Hear me, you deaf! Look up, you blind, and see!

ISAIAH 42:18

Sometimes it feels as if we're living in a dark tunnel. Trials have muddled our vision and left us feeling lost. We're praying—no—we're crying out in desperation for him to come. We're stuck, stumbling in the darkness. We don't have our fingers in our ears, but they still feel clogged and we cannot hear his voice. Then suddenly, darkness trembles. The promises we've stood on finally crash through the walls of opposition, and light breaks through. Just when we thought our faith had failed us, breakthrough comes.

Nothing can keep his promises from coming to pass if you stand in faith. In order for the deaf to hear, they must first listen. In order for the blind to see, they must first look up. The ways of God sometimes seem surreal, but faith defies circumstance, even when it feels broken. Don't get distracted by the darkness. He's heard your prayers of faith.

*Father, thank you for never forgetting my prayers of faith even when I've forgotten them myself. When I cannot see or hear you, breathe upon the embers of faith barely flickering in my heart. Bring me back to life as I find comfort in your mercy.*

JUNE 23

## TEACH ME

Israel, you have seen so much, but you don't get it!  
You have been taught so much, but what did you really hear?

ISAIAH 42:20

*W*hen we're challenged, our faces are set on the Lord. In desperation, we cry out for relief, seeking him with all we've got. But all too often, on the other side of crises, we don't process what we've learned with the Lord. Soon another perplexing dilemma confronts us, and we deal with it as if the previous trial didn't teach us a thing.

Difficulties can help us grow. The trials the enemy sprinkles across our paths can become seeds of astonishing blessing if we're willing to learn. The Lord wants to teach us about his faithfulness, his ways, and even our own areas of fear, anger, and mistrust. Let's take time to process and even journal the important things he teaches us so we won't forget. We must become intentional about growing, unafraid to truly hear both his encouragement and correction.

*Father, my mind is set on you. I don't want one trial to be wasted. I don't want to walk away from pain, forgetting what I've learned of your love, power, and kindness. I will strip the enemy of any victory by coming away from trials having grown in you. Teach me. I open myself to truly hear.*

JUNE 24

## IT'S TIME TO SEE CLEARLY

This is a people plundered and robbed,  
trapped in holes and hidden in houses of bondage.

ISAIAH 42:22

It's time to be free from the prison of religion. Time to stop letting the enemy rob us of the freedom Jesus paid such a great price to give us. Time to lift our heads above the holes we've heedlessly been contained in and lock eyes with the One who sets us free.

The nature of deception is that we don't realize we're deceived. Only a humble heart embraces correction. The enemy wants us to remain blind regarding areas of religious pride or error. We won't know we're in bondage unless we ask the Lord and welcome the discomfort of change. God is still restoring his church and making us more like Christ. We must always be careful to hear and see with open hearts, ready to receive the new thing God is doing on the earth today.

*Father, unmask any areas of my faith that have been tainted by incorrect beliefs. Let truth guide me. Remove the walls I've erected to keep myself comfortable, and let the fire of your love catapult me into truth. Reveal any lies I've believed. Open my eyes so I will see clearly.*



JUNE 25

# YOU ARE HIS MASTERPIECE

“Listen, Jacob, to the One who created you, Israel,  
to the one who shaped who you are . . .  
I have called you by name, and you are mine.”

ISAIAH 43:1

*You* are beautiful, loved, and created by the One who calls you his own. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Don't let disappointment, rejection, or failure define you. Others may look at what you've done and even you may see yourself through past experiences, but God sees your inner beauty—the real you. Never feel insignificant. Never accept the lie that you have no value. You are worth everything to him. He paid a great price to be with you.

You are God's masterpiece—priceless, unique, and desired. Once you embrace the truth of who you are and see yourself through the eyes of love, you won't strive to prove it to anyone. You will be at peace with who you are and be happy with how he made you. Remember who you are. You are defined by the price of perfect love.

*Father, let your love wash away any lies I've believed about myself. I want to see myself the way you see me: flawless, beautiful, and sublime. I am the apple of your eye, your treasure, and your bride. The power of your truth is like a breath of fresh air. I am your masterpiece.*

JUNE 26

## BREATHE

"When you pass through the deep, stormy sea, you can count on me to be there with you. When you pass through raging rivers, you will not drown."

ISAIAH 43:2

**B**reathe. Find your bearings in the middle of this storm by settling your soul in him. You won't be able to find the surface of these deep waters without him. Don't allow your mind to hurl you into frenzy. When chaos rages against you, you can't think your way out of it. You must first find his presence.

The crashing waves of warfare may be pulling you under, but flailing around won't save you. You must fall with complete abandon into the arms of your Rescuer and Savior. The hardest part is shutting down the incessant thoughts, but it can be done if you'll submit each one to him. You can find his presence because he is with you right now and is drawing you close. It is in peace that you will see and hear clearly. Be still and know.

*Father, I feel like I'm drowning in these crashing waves. I don't even know how to pray because I can barely see straight. I still myself before you now. Come and wrap me in your arms. Lift me up and show me the way of peace and wisdom.*

## PERSECUTION

“When you walk through persecution like fiery flames, you will not be burned; the flames will not harm you, for I am your Savior, Yahweh, your mighty God, the Holy One of Israel!”

ISAIAH 43:2-3

One of the hardest tests is when those we trust wound us. It's a painful reality that sometimes people we've confided in, even leaders, unjustly persecute us. It brings a wounding that's hard to describe. Mistreatment from friends and leaders is a test few escape. Even Jesus suffered betrayal, misunderstanding, and persecution.

There will come a time when every wrong will be made right. The wailing howl of persecution will be nothing compared to the mighty roar of justice. While you wait, pay attention to your reactions. The flames of persecution have a way of revealing areas of anger, unforgiveness, resentment, and pride. Be careful not to justify sinful attitudes. The choice to forgive not only serves to strengthen you, it also unleashes deep healing for your soul.

*Father, I forgive those who have wounded and persecuted me. It doesn't matter whether or not they understood how cruel they were. All that matters is that you help them. Let me see them through your eyes. May mercy, peace, and hope fill any area that has been darkened by offense. I release them to you.*

## ETERNALLY LOVED

"Since you are cherished and precious in my eyes, and because I love you dearly and want to honor you, I willingly give up nations in exchange for you—a man to save your life."

ISAIAH 43:4

Sometimes we just need to be reminded how much the Lord cares for us. His love, more than any other, has the power to lift our mood and encourage our languishing hearts. How mind-boggling it is to think that our King cherishes us, calls us precious, and desires to honor us. His perfect love is hard to fathom yet easy to enjoy.

Because our Father is so kind, he's given us an entire book filled with life-giving words to remind us of the way he feels about us. He's fashioned the earth to provide food, and orchestrated the beauty of nature for us to enjoy. But the most powerful demonstration was when he gave Jesus to ransom our souls. Whenever we're feeling particularly down, all we need to do is think about his devotion toward us. We are dearly and eternally loved.

*Father, thank you for reminding me how deeply you care for me. I feel the sweetness of your love even now. It's hard to understand how the Creator of all that was, is, and ever will be could possibly feel so strongly about me. Still, my soul delights in this overwhelming truth.*



## FEAR FADES IN HIS PRESENCE

"I am with you now, even close to you, so never yield to fear."

ISAIAH 43:5

*I*n these spaces thick with fear are crevices wide enough for the glory of God to squeeze through. When your mind is bombarded by thoughts that lead in every direction other than his presence, the simple bowing of the heart flings open the door to his grace.

In the swirls of turmoil, we have a Savior. He is with us even when the mind has thrown a filthy cloak over our ability to feel, see, or hear him. When fear suffocates our faith, we can launch ourselves into his presence by very gently turning our attention to him and choosing to believe he is there. Soon, love closes the distance. Fear begins to melt away in the heat of his holy passion, and we realize he has been here all along.

*Father, forgive me for yielding to fear. Help me to become aware the moment it seeks to steal my attention. Grace me with the ability to tap into your love every moment. Fill me. Consume every area of my thoughts so I will recognize when they drift from you.*

JUNE 30

## HE PURSUES THE PRODIGALS

"I will bring your children from the east; from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, 'Hand them over!' and to the south, 'Don't hold them back!' Bring me my sons from far away, my daughters from the ends of the earth!"

ISAIAH 43:5-6

*T*he Father knows his children. He never turns away from them just because they turn from him. He has promised to go after them. To chase them down and gather them in his arms. He alone knows how to bring them home, no matter how far they have run.

God's heart for the prodigals is even more fiery and determined than the heart of a parent whose child has gone astray. He doesn't fret and worry. He simply goes after them. He commands the world to surrender what doesn't belong to it. These lost ones are his and his alone. It's time we join our faith with his commitment to bring them back into *his* arms, even if it takes longer for them to come back into ours. We may not be aware of what he's doing, but he has promised to go after them. He is not a man, and he does not lie.

*Father, I lay my worry, fear, and impatience at your feet. You love the prodigals even more than I do. Run after them as you've promised, and wrap them in your arms. Soften their hearts with your love. You alone have exactly what they need.*



*July*



JULY 1

## YOU WERE MADE FOR HIS GLORY

“Bring me everyone who is called by my name, the ones I created to experience my glory. I myself formed them to be who they are and made them for my glory.”

ISAIAH 43:7

*You* were created to experience God’s glory. This isn’t a flippant saying that carries no substance. It’s not a religious act or a flinging of the soul that isn’t first nailed deep into the fabric of our being. This glory—this atmosphere emanating from all that he is, knows, and does—alters us at the very core. It is not just around him. It is him.

God and his glory cannot be separated. It is the very expression of his love. It’s alive just as he is alive. It defines us and gives us identity. Once we taste it, it opens our eyes and creates a path for us to follow so we are never unsure how to find it again. If we will give ourselves fully to the Lord each and every day, we will not only be visited by his glory, it will become our way of life.

*Father, I want all you have for me. I want your glory to saturate every area of my life. I long for the awareness of your presence. To be consumed by the purity that changes the way I think and act. Come and make your home in me. Teach me to make my home in the reality of your love.*



JULY 2

## KNOWING HIM

Yahweh says, "You are my witnesses, my chosen servants.

I chose you in order that you would know me intimately, believe me always, and fully understand that I am the only God."

ISAIAH 43:10

*T*he crux of our salvation isn't what we do. Yes, God desires for us to collaborate with him in ministry and to reach the world around us with his love. However, we must offer more than words void of substance. We must allow his love to reach through us. We must first know him intimately for ourselves.

The only way to extend him to others is to understand the ways of love. Walking in intimacy with the Lord and cultivating an ongoing relationship with him is our first calling. Love keeps us balanced. Everything else is set in motion by this one fundamental truth—he chose us in order that we would know him intimately. If we don't know him, we only release information *about* him. But if we know him, we can literally release aspects of him into every situation.

*Father, I want more of you. I desire to know you in ways no one else has ever known you before. I want to hear you more clearly. To see the beauty of your face and feel the sweetness of your touch. Meet with me now and every day. Lead me as your beloved one to release your love to others.*

JULY 3

## NONE OTHER

"I, only I, am Yahweh, and there is no Savior-God but me."

ISAIAH 43:11

People, places, and practices may bring you temporary peace. None of them, though, can rescue your soul and give you the keys for lasting joy and peace. In our culture, we're used to instant communication and split-second answers. Unfortunately, there is no instant fix for what truly plagues us. Yes, the journey to wholeness starts with a single decision to walk with Jesus, but it is cultivated over time.

We need a Savior who is willing to kneel down in the trenches with us and not be afraid of our filth. We need a King who pulls us close to his throne and wraps us in robes of righteousness. We need deep change that lasts. All these things are found in no other source than God. Walking with him is a lifelong process. His gift is not only eternal salvation but also life abundant, which starts right now.

*Father, I'm pressing into the only source of true contentment and salvation. Mature me. Build character in me as I yield to you over and over again. I've searched and searched, yet still I have found none as faithful and kind as you.*

JULY 4

## IT'S TIME TO BELIEVE

"From the very beginning, I am the only God!  
No one can be snatched from my hand.  
When I choose to act, who can reverse it?"

ISAIAH 43:13

*We* must be careful not to become so familiar with God that we forget that he is God. Omnipotent. Sovereign. Holy. The Creator of all that exists.

Let's exalt him, not just in our understanding but also in our hearts. In the moments we falter in our faith and wonder if he'll come through. We cannot believe he is God in some areas and not in others. It's time to stand in awe of the One who still does the miraculous. The One who taught our hearts to beat and the birds to sing. The One who fed the multitude with a few loaves and fishes. The One whose virgin birth was naturally impossible. The One who defeated death. This is the God we've given our lives to, and nothing can stop him! It's time to believe!

*Father, I bow in reverence before your majesty. Forgive me for doubting. Forgive me for trying to reason my way into faith. All I need to do is to let go of fear and dive into your love. Today, I take your splendor to heart and accept that you are exactly who you say you are.*

JULY 5

# YOU WON'T DROWN

Yahweh is the one who makes a way in the sea,  
a pathway in the mighty waters.

ISAIAH 43:16

*Y*ou may feel like you're drowning in a sea of trial and difficulty, but Yahweh has promised to make a way. As much as we'd like him to reach down and draw us out of the waters, he often teaches us that the way out is through. Through the waters with him.

It's here, in this place of desperation with wave after wave beating down upon us, where we learn the lessons of total and absolute dependency upon the Lord. He never promised we wouldn't have difficulty. But he did say that he would hear our cries, draw near to us, and deliver us. The path through the mighty waters is still surrounded by the surging swell, and in order not to collapse with fear, we must keep our eyes on God. These struggles are used to strengthen us. To teach us that we're overcomers. To show us how to defeat the enemy with the Holy Spirit at our side.

*Father, it's with purposed intention that I reach for you. Take my hand and lead me to the other side of this battle. Make a way in the middle of this opposition like you did for Moses when you parted the Red Sea. Strengthen my faith. With you at my side, I won't drown. I will emerge victorious!*



# STEPPING INTO SOMETHING NEW

"Stop dwelling on the past. Don't even remember these former things. I am doing something brand new, something unheard of. Even now it sprouts and grows and matures. Don't you perceive it?"

ISAIAH 43:18-19

One of the greatest hindrances to breakthrough is being stuck in the past. Even memories of the good can restrict your view of the future. Not only does God want you to anticipate the blessings he has in store, he wants to prepare you for them. He wants you to be grounded in him, not fastened to a screenplay of what was or glued to the frustration of what never came to pass.

Lay your head upon his chest and listen as he releases a new word of encouragement over your life. Take his promises and hold on to them with ferocious faith. It's time for you to lock eyes with the One who will resurrect your faith and redeem what has been lost. It's time for increase and joy. Release the past to him because this new reality is greater than you can imagine.

*Father, speak to me. The past, whether good or bad, is in the past. Heal me of old disappointments and wounds, and breathe upon me with fresh vision and revelation. Prepare me for all you have in store so I will be ready. I look to you with joy-filled anticipation.*

JULY 7

## ENCOUNTERING HIM IN THE DESERT

"I will make a way in the wilderness  
and open up flowing streams in the desert."

ISAIAH 43:19

When wilderness seasons come, when everything feels like a struggle and nothing seems to be going your way, there is still good news. It is here in these dark seasons where God's love shines the brightest. There will never be another moment where you will discover him the way you will right now.

In the middle of difficulty, God is exactly what you need. The desert summons a thirst that cannot be quenched by anything but him. He becomes the flowing streams you need. Reaching for something else to satisfy is like grasping at a mirage. These times of desperation are meant to point us to a relationship with the Lord more than anything else. To teach you how absolutely gratifying his love can be. If you will quiet your soul and rest in him, God will turn your wilderness into a place of heavenly encounter.

*Father, meet with me. More than anything else, I yearn for the refreshing waters of your presence. I want to find you here in ways I've never known before. Make yourself real to me in unimaginable ways. I will remain close to you, for you alone are my hope and strength.*

JULY 8

## A SONG IS RISING IN THE WILDERNESS

"I supply streams of water in the desert and rivers in the wilderness to satisfy the thirst of my people, my chosen ones, so that you, whom I have shaped and formed for myself, will proclaim my praise."

ISAIAH 43: 20-21

*You* are going to come out of this with praise rising from your lips. God is not going to abandon you when you need him most. He has promised to make this wilderness a place of flowing waters—a place of refreshment and satisfaction. This unlikely place can become a birthing place for glorious encounters of his love.

You may only be able to see the grim surroundings of hopelessness and disappointment, but God wants to give you fresh vision. The greatest restraint to breakthrough is not focusing on the difficulty but on the One who is with you in the midst of it. Remind yourself what he's promised. Slam the door on impatience and frustration. Stop listening to the lies of the enemy. God will come through, so start rejoicing and sing his praise in advance!

*Father, I disengage myself from unhealthy mindsets that say I'll be stuck in this season forever. That's a lie, and I refuse to accept it any longer. A song is rising within me. A song of your faithfulness and love. You're doing something amazing, even though I cannot see it yet. So I will rejoice in you and know that you are good!*

JULY 9

## OUR ONE AND ONLY

"I, yes I, am the One and Only, who completely erases your sins, never to be seen again. I will not remember them again."

ISAIAH 43:25

God doesn't define you by your sins, and you shouldn't either. Your life and all that you have done is now hidden in Christ. When God the Father looks at you, he sees a reflection of his Son. You are spotless. A glorious bride, radiating with his essence. He sees you through the redeeming blood of Jesus when you choose to accept his gift of salvation.

We are always growing. Always choosing to embrace a life of surrender. Our life with the Lord is a merging of his glory with our frailty. It takes a continual, daily commitment to say yes to him and no to sin, regardless of how small. He wants to refine us so nothing hinders us from becoming all he's created us to be. He waits to be gracious to us. Longs to be our One and Only.

*Father, infiltrate every thought. Flood every desire. Saturate my motives, moods, and musings with your purity. Let nothing remain in me that isn't absolutely consumed by the glory of your presence. Give me the grace to recognize and acknowledge you in everything I do and think.*



JULY 10

# YOU ARE LOVE'S PERFECT GIFT

"I am Yahweh, your Creator, who shaped you in my womb."

ISAIAH 44:2

*You* are not a mistake. You are not an accident. Whether your parents planned you or not, God knew exactly what he was doing when he set your life in motion. Formed not only of flesh and blood but of spiritual DNA, you were carefully and intricately chosen by your heavenly Father.

Every detail of your being—each breath, dream, and flitting subconscious thought is known by him. While you sleep, he cradles you in his love. When you wake, his presence is ready to greet you. His love is never ending and never failing. Every movement of your heart toward him is always noticed. You are the gift—the perfect gift—he has not only created but chosen for his Son. You delight his heart, and in ways you cannot comprehend, you complete him.

*Father, you are changing the way I see myself. Not only am I fearfully and wonderfully made, I am loved. Wanted. Cherished by you. Just thinking about your love for me leaves me undone. When I look in the mirror or am reminded of my weaknesses, help me to see the beauty you see. Give me the ability to embrace the truth of who I am.*

JULY 11

## UNDER HIS WATERFALL

"I will pour refreshing water on the thirsty  
and streams on the dry ground."

ISAIAH 44:3

Stand beneath the waterfall of his love. Let it fall in heavy glory until you're drenched. So saturated, there isn't a dry spot left. Stay there. Stay longer than you ever have. Allow this tangible love to drown every contrary thought. You were created for so much more than your imagination can handle.

We can never get enough! Even when we're inundated with a deluge of his glory, it leaves us wanting more. Our thirsty souls somehow become both satiated and parched. Perhaps it's because there's always more. Always room for more of his glory. Always deeper wells within us waiting to be filled.

Whether today finds you drenched in heavenly bliss or dry and thirsty, his love is reaching out. Close your eyes, turn your heart to him, and stand beneath the waterfall of glorious refreshing.

*Father, there's a cry in my heart for more of you. To know and experience you in fresh ways. To hear you more clearly and to see you more profoundly. I'm yearning for more of you in every way. Pour out your presence today. Saturate me with your love. My heart is wide open.*

JULY 12

## OUR CHILDREN ARE HIS CHILDREN

"I will pour out my Spirit on your children,  
my blessing upon your descendants."

ISAIAH 44:3

Every parent has grand ideas regarding their children's futures. When they're young, we sit back and dream about what they may become. We want the best for them. Endeavor to model the values we hold dear. Sacrifice and willingly lay down our own desires in order to further theirs. Most of all, we love. We give them a taste of heaven by emulating the Father.

In all of our well-planned parenting, we can only go so deep. The true heart of the matter, the nitty-gritty of what truly impacts their relationship with the Lord, is something personal. Eventually, it's between them and God. He cannot be forced, only presented. The real act of faith is when we lay our children before the Lord and choose to trust that he alone will win their hearts. We stand on his promises, like the one above, and know that he loves them even more than we do.

*Father, I pray your blessing upon my children. Pour out your Spirit and draw them close to you. Make yourself real to them so they always have the foundation of your presence to stand on. May their experience of you be one of tenderness, joy, and unshakable confidence.*

JULY 13

# YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOVED

"I am the Beginning and I am the Ending,  
and I am the only God there is."

ISAIAH 44:6

Everything begins and ends with the One who always was and always will be. The God of mystery, wonder, and endless wisdom. His throne is eternal, secure, and strong. He rules the entire universe, yet his devotion to his beloved is unrelenting. He knows us inside and out. Throughout every generation, his Word remains true.

Though our lives are but fleeting moments upon the earth, God's love extends throughout eternity. He has loved us and known us before the beginning of time. He knew exactly how we would turn out, saw every one of our failings, yet still chose us to be his very own.

Beloved, you were his desire all along.

*Father, you are the first and the last and everything in between. Much greater than my understanding, you are the God of wonder. You are the still, small voice that whispers from deep within. There's no denying your power and grace. It will take all eternity to fully discover the greatness of your glory. Even now, I'm undone by these limited encounters—trinkets of splendor that are nothing compared to the glory yet to be revealed.*



## WITH A HEART OF FAITH

"Who is like me? Go ahead, stand and speak up. I'll wait for him to announce it and explain it all to me! Who else has announced from everlasting what is to come? Let him prophesy what is yet to be."

ISAIAH 44:7

The greatest of man's wisdom is nothing more than a flicker of waning light compared to the wisdom of God. Though men argue, strive to put everything into comprehensible packages, and value what is logical and solid, God stands above it all. There is no way to explain the unexplainable. We simply must concede to the reality that bypasses our minds and captures our hearts.

The reality of God is recognized in the beauty around us. We see him in every face. Notice him in the scent of blooming flowers and in the wonder of an artistically designed snowflake. Experience his love and presence in the depths of our beings. His reality is a substance held internally, not externally. Like emotions or thoughts, which cannot be pressed between our hands, God cannot be laid out on a petri dish. Instead, he reveals himself to those who seek him in humility.

*Father, I bow before you in silent wonder. You are perfect. Holy. Wise. You are the God who sees all and knows all yet tenderly holds my heart. I don't have to understand you to enjoy you. There truly is none like you, and I humbly embrace all that you are with a heart of faith.*

JULY 15

# HE WON'T LET YOU GO

"Do not fear nor be shaken! . . .  
There is no other Rock of shelter; I know not one."

ISAIAH 44:8

*L*et's be honest, sometimes life packs a wallop. Right there—smack between the eyes when you weren't expecting it. Or in the gut. Or both. Dazed and numb, all you can do is close your eyes and lean on his grace. Or run into his presence and hide, knowing he'll never turn you away.

On days like this, or in weeks, maybe even months, all we can do is process our pain with the Lord. Refuse to navigate the storms without him. Turn our back on fear, and with every ounce of faith, lock eyes with our Savior. Choose to be grateful for his love as he carries us in crises. It may take us time to find our bearings. We will find them, however, if we remain wrapped in his big strong arms that never let go.

*Father, sometimes I don't know how to pray. I'm left stunned by unforeseen circumstances and can do nothing more than hide myself in you. Thank you for holding me, comforting me, healing me, and guiding me through this in a way only you can.*

JULY 16

## WALKING IN HIS ABUNDANT GRACE

They have no clue what they're doing and don't comprehend how absurd it is! For they shut their eyes so they cannot see. They close their hearts so they cannot understand.

ISAIAH 44:18

*We* all need mercy. It's easy to see the errors, folly, and ignorance of others, but when we hold them at arm's length and judge, we too have become deceived. It's not enough to flippantly declare, "Lord have mercy on them!" We need to cry out to taste his compassion, and then intercede with a true and loving heart.

Let us never forget that without the Lord's grace upon our lives, we too can fall. Mercy and humility keep us. The fear of the Lord protects us. But pride and arrogance, thinking we are above others, is a quick path to a dangerous descent. We need to remember that even though we may not fall into the trap others have, we are not better than they are. We are only walking in his abundant grace.

*Father, my heart grieves for those whose hearts are closed to you. With sincerity, I cry out for your mercy. You alone know how to strip the veils from their eyes. Set them free from the enemy's snare. Meet with them and make yourself real. Heal their hearts and make them whole.*

JULY 17

## FINDING OUR WAY BACK

"I have swept away your sins like a thick cloud. I have made your guilt to vanish like mist disappearing into thin air. Now come back, come back to me, for I have paid the price for you."

ISAIAH 44:22

Can you hear the Lord's love calling out? His longing to be with us doesn't fade despite our greatest sin. Our darkest, deepest failing never pushes him away. He doesn't throw a guilt trip at us or give us the silent treatment to show his displeasure. He simply yet powerfully provides everything we need to find our way back to him.

Those who have pushed the Lord away haven't *truly* pushed him away. Nothing separates us from his love. While walls may have been erected in order to dull the awareness of his love, he is still close. He keeps the path leading back to him uncluttered and easy to find. He stands with open arms, drawing us back to him, so we'll remember who we truly are.

*Father, thank you for never condemning me. For always reminding me who I am when I forget. For whispering truth when confusion snags my soul. For keeping the path clear so I always know where I belong. For declaring that, in my weakness, I am still loved. But most of all, thank you for mercy.*



JULY 18

## EMANATING WITH GLORY

Sing! Starry sky above, break loose with singing, for Yahweh has finished it! Shout! Earth deep below, give up your shout! Mountains high, break out with joyous songs of praise! Let the forest choirs join in, with every tree singing its notes!

ISAIAH 44:23

It's humbling to imagine the beauty of creation crying out with praise to their Creator. In mysterious union, each bellowing wind, intensely colored sunrise, rising scent of flowers, and song of rain, unite in joyous declaration. Effortless and continual, nature emanates with the glory it has been given in order to honor God.

Love exudes from you as well. When you live to honor the Lord and your heart is constantly leaning toward him, you release a continuous fragrance of devotion. While you work, sleep, and walk out your destiny, your entire being exhales with cries of glory. You are one with the Lord in ways creation never can be.

*Father, I want every part of me to be saturated with heavenly glory. To radiate with intense passion while doing the most menial tasks. May my life, thoughts, and even my breath rise to you in deepest admiration without ceasing. May every cell of my body live to praise you.*

# HE DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP

"I am Yahweh, Creator of all. I alone stretched out the canvas of the cosmos. I who shaped the earth needed no one's help."

ISAIAH 44:24

Think about how absolutely magnificent and powerful God is. Now, think of the areas where your faith has been struggling. Consider the situations you haven't been able to fully release into his hands. Is the same God who shaped the earth and stretched out the canvas of the cosmos able to take care of your situation? We know the answer is a resounding yes. Yet sometimes we have a ridiculous notion that he might need our help.

While God does ask for our agreement, he doesn't need us to take over for him so he can take a break. He hasn't lost his power, nor has his wisdom faded. Only he can set the impossible things back in order, and he doesn't need us playing God trying to control things. This is where faith steps in, by learning to rest instead of trying to fix the things only he can change.

*Father, I'm sorry if I've allowed worry and fear to push me to react instead of letting go and trusting you. You are powerful enough to take care of impossible things. Instead of racking my brain and trying to figure out what to do, I will lean into your presence and wait for you.*

JULY 20

## BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

"I confuse the wise, who think they know it all,  
and make their 'knowledge' into foolishness."

ISAIAH 44:25

*T*hose who think they know it all and who lead others into error will one day see truth. This isn't a threat or a punishment. It is the mercy and love of God to one day unveil their eyes. So many are living in darkness, unaware that their foolish beliefs have crippled them. But God will come and reveal his glory. His presence will be their undoing. They will be forever grateful.

We don't have to fight and strive to contradict every wrong belief. We only need to pray with compassion that those who are deceived and filled with arrogance will taste of his mercy and love while they're still alive. That the foolish will cast their cloaks of pride at his feet so that he can replace them with garments of righteousness before it's too late.

*Father of mercy and compassion, open the eyes of the spiritual blind. Forgive them for rejecting truth and feasting on deception. Make yourself real to them. Stand in the middle of their wide cluttered road so they will come face to face with truth.*

JULY 21

## YOU ARE KNOWN BY GOD

"I say concerning Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he will carry out all the purposes I have for him.'"

ISAIAH 44:28

God knows you. He knew you long before you were ever born. This verse of Scripture is a beautiful reminder of the sovereignty of God because Isaiah prophesied of Cyrus one hundred and fifty years before he became king.

God holds your future. He carries you in his loving hands and guides you toward your purposes as he shapes you into who you will become. Our Shepherd is also our Maker—the One who knows our days and fills our lives with joy, destiny, and satisfaction. He is our all, and we are his beloved children. He not only gave us his Son. He also promises to give us everything else we need. He wants us to fulfill our purposes on earth. That begins by us discovering our identity. It flows out from our union with Christ.

*Father, when I feel insignificant, all I have to do is remember—you know me. You see me. You have a purpose for my life. As the lens of my perception comes into focus, I can breathe again. Find peace and joy again. When I realize that you knew me before I ever came to earth and that you implanted destiny within me, I find hope again. With you—in you—I will fulfill my purposes.*



# CRASHING THROUGH OBSTACLES

"I will march out in front of you and level every obstacle. I will shatter to pieces bronze doors and slice through iron bars."

ISAIAH 45:2

**L**ook out, obstacles! Here comes Jesus. Move out of the way, hindrances, because you're about to be obliterated. The Lord, mighty to save, is going before us and kicking down those walls that have stood in our way. This is our time of breakthrough and nothing can stop it!

Don't cower behind him hoping things will change. Stand tall. Remember who you are and who he is. Sure, there are real obstructions along the path. No one is denying that. But, as believers, we choose to get excited about them. We can hardly wipe the smirks off our faces because we can't wait to see what God has up his sleeve to cut through those iron bars. When we add faith to the mix, he demolishes every hindrance of the enemy, and together we crash through every impediment.

*Father, I've clothed myself in faith and thrown off the restricting garments of fear and doubt. Let's do this! Let's move these lying, deceptive walls of hindrance out of the way. I'm done staring at them as if they are too solid and heavy for you to move. It's time to see what's on the other side!*

JULY 23

# GOD WILL REVEAL HIS GOODNESS

"I will give you hidden treasures from dark, concealed places and wealth waiting in secret sites so that you recognize me, for it is I, Yahweh, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name!"

ISAIAH 45:3

*H*idden within the shadows of every dark and murky place are treasures. Figuratively, that could refer to lost souls, concealed but ready to be set free, or to the redemptive power of God that turns our pain into blessings. Or, it could be literal—a financial recompense when the enemy has stolen from us. The treasures of his gifts and kindnesses can be found in the most unlikely places.

God loves to shine his light into the darkness. He's skilled at revealing the secret blessings we've overlooked. Though the enemy would like to keep our eyes closed to the inner workings of God's blessings in the midst of trying times, God loves to highlight them. He enjoys pointing out the good that he's resurrected from the bad.

*Father, I need you to help me find the blessings in the middle of my pain. I cry out for you to turn every plan of the enemy into a victory. Release the light of your glory into every dark crevice and reveal the good that comes when you display your goodness.*

JULY 24

## PAYING ATTENTION

"I will give you hidden treasures from dark, concealed places and wealth waiting in secret sites so that you recognize me, for it is I, Yahweh, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name!"

ISAIAH 45:3

*D*on't you just love this verse? Think of the people you've met in the course of your life. Do you remember all of their names? God does. He not only knows each name, but he also knows each person to the depths of their souls. Even good parents don't always understand what's happening in the heart of their child. But our heavenly Father always understands. He pays attention to each and every one of his children.

There is no other person on the face of the earth so available. So in love with humanity. Let's aim to be more like him. To pay attention more. To make people feel known, heard, and understood. To slow down and be present in every conversation. To find ways to incorporate this aspect of God's character in our own lives.

*Father, you never cease to amaze me. Over and over, you reveal aspects of yourself I've never considered. Thank you for making me feel known, loved, and heard. Teach me to pay attention to the people around me, and give me the grace to treat others with the same honor and attention you give to me.*

JULY 25

## YOU ARE ROYALTY

“For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name and give you a title of honor.  
But you don’t even know me.”

ISAIAH 45:4

*B*efore we ever gave our hearts to the Lord, he held our title of honor in his hands. He paid the price to rescue us so we wouldn’t have to grow up in shame and loneliness. We have the greatest honor of all: we are not only children of God, but we are also royalty.

The kindness and tenderness of the Father is so amazing. His mercy and grace leave us completely undone. To think that he not only wants to be with us forever but also entrusts us to carry his power and authority on the earth is hard to fathom. Yet this is who we are—children of the King. The ones who carry his name, his Spirit, his power, and his love. Before we ever said yes, he watched and waited with a heart full of love. Now we are his. Now we walk with the title of *beloved* etched upon our hearts.

*Father, I am yours—now and forever. I don’t deserve any of the things you’ve entrusted me with, but I pray I will carry them with honor, respect, and value. Teach me to follow the leading of your Spirit, releasing the power of love everywhere I go.*



JULY 26

## ALL WE NEED

"I am Yahweh, the only God there is, and you'll never find another. I will strengthen you for victory, even though you do not intimately know who I am."

ISAIAH 45:5

*You* can search other religions, various forms of non-Christian meditation, or dive deep into your own psyche, but you'll never find the life of God outside of God himself. There is no other place to find what your soul craves than in the presence of Jesus.

The truth is that even Christians forget that the meaning, joy, and value of their lives can only be found in God. Many seek to find their true inner-self by reaching outside themselves. They seek to fill a God-shaped void with trinkets and temporary pleasures. They grasp for mates, money, or anything to make them feel whole and happy. Many get distracted by the blessings God holds in his hands, forgetting that when we have him, all those things eventually come.

*Father, all of my searching for identity, contentment, and happiness will always lead me back to you. Forgive me for getting distracted by the temporary desires in my life. Give me the grace to keep you first. All I need is found in you, and inside of you, I find all I need.*

JULY 27

## TO KNOW HIM MORE

"I am Yahweh, the only God there is, and you'll never find another. I will strengthen you for victory, even though you do not intimately know who I am."

ISAIAH 45:5

*T*he outstretched mercy and grace of the Lord is continually extended toward us. It doesn't change when we do. It doesn't wane when we allow trivial things to overtake our thoughts and priorities. He doesn't withdraw or get his feelings hurt when we get distracted. He is dependable, faithful, and gracious, even when we aren't.

With each passing day, let's become more like him. More intentional with our love. Growing from glory to glory, unwilling to let a day pass without setting aside time to still our hearts and pour out our love to him. Running after him with all of our hearts for one purpose—to know him, intimately. Let's become his lovesick bride, overflowing with hearts of true devotion, unlike anything the earth has ever known.

*Father, thank you for the way you strengthen me even when weakness is a result of my distracted mind. You give me grace to keep running after you. Help me unite my heart and mind so my actions reflect my true desire—to know you more. You are worthy of my total devotion.*

JULY 28

## IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE YOURSELF

"Shame on the one who argues with his Creator, like one clay pot among other pots arguing with the potter. Should the clay say to the potter, 'What in the world are you doing with me? Your hands are clumsy'?"

ISAIAH 45:9

Sometimes correction can be difficult to accept, but when it's given in love, it has the power to transform our lives. Here the Lord is addressing disappointment, disapproval, and complaining in regards to the way we see ourselves and our lives. You may feel isolated, neglected, or unsure of your place in the world, but these feelings only point to areas void of his love.

When we truly learn to rest in the Potter's hands, aware of his tender love and fixated attention, self-pity melts away. In his presence, joy runs so deep it dispels every lie. It's time to see ourselves the way he does. Time to dive deep into the *only* love that will satisfy the cravings of our soul. To celebrate ourselves and see ourselves the way he does. Beautiful. Known. Smart. Accepted. Loved.

*Father, forgive me for complaining and not believing in your love for me. You have made me with a purpose, set me aside as your beloved, and you are jealous for me. Let me see myself the way you do. Give me the grace to be as happy with myself as you are with me.*

JULY 29

## INTO OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE

"I am the one who raised him up in righteousness!  
I will make all his paths straight and level."

ISAIAH 45:13

Nothing about our frail human nature is to be bragged about outside of God. We exist because we have a Maker. We live, move, and have our being inside of the One who holds all of creation within himself. Our breath, our dreams, and our destinies are an extension of the One who is one with us.

If we can entrust our beating hearts, seeing eyes, and very existence to God, how much more do we entrust the paths of our lives to him. Each day, we are growing more and more into the image of our Father. Learning, gleaning, and partaking of his nature. We are being raised in righteousness, and this too is to the glory of the Father. If all of our life flows from him, we certainly can trust him to faithfully lead us into our glorious future.

*Father, all that I am, I am inside of you. You are a flowing fountain of provision and grace. The power I seek, the strength I need, the joy I long for, and the love I admire—all come from you. It is only by your mercy that I stand righteous. It is only by your grace that I don't stray from your path.*



JULY 30

# HIS UNINTERRUPTED PRESENCE

“Truly God is with you.  
He alone is God, and there is no other.”

ISAIAH 45:14

*A*t this very moment, God is with you. Can you sense him? Take a deep breath, settle your thoughts on him, and allow yourself to become aware of his love warming your heart. You may notice peace pushing aside those nagging thoughts, or it may take some time soaking in his presence before your soul catches up with your spirit.

Whether you're in a season of deep encounter or feeling dry and weary—tapping into his presence is up to you. Be careful not to blame God for the lack of glory you're experiencing. Very often, the only reason we don't sense him is because we've allowed our thoughts to dominate. When that happens, hand each thought to him, one at a time, and ask him to replace each thought with his tangible presence. Receive the peace that surpasses understanding. Truly, God is with you right now.

*Father, though you are closer than my breath, I don't always notice you. Give me the grace to live in uninterrupted awareness of your presence. I choose to lay each care aside, and I refuse to allow my thoughts to crowd you out. Regardless of what I face, may I live in your continual glory.*

JULY 31

# THE LONGING HEART NEVER STOPS SEEKING HIM

Truly, O God of Israel, the Savior,  
you are a God who hides himself.

ISAIAH 45:15

*A*t times, it really does feel as though God hides himself. His ways seem unsearchable and mysterious. His voice, silent. Our faith may feel tried. Our souls, hungry to encounter his presence. But this is the point when only the yearning soul is willing to seek him with all of its heart, mind, and strength.

God may feel distant, and you may be wondering why. The truth is that it's our honor to search him out. To press into his presence by faith and refuse to be denied. To consistently set time aside to sit with him, even when those times feel dry. Every instance of longing, where you're pouring your heart out to him and lingering with expectancy, always produces fruit. This God who seems to hide himself never withholds his love from those who diligently seek him.

*Father, I'm not satisfied with the touch of yesterday's encounter. I long for you with fresh passion, which I know you won't deny. You're not hiding to punish me but to help me realize how absolutely miserable I am without you and how determined I must be to find you.*



*August*



AUGUST 1

## THE INVITATION

"I didn't whisper in secret, in a realm of darkness. I didn't say to Jacob's tribes, 'Seek me in vain.' I am Yahweh! I speak the truth and declare to you what is right!"

ISAIAH 45:19

Come running into your Father's arms. Don't restrain yourself or try to control the longing in your heart. His presence is your destiny. Your home. Your place of perfect peace, healing, and breakthrough. His smile will illuminate every crevice of your life if you will invite him. Hold nothing back. Abandon every thought, desire, and pain you've stuffed away.

No matter what you feel or don't feel, seeking him is never in vain. Yahweh is calling you close because he wants you to know his love for you. He wants to be for you what you cannot be for yourself. Every second spent pursuing him releases life into your life and circumstances. His whispers aren't a sign that he's keeping something from you, but an invitation to place your ears close enough to hear.

*Father, at times your love is overwhelming and exciting. At other times, your faint whispers are barely discernable and your presence seems distant. Despite it all, I know you are with me, so I'm running into your arms, undaunted by my fickle feelings. Your faithful love always receives me, and your truth always speaks.*



AUGUST 2

## GOD ALONE

"They keep on praying to gods who cannot save them."

ISAIAH 45:20

*Do* you realize how blessed we are to serve a God who hears us? He doesn't tune out our voices like a harsh, uninterested, unloving parent. He actually takes delight in our prayers. Pays attention. Wants each of us to feel like we are the most important person on the earth.

There is temporary gratification in talking to others about our problems, and sometimes these conversations are God-ordained and produce great fruit in our lives. However, it's important we don't become so dependent on people that we don't know how to process with God alone. We must be careful not to depend on anyone else more than him. He is our Deliverer and Savior, and no one else can accomplish what he can.

*Father, thank you for caring about my heart. For always listening. For loving me so well and taking the time to let me know you hear me. Keep my heart close to yours and give me the grace to guard the place within it that belongs to only you. I am truly astounded by the way you love me.*

AUGUST 3

## SET YOURSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH HIM

"Declare what is to be and state your case. Go ahead and take counsel together. Who knew all about this and declared it long ago? Was it not I, Yahweh? There is no god apart from me."

ISAIAH 45:21

**D**eclare his truth. Set your heart in agreement with the wisdom that flows from the throne of God. The One who was and is and is to come delights in filling your being with revelation. No amount of human reasoning will ever lift you to the heights of understanding gifted to you by his Spirit.

Come before him. Pour out your soul and receive what you need. State your case, your petitions, your desires, and then lay them before him as an offering of total devotion. He will speak to you and fill you with the knowledge of his will. The Holy Spirit will be your Counselor, and Yahweh himself will unfurl the scroll of your destiny. Draw close to him in holy intimacy, and he will whisper the secrets he longs for you to know.

*Father, I fix my eyes on you. Set my heart to know your will so I never wander. I desire to connect with truth that far exceeds the facts in front of me. Remind me of your Word and the promises I need to declare over this season of my life. I tune myself into the Prince of Peace and agree with your wisdom alone.*

# THE DANCE OF DELIVERANCE

"Turn your heart to me, face me now, and be saved wherever you are, even from the ends of the earth, for I alone am God, and there is no other."

ISAIAH 45:22

Step away from the swirl of distraction and turn to him. Come face to face with the One who loves you more than any other. His patience never ceases. His hand is extended to you, inviting you into a dance of redeeming, refreshing, and healing love. Will you accept this proposal of divine deliverance?

Jesus not only saves us from eternal damnation but also rescues us from our own tragedies, failures, and fears. We are never too far. Never out of his reach, even when he seems out of ours. His love is always present, patient, and available. His grace is strong enough to wash away the dry crusty remains of unbelief. Nothing can separate us from his love.

*Father, I still myself now, reaching for you with hands that are sometimes weak and weary. Bypass my mind when it gets stuck in the mud of thick disconnect. Breathe upon my heart with an awakening of Spirit wind. I want nothing between us—no ornaments of illusion or pretense. Wrap me in your arms as I dance into the reality of your love. I am yours.*

# IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS WORD

"I make this solemn oath to you in my own name; this word sent from my mouth in righteousness will not return unfulfilled: 'Truly every knee will bow before me and every tongue will solemnly swear allegiance to me!'"

ISAIAH 45:23

*T*he Word of God is alive. It is truth and power that cannot be stopped because Jesus, the Living Word, cannot be stopped. When he speaks, our hearts come alive. When he unveils truth and releases revelation, it becomes a foundation for us to stand on. It becomes a catalyst for breakthrough when we set ourselves in agreement with it.

His promises are an oath which anchors our souls. When we fully embrace the truth of his Word and allow it to take root inside of us, it stabilizes and secures us. His Word becomes a tangible hope that defies circumstances. It leads and guides us nearer to the ways of righteousness for our own lives. We must never underestimate the power of the Word. We need to seek to eat from its truth in every situation.

*Father, thank you for setting this feast before me. Your promises are my delight. They surge with life, hope, and power. As I eat of your Word and fill myself with truth, these temporary facts bow in reverence. Etch your promises upon my heart and seal me with your holy kiss. Your promises will surely come to pass.*



## ABSOLUTELY SURRENDERED

"I make this solemn oath to you in my own name; this word sent from my mouth in righteousness will not return unfulfilled: 'Truly every knee will bow before me and every tongue will solemnly swear allegiance to me!'"

ISAIAH 45:23

God's promises are not a threat. Though they stir holy fear, they aren't meant to intimidate us into obedience or reverence. Yes, every knee will bow before him, "but this will be in response to his glory, fully and finally released to overwhelmed hearts. His glory will leave us no other choice as we embrace the wonder of his perfection.

Yes, one day we will see with clear vision, but even now, the Lord manifests his glory to those who yearn to know him. As we posture our hearts before him, lifestyle and will bowed low, we taste of his holiness and partake of a bliss few have known. He has become our all. Our lives, choices, and devotion exalt him. Let's lift him higher, by remaining humble, teachable, and absolutely surrendered.

*Father, my heart burns with desire to exalt you in all I do, think, and say. I want my words and actions to align with your ways. I long for my being to be consumed with the glory of your presence every single day. It is my honor to live for you in complete surrender. I choose a lifestyle of unhindered devotion.*

AUGUST 7

## LETTING GO OF ANGER

"All will say of me, 'Yes! Only in Yahweh do I find righteousness and strength!' And all who were angry with me will come before me and regret it!"

ISAIAH 45:24

Take your discouragement and confusion and cast it before his throne. Release the anger and questions that may have poisoned your soul. Treat unbelief, fear, and unforgiveness like a plague. You were not created to live in the torment of unrest.

When confusion, discontentment, and anger have gripped your thinking, repent for agreeing with them. Let his praise rise from your lips with innocence and trust once again. It is healing for your heart. It is joy that defies every lie the enemy has thrown at you. The Lord's presence will be as a healing balm, soothing each trauma. Your decision to offer him the disappointments that once overtook you and caused you to stumble will turn into a disentangling and freeing grace. Only his presence can heal your wounded soul and release you to trust again.

*Father, I release the questions that will never find resolution outside of your love. Though I don't always understand the things that happen, I believe you are good. Forgive me for doubting and agreeing with confusion. I give you my anger and ask that you heal my heart.*

AUGUST 8

## A HIGHER WAY

"In Yahweh, all of Israel's offspring will triumph and shine!"

ISAIAH 45:25

The privileges and blessings of the children of Israel have been passed down to all who have confessed their faith in Jesus Christ. Now, we are a part of his family, set apart ones who receive favor and righteousness all because Yahweh calls us his own.

Jesus has become our Portion, our Way-Maker, our Living Example. As we walk in the light of his presence, we exude the glory he's entrusted to us. We are favored. We have been called to a life of divine victory, uncommon peace, and exquisite joy. These are the paths we were created to walk upon, but first, we must believe it. We must set our sights on a higher way and connect our faith to the truth. All we need to live a fulfilling life is found in him.

*Father, I offer you the disappointments of the past and look to you with hope and expectancy. You have destined me for a life of victory and deep-seated joy and peace. Lead me by your Holy Spirit to paths of freedom so I won't wander in vain. In you, my victory has been sealed.*

AUGUST 9

## PEACE WILL CARRY YOU IN TIMES OF PRESSURE

"Listen to me, O Jacob's tribes, all the remnant of Israel. You never had to carry me, but I have carried you from birth. I supported you from the moment you left the womb."

ISAIAH 46:3

It's okay to rest during unpleasant seasons. You're allowed to be at peace when no one else is. Though you used to struggle and battle anxiety, it's time for you to have a revelation of peace. Rest is not just important for your body but also vital for your soul. It's time to enjoy the Lord as the Prince of Peace, the One who carries you to freedom.

The Lord cherishes you, and he doesn't want you to experience stress and turmoil every day. He has carved out a place in his presence where peace will guard your heart and mind. You must choose to let go. You must not only lean back into his arms and release the need to fix everything. You must also learn to trust his love. The daily saturation of his love washes away anxiety and fear.

*Father, forgive me for not tending to my entire being—spirit, soul, and body. I need more than physical rest. I need the peace that surpasses natural understanding. As I give every contrary thought to you, flood me with life, hope, peace, and wisdom. Retrain me by your Spirit to press into peace instead of reacting to pressure.*



AUGUST 10

## REMAINING CHILDLIKE

“Even as you grow old and your hair turns gray,  
I’ll keep carrying you!”

ISAIAH 46:3

It’s our excitement about the Lord and our dependency upon him that keeps us young. We are entitled to the blessing of God as our Father—as our safe, dependable, protective Father. This is a liberty few adults indulge in. As we get older, we tend to think we’re supposed to have it all together. We’re supposed to know enough, do enough, and be strong enough to stand on our own two feet.

While we must mature, grow in wisdom, and be strong in our identity, God also wants us to live with carefree abandon. To run and jump into his arms and enjoy him like a child enjoys a loving daddy. To know he will catch us every time. To be okay with needing him. To believe he is dependable. As we age, let’s live in anticipation of his goodness and not get stuck in old ways of thinking, which are void of childlike wonder.

*Father, teach me to enjoy you as a dad. As a fun, safe, and loving father whom I never grow too old to need. Fill me with a fresh sense of adventure so I may experience you in new ways. I ask for the wisdom that only time with you can bring, as well as the joy of being your child.*

AUGUST 11

## A TRULY FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP

"To whom can you compare me, the incomparable God?  
Have you found someone else like me?"

ISAIAH 46:5

*T*his uncontainable, incomparable God has ravished our hearts. No one moves us the way he does. No one fills our barren places with such purpose and hope. Many long for that perfect partner to satisfy the emptiness in their souls without realizing that true fulfillment must first come from a deeper well.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be happily married, but first we must learn to find absolute contentment in our relationship with the Lord. Until we are totally captivated by him, we will always put the responsibility for our happiness upon others. No, it's not the same as having a husband or a wife—this holy bond is eternal. The foundation for all other relationships. It prepares us to be the healthiest version of ourselves, so whether we are married or single, we have found our Source.

*Father, I want to know what it's like to feel absolutely content and fulfilled in my relationship with you. Whatever I'm missing, teach me how to find it in you. I will cultivate our connection and focus on the joy that comes from walking day by day with you. In you I am whole and complete.*

## REMEMBER

“Remember the miracles of long ago.”

ISAIAH 46:9

When heaviness weighs upon our hearts and questions bombard our minds, it's time to stop the madness and remind ourselves of the Lord's faithfulness. The enemy loves to slam us with fear. He wants to glue our thoughts to everything that's wrong so we're unable to take hold of hope and faith. Threatened with tormenting images of the future, we forget what the Lord has already done.

Thanksgiving has a way of quenching fear and illuminating your heart with truth. Remembering the ways the Lord has blessed you in the past is a great way of shutting down negative thinking. If the enemy has been narrating your story lately, begin declaring the faithfulness of God. Create a journal dedicated to the many times the Lord has come through for you, and put yourself in remembrance of his love.

*Father, forgive me for yielding my thoughts to things that are beyond my control. You have offered me peace by teaching me to remember your glorious works. I repent for rehearsing fear instead of remembering your love and goodness. Now I will remember and glue my thoughts on things that are holy, pure, and praiseworthy.*

# HIS PLANS WILL COME TO PASS

"I declare from the beginning how it will end and foretell from the start what has not yet happened. I decree that my purpose will stand, and I will fulfill my every plan."

ISAIAH 46:10

*I*t may feel like a wrench has been thrown into your plans, but don't worry, God's got everything under control. When things don't turn out exactly the way you expected, it only means the Lord hasn't finished. He will have the last word, and his plans will be much better than yours. When you told him to have his way in your life, he accepted the offer.

You may have suffered temporary defeat or disappointment. A thousand doors may have slammed in your face, causing you to doubt. But don't give up! When your will and God's are intertwined, he secures your victory and nothing stands in his way. Set your heart on him and find your peace. It is out of this place of deep heart intention and total surrender that he will lead you, give you wisdom, and open doors of favor.

*Father, I lay my dreams at your feet and ask you to bring them into perfect alignment with your will. I shake off discouragement and ask for a fresh infusion of faith. You're on my side. You will make a way when there seems to be no way! I set myself in agreement with favor, wisdom, and blessings, in Jesus's name.*



## TRUST HIM

"I have spoken, and yes, I will bring it to pass.  
I have formed my plan, and yes, I will do it."

ISAIAH 46:11

*Keep* standing on his Word. Keep declaring. See through eyes of faith instead of the lens of facts, discouragement, and doubt. Stop focusing on the enemy's plans, and rejoice in the Lord's plans. Let the glory of God illuminate your vision and ignite your heart with a fiery determination.

God cannot lie. He has given you his truth, and he will bring it to pass. Don't allow what you don't understand to infiltrate or muddy your faith. Disappointments from the past must be laid as an offering before his throne. The truth is you won't understand the hidden details until he chooses to reveal them, and torturing yourself over them won't change anything. His wisdom is undeniable. His plans for you are good. His love has been proven, and he's calling you to trust again.

*Father, wash me in the cleansing flow of your redeeming love. Let your Word come alive inside of me, cutting away tattered remnants of unbelief. Remove the blinders of hopelessness and give me fresh vision. Tether my heart to your promises. I receive your grace and wisdom today.*

## WHEN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES ON THE SCENE

"Listen to me, you stubborn ones who are far from righteousness. I am bringing my righteousness closer to you; it is not far off. My deliverance will not be delayed, for I will set my salvation in Zion for Israel my glory!"

ISAIAH 46:12-13

Stubborn souls have no rebuttal when the reality of God touches their hearts. Those who are far from righteousness are very aware when their paths intersect with the righteousness of God. It is pure, convicting, and has the power to free the hardest hearts.

The righteousness of God cannot be manufactured. It isn't presented through natural means or found in a list of godly rules. We cannot force freedom or deliverance upon anyone. When men and women come face to face with his holiness, arguments are silenced and pride grieves the soul. This Father of undeserved love and mercy isn't wringing his hands, unsure about how to deliver. It only takes one close encounter with God to chase away the darkness.

*Father, your purity has left me undone. When I was stubborn and spiritually blind, you came and opened my eyes to the truth. I have no desire to withhold any area of my life from you. Your mercy and grace have made me worthy. Your glory has brought me to life. I am forever marked by your love and righteousness.*

## WELCOMING GOD'S CORRECTION

"Listen carefully, O Jacob's tribes, you who are called by the name Israel and come from the lineage of Judah, who solemnly swear in the name of Yahweh and claim to worship the God of Israel. But there is no truth or righteousness in your confession!"

ISAIAH 48:1

God sees it all. He knows you better than you know yourself. He sees every secret longing of your heart and has assessed every motive. He isn't impressed with titles, how many meetings you attend, or how loudly you say "Amen!" He is looking at your heart.

We may speak proper Christianese, memorize life-changing Bible passages, fast, pray, dance harder and sing louder than anyone else in the room, but if our public life doesn't match our private life, we're in need of correction. Truth can be painful, but for those who desire to walk in righteousness, it is beautifully liberating. Let's be among the few who welcome the Lord's correction. Let's invite it and respond to it. Let's live unashamedly and completely surrendered to a life of pure devotion and singleness of heart.

*Father, examine my heart. Purify me. I invite you into the deepest caverns of my soul. Examine my reactions, moods, thoughts, and words. Strip me of pretense and falsity. Reveal to me my own inconsistencies of faith and devotion so I may live in full surrender to the beauty of holiness.*

AUGUST 17

## THE SHIFT

“Indeed, you name yourselves after the holy city  
and say that you depend upon Israel’s God.”

ISAIAH 48:2

There’s a shift happening inside of us. An awakening of truth, purity, and honesty. A gentle pulling of the Holy Spirit leading us into revelation about ourselves and where our faith actually rests. It is amazing, freeing, and often painful to unite our spirits and souls because we don’t always want to admit that the two are at odds. But God wants us to see ourselves. To really see the areas that are hindering our prayers—the things we cry out for in one breath and doubt with the next.

Let’s be honest with ourselves about our level of trust. If we’re willing to face the truth and allow the Holy Spirit to go deep, he will gladly do so. The Lord wants to shift us into a level of total dependency, where his love demolishes every obstacle. He wants us to be free from fear because fear drives us to take matters into our own hands instead of freely releasing them into his.

*Father, let me see the areas where I’m not fully trusting you. Help me get to the root of doubt, fear, and unbelief. Flood me with revelation so I can face truth and walk into freedom with you. Give me the grace to consecrate myself to you with a level of surrender I’ve never known.*



AUGUST 18

## EMBRACING PEACE WHILE WE WAIT

"Long ago I prophesied things that would happen.  
I issued decrees and made them known.  
Then suddenly, I acted and made them happen."

ISAIAH 48:3

*M*any of us are waiting for God's promises to come to pass. We've taken hold of his Word or personal promise and haven't let go. We've filled our mouths with declarations, plastered our mirrors with sticky notes, fasted, prayed, and done all we know to do to facilitate breakthrough. But now it's time to rest and embrace peace.

Faith has a posture, and it looks like rest. Fear strives and works itself into a frenzy. It goes through a mental checklist of spiritual practices, making sure nothing was overlooked. God wants us to *really* believe. To be so confident that we almost forget to pray because we're so sure he'll do what he said. We must be willing not only to grasp those promises but also to wait. Here in this place of waiting, faith is perfected. We allow God to be God, and then, when we're truly at rest, he comes in a *sudden* moment and changes everything.

*Father, I bow. I've prayed every prayer I can think of, so now I choose to rest in faith. To allow your peace to guard my heart and mind. To release fear. I don't need to work myself up to get your attention; I already have it. I choose to trust your timing and to wait here with you.*

# TAPPING INTO HIS SECRETS

"You have heard what I foretold and have seen it all unfold, so admit that it happened and I was right! From now on I will tell you about new things never seen before, hidden things, well-guarded secrets you know nothing about."

ISAIAH 48:6

*W*hat an incredible privilege we have to be children of God. To be called into a relationship with the Creator. To be invited into his presence so we can hear his secrets, then stand in awe as we see them unfold. To know we're loved and to believe we've been chosen.

The blessing of tapping into the Lord's heart is something few partake of. Many come before him and recite their prayer lists, but not many inquire of his heart. When we honor him by getting to know his desires, he shares them. As we not only listen but steward his secrets well, he gives us greater insight into his will and ways. We're able to pray for people with a clear understanding of his heart. We're equipped to encourage with his desire for their lives. Let's be among those who lean into his presence, to not only receive but to know his heart.

*Father, I've spent a lot of time talking to you, but now I want to hear from you. What's on your heart? What are the things you want me to know, and how can I partner with you today?*

AUGUST 20

## NEW LEVELS OF WISDOM

"They are created now, brand new today, not long ago!  
You've never heard of them before now, so you cannot say,  
'Oh, I already knew about that.'"

ISAIAH 48:7

The wisdom and creativity of God are astounding. They are fresh, new, sparkling ideas flowing with understanding. Each day we are offered the opportunity to press into a new level of his glory. To understand mysteries that previously were withheld from us. To see with clarity situations that have been veiled in obscurity.

The wisdom of God draws us to him. It stirs our reverence and leaves us in awe. In his presence, we suddenly understand what once held us puzzled and perplexed. He speaks so plainly, we wonder how we didn't see the answers before. In his presence, the inexplicable becomes understandable. All of this happens when we desire to know his heart more than anything else.

*Father, unveil my mind. Untether my soul from earthly wisdom and show me a higher way. I want to know your heart. I want to peer into the mysteries you've hidden for me to find. I want to walk with you and stay tuned into the glory of your presence, which speaks with perfect wisdom.*

AUGUST 21

## BOUNDLESS MERCY

"For the sake of my great name and for my glory,  
I held back my anger and was patient with you  
so I did not whittle you down to nothing."

ISAIAH 48:9

The patience and mercy of God is inconceivable to the natural mind. No other person on the face of the earth sees every wrong thought, motive, and deed, yet loves as if we've never erred. The way he teaches, corrects, and even challenges us always releases hope and life. His conviction is cleansing and never condemning. The fire of his purification is actually an immersion into the holy flames of sacred love. His mercy knows no bounds.

Even when we walk under a cloud of deception, not understanding our own error, he reaches. He waits with patient mercy, never slamming us with judgment or punishment. This level of love is a standard for the way we should treat others. God is calling us to see people through his eyes. Not enforcing repentance, not making it our responsibility to set them straight, but simply learning to love with his love.

*Father, thank you for your inexhaustible mercy. Thank you for bearing with me and believing in me, especially when I get frustrated with the frailty of my flesh. Pull me closer and infuse me with this same grace and mercy so I may pour it out to others. Your love amazes me.*



AUGUST 22

## BECAUSE OF YOUR GRACE

"See, I have purified you in the furnace of adversity,  
but not like silver—I have refined you in the fire."

ISAIAH 48:10

Only our loving Father can take the pain of trials and use it for a greater purpose. Every adversity has the potential of making us more like Christ. Difficulty causes our fears and impurities to rise to the surface so we can process them with the Lord. What we really believe is exposed when he is the only thing we have to hang on to.

None of us enjoy trials, but they have a way of teaching us about ourselves. They also cause us to run to the Lord with a desperation that is genuine. We carry no pretense when we're totally undone. In times of pain, we come to find his love in ways we would otherwise never understand. God is kind and merciful and limits the intensity and timing of the trials we face. He won't leave us in the fire forever, but he will use adversities to purify us and teach us of his love.

*Father, every ounce of me wants to kick, scream, and beg you to make this pain end. But I also want you to have your perfect work in me. Use this trial for your glory. Keep me close and let's not let this situation go to waste. I will come out of this shining like gold because of your grace.*

## OUR OMNIPOTENT GOD

"Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called:  
I am the One and Only, the First and the Last."

ISAIAH 48:12

*T*he everlasting I AM, the immutable Jehovah, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first cause and last end of all things, is on your side. Allow that truth to sink in. There is literally nothing he cannot do. There is such power in believing this, but there is also power in unbelief. Unbelief is faith for a negative outcome.

It's time we resist doubt like a viral, contagious plague. It is vital that we choose faith over fear and expectation over hopelessness. When God reveals his will, it initiates our faith. It is meant to inspire and give us something to anchor our hope upon as we wait for his timing. He doesn't want us to live under the weight of frustration but in hope, reminding ourselves exactly who our Omnipotent God really is.

*Father, I humble myself in your presence. Forgive me for allowing doubt to exalt itself over the majestic wonder of your glory. Nothing is too hard for you. Not only are you perfect in your ways, you also love me and long to show yourself strong on my behalf.*

AUGUST 24

## OUR KING AND FRIEND

"With my mighty hand I laid the foundation of the earth;  
with the span of my right hand I spread out the cosmos.  
And when I speak to them, they both stand at attention."

ISAIAH 48:13

Heaven and earth respond to the intonations of his voice. Creation stands at attention. Nature listens. Do we? If heaven and earth exist to showcase his glory, think of the honor we have to carry it inside of us. We must never forget the magnificence of the One we call Father and Friend.

God deserves our attention. We have been given the privilege of knowing him. But we must be careful not to take this relationship for granted. Let's esteem his name upon our lips. Let's aim to continually honor the majesty of his holiness. Let's praise him for the glory we get to bask in every day. The bliss of friendship with God makes him relatable, but his glory must continually hold our hearts in reverential awe.

*Father, I want to know you both as my King and my Friend. I want my life to reflect the humble love and gratitude I have for you. I desire to honor you with every thought, breath, and movement of my soul. May I forever live in the tension of loving you and standing in awe of your glory.*

AUGUST 25

# YOUR DESTINY CANNOT BE STOPPED

"I, Yahweh, love this man, and he will carry out my purpose against Babylon. He will be my 'arm of might' against the Babylonians!"

ISAIAH 48:14

*W*hen God declares that you will fulfill your destiny, nothing can stop you. You may have experienced disappointments and letdowns, but rest assured, God's purposes for your life will come to pass. People may have promised you things, dangled carrots in front of your nose, got you excited about their assistance for your future, and then walked away. But God never will.

Your calling coming to fruition depends on whether or not you embrace God's grace. Although sometimes he'll chase you down even when you choose to run from your call. As long as you're seeking the Lord and following the leading of his Spirit, he will see to it that circumstances line up for your success. Keep your heart before him and grow in wisdom, grace, and character. Remember, the calling of God upon your life isn't about you. It's about those you will serve with your gift.

*Father, sometimes I feel impatient as I wait for dreams to come to pass. Help me to wait with integrity and grace, leaning into the maturity and wisdom you're imparting. Out of this place of peace, you will guide me and give me clear directions. You will open doors of favor as I remain humble before you.*



## TRUE SUCCESS

"I am the one; yes, I am the one who called him by name before he was born. I have led him forward on a prosperous, successful path."

ISAIAH 48:15

The way we view an accomplished life and the way God determines it aren't necessarily the same. God doesn't measure our success by material goods or the title in front of our name. Prosperity of soul and spirit is more important than the size of our bank account or the number of followers we have. It isn't established by what we do but by who we are becoming.

Success is based on internal growth in God more than external recognition. He's looking at the way we love him and others. How we spend our time. The pliability of our hearts in his hands. Our character and motives. He wants people whose hearts are after him and who love the ones around them for purely unselfish reasons. A truly prosperous soul is one who experiences fulfillment in who they are and the way they love and are loved.

*Father, I want my life to be successful in your eyes. To be a person after your heart and to let your love flow through me to those I meet. As I focus on becoming all you've created me to be, I know you will take care of all the other details.*

## FINDING HIM EVERY DAY

"Draw near to me and listen: From the beginning, I have not spoken in secret. From the beginning of time, I was there." And now Lord Yahweh has sent me, empowered by his Spirit!

ISAIAH 48:16

*T*his life of intimacy with the Lord is what empowers us in our daily life. Not only is our relationship with him the foundation for the fulfillment of our destiny, it's also what enables us to live each day in victory.

In his presence is everything we need to live out our purposes on the earth, love ourselves, and enjoy our lives. As we draw near and spend time listening, dreams are awakened, healing comes, and revelation is imparted. In him, we live, move, and discover who we really are. We begin to enjoy even the mundane tasks because we recognize and experience his nearness in all we do. We find purpose in simply being with him. Out of the place of intimacy, we are empowered by his Spirit to see each day through his eyes.

*Father, you have always been with me, even when I didn't pay attention. Help me not to allow your presence to go unnoticed or to neglect spending time with you. Give me the grace to hunger for you and to keep you first every day. Empower me by your Spirit in all I say and do.*

AUGUST 28

## EYES ON HIM

This is what Yahweh, your Kinsman-Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel says: "I am Yahweh, your God. I am the One who teaches you how to succeed and who leads you step by step in the way you should go."

ISAIAH 48:17

God wants to show himself strong on your behalf. He wants you to take refuge in him and find encouragement in the hope set before you. He wants to be the One who leads instead of watching you strive to make things happen. It's from the place of peace that you hear his wisdom. It is only by fixing your gaze on him that he can lead you by his eye.

Release the negative outlook. Shake off frustration and choose joy that isn't dependent upon circumstances. If all you see are obstacles and contrary facts, then you've allowed the enemy to sidetrack you. Refocus. Remember, *faith* pleases God. He wants to lead you every step of the way, but until you look to him without allowing yourself to get distracted, you won't be able to see where he's leading.

*Father, forgive me for taking it upon myself to figure things out. I need your wisdom. I crave your peace. I set myself to seek your face. Teach me. Guide me. Give me direction as I set aside all of my ideas about how things should go and set my gaze upon you. I trust you to show me clearly your perfect way.*

# WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

"If only you had listened to my commands, then peace would have flowed like a river for you and success would wash over you like waves of the sea."

ISAIAH 48:18

*W*hose voice are you listening to and what is it producing in your life? The voice of God brings clarity, peace, and assurance. It gives you something to grasp when every circumstance contradicts your faith. The voice of the enemy torments with fear, confusion, and discouragement. It strips you of hope and makes you feel overwhelmed. The difference between the two is obvious.

If you've been feeling hopeless, discouraged, or frustrated, you're listening to the wrong voice. It's not hard to recognize what's going on inside of you—all you have to do is listen to what's coming out of your mouth. What you say is a good indicator of who you're agreeing with. The choice to change your outlook starts with you. It starts by listening to his truth and rejecting the enemy's lies. It's in the place of his presence where peace is found.

*Father, wash away every lie I've believed with the healing waters of your presence. Let your love crash upon my soul with the power of freedom! It's time I agree with truth and align myself with your promises. I still my soul before you now. Lord, I'm listening.*



AUGUST 30

## THE FOUNTAIN

The people weren't thirsty when he led them through barren, desolate deserts, for he broke open the rock for water to flow for them. The rock was split open, and rivers gushed out!

ISAIAH 48:21

*You* may be going through a season where you feel spiritually dry and emotionally spent. You need God to meet with you. You're desperate for him to break open this *rock* and pour out some refreshment. In the midst of your dry, barren desert, Jesus is exactly what you need.

When life weighs heavily on your shoulders and you've lost perspective, there's only one solution: return to the presence of God. This place of first-love intimacy can be found in the driest of desert seasons. The refreshing waters of his love can be easily tapped into. Jesus has already broken open the way for you. Be still. Drink deeply of his healing waters. Return to him. Set aside time each day to saturate yourself in his life-giving love, and you will see things from a fresh perspective. *He* is the fountain that never runs dry.

*Father, I hear the sound of waters stirring all around me. Your presence has come. Refresh and transform me with your healing love. You hold my hand and call me to walk with you. To recognize your nearness in seasons of bliss and times of barrenness. In you, I find my peace.*

## ALIGNING WITH TRUTH

He gives me words that pierce and penetrate. He hid me and protected me in the shadow of his hand. He prepared me like a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

ISAIAH 49:2

When our words line up with the Lord's, they release life, healing, and breakthrough. They connect us to his heart and teach us his ways. Our words reflect our thoughts and reveal what's happening inside of us. It's important to pay attention to what we say so we know if we're aligned with truth or becoming disheartened by facts. If we notice we're continually speaking doubt, fear, or unbelief, we must replace those lies with God's truth.

God's Word will pierce every lie, down to the root. His truth penetrates deep into the shadowy crevices where deception has been lurking. When our hearts and minds are transformed and aligned with truth, our words release life and healing to others. Our freedom is about so much more than just ourselves.

*Father, transform me in the deepest areas of my soul. Reveal the lies I've aligned with, and teach me your truth. Help me change my mental habits so I won't latch onto facts but cling to your truth. As I rise in power, your Word will be released from my lips and pierce the hearts of others.*



*September*



# WHEN YOU'RE MISTREATED

I said, "I've worked and served for nothing. I have used up all my strength for nothing." Yet my rights I leave in Yahweh's hands, and my just reward is with my God.

ISAIAH 49:4

Life isn't always fair. At times, we're taken advantage of, treated poorly, and misunderstood. It can be deeply disheartening, especially when those who have mistreated us are people we trusted or looked up to.

When this happens, we want to defend ourselves. But God is our Defender. We want to do something to make the offending party see what they've done wrong. But God is the only One who brings true conviction. He is the One who sets things in order. He is the One who will bring us justice. Most importantly, he is the One who heals our hearts. Our responsibility is to release the situation into his hands. To let go of our right to be angry and offended and choose to forgive. True freedom is found when we're able to release every area of our lives into his trustworthy hands.

*Father, I release disappointment, pain, and anger into your hands. Heal my heart. I ask that you free \_\_\_\_\_ (name the person who has hurt you) from the deception of the enemy and grant them freedom. I forgive them. Redeem this situation. Turn things around for my good as I aim to please you and keep my heart free from bitterness.*



# THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WITHIN YOU

"I will make you to be a light to the nations and to bring the light of my salvation to the ends of the earth!"

ISAIAH 49:6

*J*esus is the light to the nations. The Savior who doesn't leave anyone out. His glory will be revealed to everyone at some point in their lives. Our merciful Lord won't overlook a single person, and he wants us to emulate him in this respect. The Light of the world is within us, bursting to get out.

As we grow in love with the Lord, we cannot overlook his desire for us to grow in love toward those around us. Learning to love and respect everyone, even those we disagree with, is what sets us apart from the harsh, religious, and legalistic. Let's make people feel heard and seen. More importantly, as God leads us, let's get to know their hearts so we can be vessels of healing and redemption.

*Father, I want to make a difference on the earth. Fill me so completely with your glory that your presence drips from me everywhere I go. Give me the courage to embrace those who live in deception. Surround me with favor so they will be drawn to your light within me.*

# HE WILL ANSWER YOUR HEART'S CRY

"When the time of showing you favor has come, I will answer your heart's cry. I will help you in the day of salvation, for I have fixed my eyes on you."

ISAIAH 49:8

God's eyes are fixed on you. He's heard your heart's cry and watched as you worshipped him despite the trials. It may feel like you've waited forever for the answer to that prayer to come to pass, but in the waiting, he has been refining you. A deep work of his Spirit takes place when you set your heart to seek his face, especially during difficult times.

Every season comes to an end. Your day of salvation—the day when things begin to turn around—is coming. You may be afraid to hope again, but that's only a strategy of the enemy to delay your blessing. You're not the same person you were before. You've braved the wilderness with your Beloved, and you're coming out stronger than before. Shake off the dust and stand tall. Your day of favor has come.

*Father, I'm holding on to you and not letting go. Though the winds of adversity and opposition blow, you are my anchor. I will worship you and trust you despite what I see. Use this time of waiting to fine-tune me and draw me closer to you. I know you'll make a way and answer my heart's cry.*

# SET THEM FREE

"You will declare to prisoners, 'You're free!'  
and to those in darkness, 'Step out into the light!'"

ISAIAH 49:9

*You* have been entrusted with power and authority. You are anointed to declare truth as you pray for the prisoners of darkness, shame, and deception. As you press into the Lord's heart for the lost, he will give you insight so you can intercede with precision and faith.

Whether you're interceding for or interacting with the lost, when you carry the presence of God, it will lead you and be felt coming from you. People will be drawn to you when you care. When the condition of their souls actually matters to you. When you aren't trying to fill a church, do your religious duty, or impress fellow believers. The Lord is looking for his children to partner with him in setting the captives free.

*Father, give me your heart of compassion. Infuse me with uncontainable excitement to see the prisoners set free. Speak words of hope through my mouth. Give me courage and revelation to pray outrageous, chain-breaking prayers. Help me to stay humble, honest, and unpretentious as I step out to gather the lost to you.*

## SET YOURSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH FAVOR

"I will level all my mountains as a road for them  
and raise up my highways."

ISAIAH 49:11

God wants to bless you in ridiculously amazing ways. He wants to shield you with favor so every place you go, things go well for you. It's his will that those mountains standing in your way become a playground for you—a place of victory and celebration. But most of all, he wants you to believe these things.

It's time to set yourself in agreement with the favor and blessings of God. Compile a list of his promises and begin feeding your spirit with them. Remind yourself of what he's said every single day. Meditate on his Word until it sparks a fire of faith and hope which cannot be contained. Get excited again. Expect his goodness to follow you as you become a magnet for the blessings and favor of God.

*Father, I am partnering with your promises. Shaking off false humility and realizing that your calling on my life is more important to you than it is to me. You will accomplish all you've said you will because you are for me and want to do amazing things through me. I call forth your favor upon my life today.*



## HE KNOWS YOU

Yahweh responds, "But how could a loving mother forget her nursing child and not deeply love the one she bore? Even if there is a mother who forgets her child, I could never, no never, forget you."

ISAIAH 49:15

The Lord's voice drips with compassion and love. Can you hear it? His love for you is greater than a mother who tenderly cares for and protects her newborn baby. He will never leave you or forget about you. You aren't overlooked or insignificant. You are radiant because the most glorious One lives inside of you. The sacrifice of Jesus has given you access into the family of God and placed you in the arms of a loving Father.

You have his attention. He knows you and likes you so much that he actually sings over you. He enjoys being around you, and when you make time for him, it blesses him just like a mother whose children come home to visit. Others may mistreat or reject you. They may have their own agendas or love you selfishly, but God loves you with pure and totally unselfish love.

*Father, I want to know your love in new ways. Infiltrate every area of my thinking that hasn't experienced the purity and redeeming nature of your love. Thank you for your patience and for never giving up on me. Thank you for loving me so well.*

SEPTEMBER 7

# YOUR WALLS ARE COMING DOWN!

"Can't you see? I have carved your name on the palms of my hands! Your walls are always my concern."

ISAIAH 49:16

Some people tattoo the names of loved ones on their bodies, but Jesus has carved your name deeply into the palms of his hands. The holy and immortal One thinks you're worth his eternal attention. He knows every facet of your being and cares about your life.

Your limitations are before God's eyes. He knows the walls you've built to protect yourself. He sees the walls that the enemy has erected to block your path. The good news is that God knows exactly how to demolish them all. With healing balm, he massages your heart so you can willingly allow the protective barricades to crumble. With extraordinary power, he demolishes the enemy's stronghold so you can fulfill your destiny. He knows where you are and what you face, and it's time to get excited about his love for you.

*Father, it's hard to fathom such extraordinary love. Love that cared about me even when I was far away. But I don't have to understand it to enjoy it, and I've decided to enjoy you forever. I pour out all of my love and gratitude to you today. Have your way in my life, and feel free to knock down any walls that hinder our relationship.*

# FAITH FOR WAYWARD CHILDREN

“Lift up your head and look all around you. See! All your children, your builders, gather to come back to you. As surely as I live, I make this promise,” says Yahweh. “You will wear them all like jewels, as a radiant bride wears her beautiful jewelry!”

ISAIAH 49:18

*R*aise your weary head and refrain your voice from weeping. Mothers and fathers of prodigal children, God has made a promise to you—your children will come back. Look with faith to a future where the restoration of your family has come to pass. Hold that promise in your heart *now*. In God’s eyes, it’s a done deal.

Your children are your gift. Your reward. The jewels in your crown. Let these words encourage you. Don’t allow the way they’re acting or what they say to distract you or crush your faith. Refuse to accept the lie that they are lost. God knows exactly where they are, and he will scoop them up and carry them home to you. Release them to him. Stomp out the flames of fear with faith. Dry your tears. It’s time to stand with unmovable faith.

*Father, you know the deepest desires of my heart for my family. You have promised that they will come back, so I agree with your Word. I speak healing over their hearts, life to their souls, and awakening to their spirits. You will not only restore our family, but you will restore our children to you.*

# IN DEVASTATION

“See? Your ruins and devastated places will soon be overcrowded with settlers while your destroyers stay far away.”

ISAIAH 49:19

Sometimes it doesn't just feel like the rug was pulled from under us. It feels as if the entire world has shifted off its axis. All we see is devastation. All the enemy hopes we'll take to heart is the hopelessness of loss. When life slams us, destroys relationships, and steals with shocking cost, we need Jesus to do what only he can do.

Some situations seem irredeemable. The pain and loss run too deep. Encouraging words feel empty when our souls seem void of life. In these times, all we can do is bow low and process the pain with him. It may seem hard to believe at the moment, but God is absolutely astounding when it comes to healing hearts and turning tragedy into triumph. These devastated places of pain will become rich soil where tears turn to seeds and become nourishing fruit for others.

*Father, I barely have words to pray. You're asking me to see the hope before me, but I'm struggling to find it. Come and breathe life into me again. I will worship you through my pain and unite my seemingly insignificant faith with your love. Do something miraculous in my heart and life. Though I don't understand, I will not withhold my love.*



# BECOMING ONE

“Then you will know that I am Yahweh, and I will never disappoint those who entwine their hearts with mine.”

ISAIAH 49:23

Entwine your heart with the Lord. Become one with him. It's time to resign every self-motivated, selfish, distracted, and lazy habit to the Lord. It all boils down to one thing, and from this one thing, everything else flows: our pursuit of his presence. It isn't enough to say we want to walk closely with him and hear his voice. We must respond to the call to intimacy.

This is how we know. This is how we truly understand the reality of his presence, which goes beyond words. When we saturate every aspect of our being, thinking, and doing with the presence of the living God, every strand of resistance frays. We're no longer self-supporting and self-dependent—we're wrapped in oneness with him. Entwined so tightly to him, not only can we not tell where we start and where he ends, neither can anyone else.

*Father, I set myself to seek your face and to know you more intimately. I want to become so intertwined with you that every thought and movement of my heart is saturated with you. More than all other pursuits, I want to become one with you.*

# GOD FIGHTS FOR CHILDREN

"I will fight with those who fight with you,  
and I myself will save your children."

ISAIAH 49:25

When the battle rages for children, God takes it personally. This fight isn't only against them. It's also against you. But take heart, you are not fighting the enemy alone. God is on your side. He will not ignore your cries for intervention. Look out, devil, you're about to be taken down.

When we recognize that the Lord fights for us, we expect him to win. Though we don't ignore the opposition coming against our family, faith frees us to laugh with anticipation. Trust gives us the ability to see the attack with the end result filling our vision. With confidence, we square our shoulders, lift our heads, and know we are undefeatable. God has promised to save our children, and The First and The Last always has the final word.

*Father, I've done everything I can think of and prayed every prayer I can pray. Now I'm going to step back and let you be God. Fight for me. Fight for the children. Confuse the plans of the enemy. I rejoice because you said you would save the children!*

# REMEMBER WHO THE TRUE ENEMY IS

"I will cause the violence of your oppressors to come back upon them, and your enemies will kill one another in a killing frenzy!"

ISAIAH 49:26

When someone wrongs, violates, or hurts us, one of our first instincts is to hurt them back. To force them to take responsibility for what they've done and feel terrible about it. It may even be easy to read this passage and justify hatred, thinking that even God wants to punish our enemies. But before anger takes root and grows weeds, let's remember who the true enemy is.

Satan is behind every hateful deed. Most who are controlled by evil don't realize who is motivating them. They can't see clearly. They are blinded and deceived. The enemy wins, not by stealing from us or hurting us. Instead he wins when we agree with hatred and unforgiveness. Our victory comes when we rise above the darkness and choose God's ways. Let's not be a part of the enemy's plans. Let's pray for those who have wronged us. God will take care of our true enemy.

*Father, I break with anger and the need for justification. I will trust you to set things right and to avenge me. I pray that one day those who have treated me so poorly will find true repentance. Unbind my soul from any entanglements with hatred or unforgiveness.*

## COME OUT OF HIDING

"When I came to you, why was no one there?  
When I called, why did no one answer?  
Am I powerless to rescue you or too weak to deliver you?"

ISAIAH 50:2

**D**on't hide from God when the swirls of life feel like they're swallowing you whole. Don't run from him when you've sinned. Don't lie about your pain when you don't understand his ways. Run to him. Be honest about what you feel. He won't be mad at you. Process your true emotions with him, and let him reveal the root of wrong thinking.

Our all-powerful God knows how to rescue us. He is able to deliver from every onslaught. When we buy into the lie that he'll do it for others but not for us, we actually doubt the love that compelled him to go to the cross. The same cross and the same act that purchased our salvation. Those arms that were stretched wide for us are strong enough to rescue us now.

*Father, here I am. I'll not hide from you or allow shame to dictate the way you see me. You love me. You are calling for me and reaching out to rescue me. With all of my doubts, questions, and fears, I come. Deliver me from corrupted thinking that hasn't embraced the truth of your love.*



# ENCOURAGING THE WEARY

The Lord Yahweh has equipped me with the anointed,  
skillful tongue of a teacher—to know how to speak  
a timely word to the weary.

ISAIAH 50:4

*W*hen we live in sync with the Lord, our hearts and minds are continually aware of his abiding presence. We notice things we never noticed before. God interrupts our day, nudging our hearts to speak his life-giving words to the people around us. Strangers catch our attention. Compassion is pricked. We're drawn to someone we've never noticed before.

When the Lord highlights someone to you, don't shrink away. You may not be an extrovert, but love must compel you to reach out. You are equipped with his Spirit. You are anointed to speak words of encouragement, edification, and exhortation to the people you encounter every day. Take a step and talk to that stranger. You don't have to know all the right Scripture passages. You only need to have a willing heart. People are looking for the light and love you carry. Don't hold back!

*Father, I avail myself to do your will. Give me your heart of compassion. You have anointed me to encourage the weary and to release hope. Help me to remember that it's not about me. It's about reaching out with your love and trusting you to speak through me.*

## EARLY MORNING MOMENTS

Morning by morning, he awakens my heart.  
He opens my ears to hear his voice, to be trained to teach.

ISAIAH 50:4

Every morning before you open your eyes, the Holy Spirit hovers over you. He anticipates your waking and avails himself to you first thing. Imagine, the Lord—your Prince—standing next to your bed with a hand extended as soon as you wake up. Before anything captures your attention and before the cares of life sneak their way into your thoughts, he invites you to turn your attention to him and share early morning moments.

He breathes upon your heart with whispers of love and longing. Opens your ears to hear his voice rising from the depths of your spirit. He is with you at the start of every day. He is teaching you how to recognize him and know his voice so you can enjoy him every day and encourage others to do the same.

*Father, help me to be aware of how remarkably near you are at the start of every day. I want to feel your presence the moment I wake up and to carry that—to honor that—all day long. I don't want to start my day without tapping into the glory of your love and sharing these holy moments.*

## PIERCED BY LOVE

The Lord Yahweh has opened my ear, and I did not resist;  
I did not rebel.

ISAIAH 50:5

There is grace available to the one who surrenders fully to the Lord. It changes us at the very core of our being when we give ourselves unreservedly to him. When we not only say we want to walk with him but also live it out every day. We hear him and know his will when we become one with the Lord. When we hold nothing back.

Dying to our own desires, where we're willing to pay any price to keep our hearts soft and pliable in his hands, doesn't scare us. Like the slave who loved his master and pierced his ear as a sign of voluntary servanthood, we've been pierced by the love of God. There is nothing in us that cares to resist a lifestyle of total surrender. Our ears—yes, our entire bodies, souls, and spirits—belong to him.

*Father, come and open my ears to your Spirit. Every part of my being is yours, and I hold nothing back. Penetrate every wall of resistance with your glory. You have my permission to reveal any area where I'm still in control. Come and make me totally yours.*

## BEHOLDING LOVE

I offered my back to those who flogged me and my cheek to those who tore out my beard. I never hid my face from demeaning insults or from those who spit on me.

ISAIAH 50:6

Our relationship with the Lord began at the cross. This place of torture and suffering has become the most treasured proof of pure and unselfish love. A place we should return to on occasion, reminding ourselves of the price Jesus paid to be with us.

Love laid his life down for you. Spread his arms wide so you would nestle close to his chest. Heaven's cherished One sacrificed himself just to be with you. Beloved, why would you ever doubt your worth? If only you could understand how desirable you are to the Lord. Your worth is beyond measure because it's determined by his limitless love. To experience the thrill of resurrection life, we must always begin at the cross. We must remember that Love is beautiful to behold.

*Jesus, it's hard to believe that I was the joy set before you when you were on the cross. That I could be worth the price of such extravagant love. Draw me close and allow me to experience the holy inferno of passion that flowed from the cross that day.*



# THE EMPOWERMENT OF LOVE AND GRACE

The Lord Yahweh empowers me, so I am not humiliated.  
For that reason, with holy determination,  
I will do his will and not be ashamed.

ISAIAH 50:7

Grace and spiritual empowerment aren't like an adrenaline rush that wears off and leaves us weary. Our wholehearted devotion isn't only long lasting—it's eternal. When we say yes to God, we're opening ourselves up to grace. Grace that pulses through our being and changes everything about us. Grace that is rooted in love.

Love doesn't care what others think. Love is alive and empowering. It causes us to do things we wouldn't do otherwise. It activates our sense of identity. It provokes us to truth and causes us to stand for what is righteous and redemptive. When we walk with the Lord, absolutely determined to be all we can be for his glory, we will not be ashamed. We will receive his strength and wisdom, becoming the answers to the problems around us. This is what love and grace will do.

*Father, I want to be so rooted and grounded in your love that I experience your grace every day. Grace that empowers me to stand with confidence and make the world around me a better place. I am not ashamed of my stance. I am yours—completely.*

# LIVING BY FAITH

Who among you has true fear and reverence of Yahweh? Who of you listens to the voice of his servant? Are any of you groping in the dark without light? Let him trust in the faithful name of Yahweh and rely on his God.

ISAIAH 50:10

God is mysterious and often doesn't speak to us the way we'd like. We want answers that we can understand. We want Jesus to walk into the room, pull up a chair, and disclose his wisdom openly. We want something tangible and concrete. If we're honest, what we really want is something easy that doesn't take us down that difficult road of faith. But that's not the life we've chosen.

We've chosen to embrace the invisible. To see with the internal eyes of our heart. We've decided that the most precious mysteries of all are intriguing enough to search out for all eternity. Though we sometimes feel as if we're groping in the dark, we believe Jesus is holding our hands and leading us. We trust that he really walks into the room—into our hearts—and speaks to us face to face because we live by faith.

*Father, I want to grow in love and trust. I want to live my life embracing the impossible with unflinching faith. I have chosen this path with you—the path of mystery that unfolds in your timing, not mine. It isn't always easy, but it is an adventure I will never regret.*

## PLAYING WITH FIRE

If you presume to light your own torch, you are playing with fire.  
So go ahead, walk in the light of your own fires and the sparks  
you have kindled. But I can promise you this:  
it will take you down into torment!

ISAIAH 50:11

*You* cannot do this without God. You cannot blaze a trail of your own making and expect him to bless it if you haven't even asked his opinion. You will burn out, fueled by nothing more than your own human ability. You were created to meet your destiny with God, not tumble around within it without him.

When we run ahead of God and depend on our own wisdom, insight, and inspiration, we are playing with fire. Impatience mustn't cause us to react. Pride most definitely cannot be what drives us forward. Our zealous motivation isn't a bright enough light to guide our steps; it will eventually go out. Instead, let's slow down and take our ideas to him. Let's share our hearts with him and then wait in stillness for the Lord to speak and give us wisdom. His timing is perfect, and we must be willing to trust it.

*Father, I offer you the desires of my heart. I won't rush ahead of you or depend on my own wisdom or strength. I bring my hopes and dreams to you and trust you to bring them to pass at the perfect time.*

# HIS PLANS ARE GREATER THAN YOURS

“When I called Abraham, he was but one person, but I blessed him greatly so that one became many.”

ISAIAH 51:2

One person empowered by the Holy Spirit can do mighty things. You may feel small and insignificant. You may have bold, brave desires exploding in your heart but no idea how they will come to pass. Does God actually care about these things? Is it possible that your desires and his are the same? Or are his plans significantly greater than yours?

Look at Abraham. The desire of his heart to have children wasn't just his. It was God's as well. It was greater, deeper, and much more complex than he realized. I'm guessing that Abraham hadn't expected that a seemingly natural longing for children was actually a call of prolific measure. Sometimes the smallest inclinations turn into the most outrageous manifestations of God's heart for our lives and those who come after us.

*Father, I'm not afraid to dream big. I may have no idea how my desires will come to pass, but if this is your will, I will be unstoppable. Give me the grace to be patient and the wisdom to know which steps to take. May everything I do be anointed and alive.*



## STEP INTO HOPE

Indeed, Yahweh will comfort Zion, restore her, and comfort all her broken places. He will transform her wilderness into the garden of Bliss, her desert into the garden of Yahweh. Joy and laughter will fill the air with thanksgiving and joyous melodies.

ISAIAH 51:3

*T*hink about someone broken or away from the Lord. Perhaps it's someone you love, or maybe you've found yourself in a time of desperation or disconnect. This promise for Zion is a promise for them. For you. For all of us at some point. God wants to release us into our fullest life.

Let this passage feed your soul. Make it your declaration. God is reaching out with comfort. Will you lean into his arms? He desires to transform every wilderness into a garden of bliss. Are you willing to release negativity and step into hope-filled expectation? Scorching deserts are about to become gardens of beauty, refreshment, and promises fulfilled. God's Word contains the power to bring promises to pass. Insert yourself or a loved one into the declaration below.

*Father, you are restoring me and healing my brokenness. You're transforming my wilderness into a garden of bliss. You're leading me out of this desert and into your garden of delight. I can smell the fragrance of joy. The atmosphere is flooded with glory. I can breathe again. Laugh again. I feel lighter. I am free. And I am thankful.*

## LEAN IN AND LISTEN

“Listen to me, my people; pay attention to me, my nation.”

ISAIAH 51:4

*We* are blessed with a plethora of anointed teachings and songs. Words of God released through others, which touch our souls and feed our spirits. If we're having a bad day, encouragement can usually be found at the edge of our fingertips. We've grown accustomed to hearing God's voice from others. There's nothing wrong with this, but there is a higher way.

What if every day we resolve to hear him for ourselves? If instead of sporadic times of pressing in to listen, seeking him became a habit. God wants us to break through the lie that we cannot hear him ourselves. He wants us to tap into the other side—where knowing, listening, and experiencing become a daily practice. This is what he offers—a friendship that needs to be tended. A relationship that doesn't always depend on an interpreter to convey his heart.

*Father, thank you for the many times you've spoken to me through others. I know you delight in doing so, but I also believe you want me to hear you for myself. Thank you for reminding me to lean in and listen. I set myself aside to hear you. Speak to me. Enlighten my heart.*

## UNTIL THEN

"My righteousness is coming closer, and my salvation has gone out. My mighty arms will govern the people. The islands will trust in me and put their hope in the unveiling of my might."

ISAIAH 51:5

Look out, world, the King of glory is coming closer. The beauty of his righteousness is being released through holy vessels, unashamed and unafraid. Every bondage of sin and corruption will disintegrate in his glory. He will unveil his might, and political chaos will bow. Wickedness will flee, and Jesus will reign in truth. One day every captive will be set free, but he wants to begin right now, through us.

Yes, one day every eye will see and every heart will know that Jesus is the only true and majestic King. We believe it and feel our hearts soar with excitement when we think about Jesus revealing himself to the earth. But right now, we are the brave voices of truth, morality, and justice. With minds and hearts tethered to him, we can make a difference, one conversation at a time.

*Father, the world needs your healing touch. Come with your glory and set things right. Invade the offices of politicians with the voice of true wisdom. Draw the nations to you. Set the captives free and do whatever you can do through me, your humble vessel.*

## CLARITY

"Lift up your eyes to the heavenly realm  
and look at the earth far below."

ISAIAH 51:6

When seasons of regret, pain, and discouragement weigh heavy on your soul, it's time to lift your vision. You may have poured over every aspect of your situation with diligence, prayer, and fasting, yet you still feel stuck, unable to see clearly. The first step to breakthrough is often achieved by changing perspective.

Our thoughts and frustrations cause us to view our situation through a lens of anxiety and pressure. But God wants to be the filter between us and our problems. He wants us to be still. When we turn all, and I do mean *all*, of our attention to him, he shows us situations from his viewpoint. Instead of frantically searching and praying for a quick exit, he asks us to rest. To trust. To lean into grace and fix our eyes on him. It usually isn't until we're still, deep in our souls, that we see the answers clearly.

*Father, I give you my impatience and frustration and choose to rest. I don't need an explanation to satisfy my impatience. I only need to keep my heart's gaze fixed upon you. From this place of peace, you will give me clarity.*



# WHEN THE WORLD TAKES NOTICE

“Listen to me, you who care for what is right, who treasure my teaching in your hearts: Do not fear the insults of others; do not be troubled when they revile you.”

ISAIAH 51:7

Christianity may not make you popular in a world that feasts on immorality, division, and self-indulgence, but it will set you apart. It will get you noticed. It may even cause you to be ridiculed and insulted. But that’s only part of the picture—the part the enemy wants you to believe will define your story. God has something else up his sleeve.

When we walk in harmony with the Lord, his mercy saturates us. We aren’t affected by fear or harsh words because our hearts are shifting from a defensive posture to one of compassion. When we live from the place of true compassion, we easily respond with grace. We appear genuine and stable, and people notice. Soon, our enemies are willing to listen, and our persecutors are open to hear the truth.

*Father, pour out your grace upon my heart. Help me not to be pricked by the slander of others. I want to walk closely with you, empowered by wisdom and compassion. I want to live honestly and above reproach so others will be drawn to the beauty of the One within me.*

# STOP DOUBTING

Wasn't it you who dried up the Red Sea with its deep waters  
and made a path through the sea to rescue your redeemed?  
Do it again!

ISAIAH 51:10-11

Sometimes we just need to get excited. We need to stop wallowing in self-pity and shake ourselves out of discouragement. God is amazing. God is unstoppable. He is a miracle-working God who is waiting for us to believe he is who he says he is. Is there anything he can't do? Is he God? Or is he not? Because if he is, we need to act like it.

It must have been terrifying for the Israelites to step into the Red Sea while strong winds held back the waters. We already know they were complainers who were filled with fear. But they did it. They took God at his word and ran from their past and into their future. It's time we do the same. It's time we stop looking at the winds of opposition surrounding our promises and run with God when the path presents itself. It's time to say no to doubt!

*Father, I'm done agreeing with the fear of the unknown. You're in charge, and you're not going to let me drown as I cross the sea of faith with you. My eyes are on you. I'm ready, Lord. Take my hand and let's run into my glorious future!*

## RELEASING EVERY CARE

Those Yahweh has set free will return to Zion and come celebrating with songs of joy! They will be crowned with never-ending joy! Gladness and joy will overwhelm them; despair and depression will disappear!

ISAIAH 51:11

*You* have been set free. You have been offered a life of joy that isn't determined by day-to-day disappointments. God has placed a crown upon your head, and he wants you to stand tall and unmoved by every blow the enemy throws. He wants you to be so centered in his presence that nothing can overwhelm the joy in your soul.

Do times of tragedy and misfortune happen? Of course. Do we go through incredibly tough situations? Definitely. But it's time to stop acting like every bad thing is a life-wrecking calamity. Even our deepest pain will eventually be healed if we invite him into it. When we learn to process life with the Lord, we experience joy that daily overwhelms sadness and frustration. But shaping joy into a habit is a choice only we can make.

*Father, your nearness causes me to sing. I'm done being drawn into a pity party when things don't go my way. I am powerful, able to choose what I think about and how I respond. I don't need everything to be perfect to live in joy. Teach me how to make a habit of releasing my cares to you.*

## EMERGING FROM HEARTACHE

"I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. All the sons of men will be cut down and fade like grass. Why then would you be afraid of a mere human being?"

ISAIAH 51:12

When arms that once held you are no longer there, Jesus pulls you close. When man rejects you and leaves you pondering your worth, Jesus wipes away your tears and straightens your crown. He soothes the sting of hurtful words with the balm of his blood-soaked sacrifice. You are his beloved.

Jesus loves you to the depths of your soul. The comfort of his presence heals in a way no human can offer. As you tuck yourself into him, he reminds you of your worth. Soon you emerge from heartbreak with more confidence than you've ever known. You walk with joy because your happiness isn't dependent upon man. You not only learn who you are to him, you experience who he longs to be for you.

*Father, release your healing over my heart. Pour your love upon every wound so I can love without fear. Give me the grace to trust again, and lead me to those who are caring, unselfish, and authentic. Fill my soul with longing—for you, more than any other.*



# YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN

"You have forgotten that Yahweh, your Maker, stretched out the skies and laid earth's firm foundation. But you live each day constantly worrying, living in fear of your angry oppressor who is bent on your destruction."

ISAIAH 51:13

*You* were not created to live in fear. That's why it feels so horrible when you do. You were not designed to spend each day in constant worry. The desire of God is that you would walk in peace and joy. That you would experience a love that chokes the life out of anxiety. That you would remember.

When stress and anxiety become your daily food, it means you have forgotten to eat from the tree of life. You've forgotten that the One who stretched out the sky and laid the earth's foundation is still on his throne. Still ready to carry you to victory. You've set your mind on a spinning wheel instead of yielding it to peace. You've forgotten his love. It's okay to let go. It's okay to hope again. It's safe to believe. It's vital that you remember.

*Father, forgive me for getting sucked into the swirl of worry. For forgetting that no matter what happens, I can still find the peace that surpasses understanding. Draw me into grace. Ignite my heart with thankfulness as I remember your loving-kindness and power.*



*October*

OCTOBER 1

## SURF THE WAVES OF ADVERSITY

"I am Yahweh, your faithful God, who split the sea with its roaring waves. My name is Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies!"

ISAIAH 51:15

*You* don't have to stand with your hands over your ears while the enemy screams his lies. Turn your attention to the Commander of Angel Armies. Tune your spirit into the victory cries of heaven. God is coming to rescue you. With angels at his side, he will calm the raging seas.

Those roaring waves that once knocked you down will only serve to strengthen you. Soon you will laugh at the enemy's attempts. Angels will lift you up to surf upon the waters that were meant to take you out. Nothing can stop you now. With Yahweh, you are undefeatable. You are courageous, strong, and fearless. You are the child of the King. Born to fulfill a destiny that no enemy in hell can steal. It's time to rise in victory.

*Father, the shouts of the enemy are silenced in your presence. You are holy and unstoppable. I feel your glory infusing me with faith. I stand unafraid and unaffected by the lies of the enemy because I know who you are and I trust your love for me.*



# IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS HAND

"I have placed my words in your mouth  
and have hidden you in the hollow of my hand."

ISAIAH 51:16

*D*eep in the wounds of Christ, life swells with a glory few find. This is where you are. This is where he has hidden you and kept you safe. There in the center of his love, in the beauty of his sacrifice, you discover who you were created to be.

When you look into the hollow of his hand, you will see yourself drenched in love's perfection. In him, you live, move, and have your being. You're not only safe in his love but also complete. Here where you and Jesus become one, peace becomes a reality. His voice explodes with sounds of laughter, releasing you into freedom and identity. Soon his words fill your mouth and drip like honey upon all who hear.

*Father, this is where I want to stay—in the safety of your love. In the excitement of perfect acceptance, paid by sacred blood. In the joy of freedom found in you. Now I feel laughter filling every place that once felt void of life. Now I'm complete.*



# YOU ARE NOT YOUR PAST

Arise and shake off your dust! Sit enthroned, Jerusalem!  
Break off your shackles of bondage from your neck,  
you captive daughter of Zion!

ISAIAH 52:2

*T*he enemy has held you captive long enough. It's time for you to rise from your posture of defeat and stop agreeing with the shame and hardship of your past. Captivity may have been your torment, but it is not your future. You are destined for freedom.

Do you realize how powerful you were created to be? Those bondages are not your lot in life. You don't have to revert to sin or slip back into habits of fear and hopelessness. Jesus has paid the price to set you free in every area of your life. He defines you. He has called you by his side to rule and reign with honor. You are his beautiful beloved. You are wanted, fearless, and valuable. You are not your past. You are free.

*Father, when I feel dusted by the shame of my past, I will remember who I am. When the temptation to slip into bad habits comes knocking, I'll let you answer the door. I am a new creation, hidden in your love. I bow before you, knowing mercy has placed this crown upon my head.*

OCTOBER 4

## EVERY NATION

Yahweh has unveiled his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations. To the ends of the earth, everyone everywhere will see the salvation of our God!

ISAIAH 52:10

God loves to flex his muscles. He loves to reveal his power to those who doubt him. Though the world may not know him, they will. Uncontainable love is swelling within him, ready to burst into every nation. The salvation of our God will one day be visible for all to see.

Jesus will never force anyone into a relationship with him, but he knows how to woo the hearts he's created. His saving grace reaches for every person. His strength and wisdom will not be ignored forever. He has promised that his goodness will be unveiled to everyone, everywhere. Let's pray for those who have yet to see. His love is greater than the arguments of man. Let's agree with mercy. Let's declare his love over the nations.

*Father, reach every nation and tribe with the power of your saving grace. Spark a flame of your glory in every country. Drive out resistance with the strength of love. Your goodness has no bounds. When doubting hearts are seized by your presence, truth cannot be ignored.*

OCTOBER 5

## LET YOUR LOVE OUT

What a beautiful sight to behold—the precious feet of the messenger coming over the mountains to announce good news!

ISAIAH 52:7

Every time you release hope to the hopeless, Jesus sees. Each hue of glory you release into the darkness is beautiful in his sight. The steps that take you into prisons of enslaved souls are steps he's ordained. Follow him, and you will be amazed by who you find on your journey.

When you choose to let your light shine, even your smile is anointed. Be yourself. The lost don't need a sermon. They need to experience the One who lives inside of you. The despondent are waiting for the hope you carry. Within you is the beautiful answer to the desperate cry of many. Don't withhold your words of encouragement. Don't ignore those nudges when he directs you to strike up a conversation with a stranger. Let your love out.

*Father, you are the beauty I want to release to the world around me. You are the good news they need to hear. Give me the words to speak and the anointing that touches their hearts. Flow through me so others may feel the tangible goodness of your presence.*

## LEAVING BABYLON

Go! Go, and leave Babylon behind! Touch nothing unclean as you depart. Keep your life pure as you leave, you who carry the vessels of Yahweh!

ISAIAH 52:11

Letting go of wrong mindsets, habits, and inhibitions means stepping into something new. It means completely leaving behind all that hinders us from enjoying a full and satisfying life. Leaving our spiritual Babylon signifies rejecting pride and refusing to do things our own way. It's our decision to embrace purity by laying aside worldly distractions and a strong will that declares *me first* instead of God first.

This is a deep act of surrender, which encompasses every aspect of our beings. We turn away from all that glitters, shines, and lures us into a half-hearted relationship with God in order to acquire true riches and fulfillment. Every mindset that doesn't agree with love, all stubbornness, and any double-mindedness must go as we honor the truth that we are vessels of Yahweh.

*Father, I lift my hands in whole-hearted surrender. Consume me with power and purity. Let nothing remain in me that doesn't reflect your beauty. I lay every need to control my life at your feet. Have it all! From this place of absolute abandon, you will lead me perfectly.*



# WHEN WE GIVE HIM OUR YES

Your God, Yahweh, will go before you.  
He will lead you each step and be your rear guard.

ISAIAH 52:12

*T*hink of the times you said yes to the Lord when it felt both scary and exciting. Those moments when you followed him on shaky, unsteady legs while hope was exploding in your chest.

Your yes to God seals his blessing. Even when things don't turn out the way you expect, the end result will always guarantee a victory of some kind. Sometimes that simply means maturing and growing into his image.

Life with Jesus is exhilarating. Sometimes it feels like a roller coaster ride. It's important that we don't allow our minds to dictate our state of being. Faith gives us an internal stability. No matter the path he leads us on, we're confident in his protection. We believe he's gone before us, is present with us, and guards us from behind. He alone is our confidence.

*Father, I've experienced both disappointment and incredible blessings, but through it all, you were always with me. You never left my side and you never will. That's why I say today that you still have my yes!*

## PERFECT LOVE

"Look! My servant will prosper and succeed! He will be highly honored, raised up, and greatly exalted! Just as many were appalled at the sight of him (for so marred was his appearance, like an object of horror; he no longer looked like a man), so now he will startle many nations."

ISAIAH 52:13-15

It's important for us to stop and soak in the beauty and profundity of this verse. While the book of Isaiah is filled with prophetic insight, announcing the coming Christ as Prophet, Teacher, and Redeemer, these verses introduce us to Jesus as the Suffering Servant. Isaiah declares what only God could have revealed in one of the most remarkable prophecies in all of history: the sufferings of Jesus and the glory that would follow. These verses and the chapter that follows are the epicenter of the gospel.

How remarkable it is to know that before we were born, God already knew how to rescue us. Before Jesus came to the earth, the Trinity set things in motion. What astounding wisdom! Perfect love would be the answer to the greatest problem (separation from God). His perfect love and unmatched wisdom are still the answer today.

*Father, your love leaves me utterly undone. You paid the price to redeem me before it ever came to pass on the earth. You saw the end from the beginning. You looked into the future and saw me, and despite the pain, decided I was worth it. Thank you.*

# THE POWER OF THE ONE WITHIN

"They will now see a sight unheard of,  
and things never considered before now fill their thoughts."

ISAIAH 52:15

When Jesus comes on the scene, we are affected in a way that cannot be compared with anything we've ever felt or conceived. It's as if everything we've been created for finds its center. Life in its truest form blossoms inside of us. We've found our home. Our Source. Our reason.

Life opens to immeasurable possibility when we give it to Jesus. We see and know in a way that far exceeds our own limitations. Our hearts and minds connect. We aren't cut off from his revelation or wisdom. We can see with clarity situations that once left us bewildered. Our thoughts flow in sync with his. This is the power of the One within us. This is the unity of our spirit with his.

*Father, here I am—all of me connecting with all of you. This is where I find my truest self. In you, I find my center and discover my greatest joy. When I'm consumed with your presence, peace is my constant friend. So here is where I'll stay. Right here, in this place I call home.*

## THE RADIANT ONE

He possessed no distinguishing beauty or outward splendor to catch our attention—nothing special in his appearance to make us desire him

ISAIAH 53:2

Isn't it interesting that Jesus, who held no distinguishing natural beauty, has become the object of our desire? Now our greatest longing is to gaze upon his face. To know, like Moses, what it's like to meet with him face to face. He has become our dearest, most valuable treasure. Our hearts' deepest delight. We're willing to pay any price to demonstrate our eternal desire to know the One who is gloriously radiant.

This truth emphasizes the fact that outward appearance isn't as important as internal beauty. As a society, what's on the outside usually catches our initial attention, but at some point, we recognize what really matters and place value on the deeper matters of the heart. And this is where Jesus, the Perfect One, resides—within us, radiating through us with unparalleled beauty.

*Father, my greatest desire is to see you. To know you. To gaze for all eternity upon the beauty of the One who has captured my heart. Though I know and see in part, one day I will find myself held in the arms of love as I look upon your face.*



## EMOTIONALLY WHOLE

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of deep sorrows  
who was no stranger to suffering and grief.

ISAIAH 53:3

There is so much comfort to be found in the fact that Jesus feels our pain. He understands our suffering and grief. He carried the weight of our heaviness on his shoulders. He felt our heartache and sorrow before we ever did. He took the burdens of shame, sin, and sadness so we could live free from them. What an extraordinary display of love!

Though he was despised and rejected by men, Jesus lived emotionally whole. He didn't complain about the price he would pay for a world that rejected him. He stood in his identity as a man who was wholly confident in his Father's love. This way of walking through sorrow becomes our example. Like Jesus, we can suffer the world's blows yet live emotionally whole. He's even willing to take our pain and heal our emotional wounds if we would place ourselves in his hands.

*Jesus, it's a relief to know you understand. Sometimes I forget that you're acquainted with my suffering. Thank you for not distancing yourself from my pain but for remaining close enough to feel it with me. Most of all, thank you for not allowing me to get stuck in sorrow.*

# HEALING IN EVERY AREA

He was the one who carried our sicknesses and endured the torment of our sufferings ... He endured the punishment that made us completely whole, and in his wounding, we found our healing.

ISAIAH 53:4,5

Jesus is the Lamb slain, not only for our salvation, but also for our sickness. When he was on the earth, he spoke words of healing and declared freedom to the demonized. His Word, which is still alive and powerful, continues to heal and set free. His healing virtue still flows today.

The punishment Jesus endured made us completely whole in every area of our lives. He isn't only concerned with our body's health or where our spirit will spend eternity, but he also cares about the health of our souls, our relationships, and even our finances. He paid the price for our complete well-being. Jesus is our rock and strong foundation, but when that rock was split open (the wounded side of Jesus), it provided a place of refuge mankind had never known. A space filled with life—where we're kept safe and find healing for all aspects of our life. Tuck yourself in today.

*Father, forgive me for standing outside of your presence, wondering why I'm not experiencing all Jesus paid for. In your presence is fullness of joy, so that is where I'll remain. With faith and expectation, I cling to your promises and trust your timing. Your perfect sacrifice was enough.*

## THE STANCE OF SILENCE

He was oppressed and harshly mistreated; still he humbly submitted, refusing to defend himself. He was brought like a gentle lamb to be slaughtered. Like a silent sheep before his shearers, he didn't even open his mouth.

ISAIAH 53:7

Silence. That was Jesus's stance as he gave himself over to be crucified. This was what he had come to the earth for. This is what he agreed to. He knew there would be victory on the other side of the agonizing pain, but as a man, he still needed to endure it. He still had to confront the tormenting thoughts the enemy threw at him. The ache of loneliness when he felt abandoned by the Father was the only time he cried out in pain (Matthew 27:46).

Silence helps keep us aware of the presence of God. Because Jesus suffered separation from the Father, we never have to. He will never leave or forsake us. When naysayers and even our own doubts plague us, internal surrender to his will keeps us. We submit every question, fear, and frustration to his glory where they are burned by the inferno of holy love.

*Father, give me the grace to stand before you in silence as I give myself to fully trust your will. When I feel the sting of obedience, draw me deeper into your presence where I remember you are with me and we're in this together.*

# YOU ARE HIS DEEPEST DESIRE

He will gaze upon his many offspring and prolong his days. And through him, Yahweh's deepest desires will be fully accomplished.

ISAIAH 53:10

*Y*ou are Yahweh's deepest desire. The person you see in the mirror was chosen for a life of profound union with the Lord before you were ever born. Individually and collectively, we are the family he dreamed about. Your face is the one that holds his attention. You have captured his heart. He knew you would be worth the sacrifice.

Let's acknowledge the magnificence of the Lord's love today. Let's remember how significantly and personally desired we are. Let's not only walk and talk with him throughout the day, but also set time aside to be alone with him. To set our affections solely upon him. To pour into the relationship he longed for from the beginning. He is gazing at you right now.

*Father, I'm astounded by your love. Grateful to be part of your family. Honored to have your attention and carry your name. I am yours, and I never want to forget that. I never want to forget what you did just to be with me.*



## HOLD NOTHING BACK

By knowing him, the righteous one, my servant will make many to be righteous, because he, their sin-bearer, carried away their sins.

ISAIAH 53:11

The consequence of our disobedience has already been taken care of. The penalty for our sin was absorbed into a blood-soaked cross. Nothing could have set us in right standing with the King of Righteousness. Nothing other than a sin-bearer who was without sin. Jesus, the Innocent One, came. He bowed his head, allowed our guilt to be placed on his shoulders, and carried it away to make it his own.

Let's stop making excuses for sin and invite him to be Lord of every area. Nothing should be off limits—not our eating habits, the way we spend our time, or the bad attitudes that feel righteous but are purely self-centered. Once we've turned our hearts to Jesus, unrighteousness is no longer our identity. The more we know him, the more our thoughts and actions will reflect him. We are royalty, and it's time we act like it.

*Jesus, thank you for giving me a new identity. For carrying away the parts of my life that would separate me from you. For wrapping me in the robe of righteousness that belonged to you. Come, be Lord of every area I've kept as my own.*

# JESUS, OUR INTERCESSOR

[He] intercedes for those who are rebels.

ISAIAH 53:12

Sometimes you just want to know someone is on your side. You want to feel that someone has your back. You need someone who can be trusted with your secrets but who can also give you wise counsel and help guide you. In Jesus, you have that and more.

No one can intercede more perfectly. No one knows us and the will of God for our life better than Jesus. To think that he takes time to make intercession for us boggles the mind. I can't think of anyone I'd want to pray for me more than Jesus. He's already paid the price for our breakthrough, and he's about as close as one can get to the Father.

The next time you're weary and need someone to hold you in prayer, go to him. Lean against his chest and know that he will intercede with unparalleled passion and power.

*Jesus, I'm amazed by the way you care for me. I'm dumbfounded by the way you care about me. You are a truly faithful friend and you always have my back. Thank you for holding my life tenderly in your hands and for presenting it before the Father on my behalf.*

# I WILL WORSHIP

“Rejoice with singing, you barren one!  
You who have never given birth,  
burst into a song of joy and shout,  
you who have never been in labor!”

ISAIAH 54:1

There are times and seasons when we feel stuck. We experience no forward motion and wonder if we should abort our dreams. Life is at a standstill, and our spiritual barrenness seems overwhelming. The more we focus on what isn't happening, the greater the sense of heaviness we feel. Before we know it, we've lost our song.

Worship isn't contingent upon circumstances, but it does greatly affect them and gives proper perspective. It seems almost cruel to tell someone to rejoice when they are feeling the pain of barrenness. But faith knows how to find its song. Faith sees ahead and believes the seeds of his Word, implanted in the heart, will take root and produce fruit. So we sing. We rejoice in our glorious future and water the dry ground of past disappointments with tears of worship. Our time will come.

*Father, when things don't happen the way I expect, I will worship. When doors of opportunity slam in my face, I will trust you to open a better door, and I will worship. When I feel like I'm being pulled back, I'll remember it's only because you're stretching the slingshot closer to your heart before launching it. And I will worship.*

# INCREASE COMES FROM THE LORD

"Increase is coming, so enlarge your tent and add extensions to your dwelling. Hold nothing back! Make the tent ropes longer and the pegs stronger."

ISAIAH 54:2

When we're following the Holy Spirit and obeying his leading, we should expect to be enlarged. Things often start small in order to prepare our hearts for the greater works and wisdom of God. It's for our own good that he focuses on growing our character and integrity and purifies our motives. We mustn't get stuck in small thinking.

God wants to bless the work of our hands. He wants to multiply those who have sown with faithfulness and humility. Nothing we do has gone unnoticed by him. Every prayer and effort we've poured into the call upon our life will be rewarded. The time to enlarge our tents will come. There's nothing prideful about serving the masses. The favor of God isn't for us alone. It's a means of reaching those he wants to impact with the anointing he's given.

*Father, I want to be faithful with what you've put in my heart. Prepare me to be a vessel of honor, integrity, and humility. No matter how many people I reach with the message of hope and healing, help me to always remember that increase comes from you.*



## REACHING THE MULTITUDES

"You will increase and spread out in every direction. Your sons and daughters will conquer nations and revitalize desolate cities."

ISAIAH 54:3

No matter how big you dream, God dreams bigger. He longs to surprise you by doing things that are far greater than you can imagine. The trickle effect of the people you talk to, encourage, and pray for can cascade beyond your borders into places you never step foot in. One person can affect many without realizing it.

All you have to do is be willing and pay attention to the opportunities God places in front of you. Don't ignore the random thoughts to chat it up with the person waiting in line with you. Be brave and ask the sick man sitting next to you on the plane if he would like prayer. Imagine if you led the next worldwide evangelist to salvation. An encouraging conversation with a stranger who's touched by the love of God in you may lead to the salvation of hundreds of thousands.

*Father, I want my life to count. I don't have to be famous to reach many with your love. I only need to be willing to follow your Spirit. Today I avail myself to you. I commit to working with you every day and believing that every person is important.*

OCTOBER 20

## A BRIGHT, HOPEFUL FUTURE

"Do not fear, for your shame is no more. Do not be embarrassed, for you will not be disgraced. You will forget the inadequacy you felt in your youth and will no longer remember the shame of your widowhood."

ISAIAH 54:4

Jesus doesn't characterize you by your mistakes or failures. He doesn't outline your future with ink from your past. Who you were or the struggles you still battle aren't what give definition to your life. Only Jesus does. He has never restricted or punished you by forcing you to live in a box of shame and regret. Instead he calls you to newness and joy.

You may feel like a mess, but Jesus thinks you're a beautiful mess. He sees you perfected and holy. He says those ugly tears of surrender are treasures worth saving. The glory he fills you with as you turn every situation over to him has nothing to do with your past. It has everything to do with your yielded heart. He sees you, beloved. He wants to clothe you with himself.

*Father, I give you my brokenness. I surrender the memories from my past that have plagued me and made me feel inadequate. Instead of being embarrassed by the things I haven't managed well, I will learn from my mistakes. I will forge ahead with you into a bright, hopeful future.*

OCTOBER 21

## IN LONELINESS

"Your Maker is your husband. His name is Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies! Your Kinsman-Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel! He has the title Mighty God of All the Earth!"

ISAIAH 54:5

Jesus wants to draw us into a level of spiritual connection that stuns us. Grips us to the core. Holds our attention by steeping us in a well of liquid love, swirling with tangible glory. Slays our need for adventure by whisking us into encounters we've never dreamed possible. The Mighty God, our Maker, Brother, Husband, Savior, and Friend, wants to teach us what it's like to be truly fulfilled by him. He wants to bypass our logic and reveal a love that satisfies our hearts' deepest longings.

You may be thinking, *Yes, but I still want someone with skin on!* God wants to bless us with people who can exhibit his love for and to us, but first he wants us to find our center, our absolute satisfaction, in him. If we're honest, the sting of loneliness usually happens when our intimacy with him is suffering.

*Father, when I catch a glimpse of your ravished heart, I'm completely undone, left yearning for more. I stand in stillness before you now. Come, capture my heart completely. It is yours without reservation. Let me know what it's like to be found fully in you.*

OCTOBER 22

## REASSESSING PRIORITIES

"I am drawing you back to me," says Yahweh.

ISAIAH 54:6

The pull of worldly distraction is real. The busyness that drags us along at a pace much too fast for contemplation or stillness has become normal. It's time to lean into his whisper. Time to stop ignoring the warmth of his breath against your cheek as he gently calls you back to him.

God yearns for us to approach. It isn't under the distant shadow of his presence that we find refuge. It's in the nearness. In the secluded privacy of his massive arms, he pulls us close. But first, we need to stop fidgeting so we can sink deep into his ever-present love on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit wants to recalibrate our hearts, but he won't force us. He wants to show us what a truly fruitful life is, but it's up to us to engage with it and reassess our priorities.

*Father, I can sense you tugging at my heart to set time aside and be with you. Give me the grace to follow this longing in my heart. Give me wisdom to prioritize in a way that opens time for daily intimacy with you. You will be my heartfelt pursuit.*



OCTOBER 23

## HIS HEALING LOVE

Even if the mountains were to crumble and the hills disappear,  
my heart of steadfast, faithful love will never leave you.

ISAIAH 54:10

The truth is, sometimes it really does feel like our private world is crumbling. Trauma and tragedy stop us in our tracks, and we can do nothing but exist in the moment with Jesus. No eloquently spoken or written words can change the fact that pain happens. It cannot be wiped away by the hands of man. As we stand in the chaotic swirl of heartbreak, only one thing makes a difference—the faithfulness of our loving Father.

If you are experiencing emotional pain, know that he really does see. Jesus really does care. And he is with you, even if you can't sense him right now. Rest in his presence. This is where healing begins. It may take some time, but every moment in his love will bring your heart closer to wholeness and healing. I speak peace over your heart today.

*Father, all I can do is close my eyes and lean into your love. Wrap me in your presence and heal me. I lay my broken heart before you as an offering, fully submitted to your Lordship. Wash away my pain as I worship you in the silence of my soul.*

OCTOBER 24

## WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE

"And my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken."

ISAIAH 54:10

Peace isn't just a great idea. It is God's covenant promise. Peace is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible, so it must be pretty important that we pay attention to the Lord's desire for us to have it.

Believe it or not, remaining in peace is our decision. It isn't meant to be determined by what's happening around us. It's established in our hearts as we choose to live from God's reality. When his reality and his presence become the normal atmosphere of our soul, it's impossible not to notice when it shifts. Everything feels off kilter. But as we run right back into Jesus, our Refuge, peace quiets our internal storm. He teaches us that through absolute confidence in his love, we can live in peace.

*Father, in you I find the path of peace that's easier to navigate than I thought. When I remain close to you, my footing is sure, and the invading substance of anxiety cannot find its way into my heart. I want to live so drenched in the awareness of your closeness that I do everything necessary to maintain it.*

## EXTENDING GRACE

[Yahweh's] love and compassion will never give up on you.

ISAIAH 54:10

There is no love that compares to the Lord's. Love that has no borders, conditions, or fuel levels. It never runs on fumes or pushes itself to endure us. It is patient, kind, and empowering. His love is alive, igniting hope within us—hope that we can be exactly who he says we are.

If Jesus doesn't give up on us, we certainly mustn't give up. Let's allow his compassion to spill into our way of thinking, responding, and believing—about ourselves and the people around us. When we understand the value of patience and compassion, receiving it individually, it's easier to release it to others. Knowing he never gives up on us, gives us a standard of grace by which we measure our worth and the worth of those we've only tolerated. This unmerited, patient love changes everything.

*Father, I'm glad you don't keep a list of my wrongs and remind me of them. You don't hold my faults over my head, but you always encourage me with patience and excitement. If you're not hard on me, I'm not going to be hard on myself. I'm going to give myself grace and extend that grace to others.*

## BECOMING HIS JEWELS

"You unhappy one, storm-tossed and troubled,  
I am ready to rebuild you with precious stones  
and embed your foundation with sapphires."

ISAIAH 54:11

*Y*our past may have been cluttered with upheaval and confusion, but God doesn't want it to stay that way. He wants to thoughtfully replace with precious stones every dirt-laden pebble the enemy threw at you. He wants to lavish you with beauty so you'll understand your worth. He wants you to look in the mirror and see his brilliance reflected.

Every dark smudge of fear, shame, and disappointment is being washed in his love. The tempest storms have turned to refreshing waves. As he declares your value, the glistening glory of your true identity becomes evident for all to see. You are not only adorned with precious stones, you have become a jewel in his crown and he loves to show your beauty to the world.

*Father, I can actually feel your love adorning me with a beauty that is not my own. Each day, as I rise to meet you, I'm becoming more like you. More like the glorious, fiery One I was created to emulate. Thank you for changing me. Thank you for beautifying me with yourself.*



OCTOBER 27

## OUR EXTRAVAGANT GOD

"I will make your towers of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious, delightful stones."

ISAIAH 54:12

The extravagance of God far exceeds the most lavish ideas of man. He absolutely outdoes us in every way. He has no problem giving us more than we can imagine. As a matter of fact, even our most astounding dreams cannot measure up to his desires for us. Our greatest requests, the ones that seem a bit over the top and unrealistic, don't make him flinch. He gets excited when we run toward our future with faith.

Disappointments may have caused you to tone down your zealotry, but God wants you to get excited again. To run with undiluted hope, knowing you're being energized by him. To reach for the things that are much too high to achieve on your own. This extravagant God wants to bless you with so much more.

*Father, I'm shaking off every hindrance of doubt. I know the things I'm believing you for are somewhat outrageous, but I'd rather reach for the greater and only get halfway there than strive for the lesser and get it all.*

OCTOBER 28

## GOD'S PROMISES FOR OUR CHILDREN

"All your children will be taught by Yahweh,  
and great will be their peace and prosperity."

ISAIAH 54:13

If you have children, whether those you mentor or those who are part of your family, this is an amazing verse to declare over them. It doesn't matter their age or whether they are wholeheartedly following the Lord right now. God's Word slices through every lie and cuts the enemy's plan into pieces.

Think about their shaky, unclear, or misguided ideas being stabilized and enlightened as he unfolds Scripture and gives them a sure foundation. Imagine your children soaking in the wisdom of God as he visits them in their sleep and teaches them in their dreams. He knows exactly how to reach your children, and he longs to awaken them to a life of peace, prosperity, and blessing.

Let's pray his Word over their lives together.

*Father, I stand in agreement with your will for my children. You are teaching them, infiltrating their way of thinking, and giving them ears to hear what your Spirit has to say. My children walk in peace and prosperity because their spirits are tuning into the ways of your Kingdom. I bless them with the ability to hear from heaven and to be led by perfect wisdom.*

## ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

"You will be established in righteousness."

ISAIAH 54:14

Becoming established in righteousness means having a strong identity in Jesus. It is living from the strength of this solid infrastructure and watching it filter into every area of our lives. It is a glorious awakening to who we are, birthed by the wounds of Christ.

A righteous life is one that points to the goodness of God in both good times and bad. A life whose actions and words ooze with his power and compassion. Righteousness is also clothed in humility, able to bow low in order to lift others higher. It is symbolized by absolute dependence upon God, knowing it was his call to salvation that allowed us to exchange the yokes of sin, guilt, and shame for the yokes of holy union and glorious redemption.

*Father, awaken me to the truth of who I am in you. Give me the grace to stand tall and the courage to bow low. Thank you for allowing me to know the joy, honor, responsibility, and humility of carrying your glorious Spirit within me. May I always represent you well.*

## BE FAR FROM FEAR

"Oppression—be far from you! Fear—be far from you!  
Yes, terror will not come near you, nor will you be afraid."

ISAIAH 54:14

*How* dare we treat fear as a normal part of life. How dare we open our hearts and allow fear to live there as if it belongs. Fear and oppression are tormentors. They destroy lives, families, and destinies.

Fear forces us to act impulsively, rashly, rather than trusting God and waiting on his solution. It tricks us into thinking that if we spend all of our mental efforts on obsessing about something, it will change. We must stop listening to fear's deceptive voice and command it to go. We must dig our nails into it and tear it from our souls. We must thrust it, ever so painfully, before the presence of God and trust him.

*Father, you said fear and oppression would be far from me, so today I decide to partner with this truth. I release control to you. I don't need to fix everything! You will. I release the need to understand the things that feel confusing. I invite you into every fear that has taken up residence and ask that you would infuse me with truth.*



## OUR ADVOCATE

"If anyone dares to stir up strife against you, it is not from me!  
Those who challenge you will go down in defeat."

ISAIAH 54:15

God wants us to understand his intentions for our lives. He wants us to know that when we've set our hearts to follow him and walk in righteousness, he becomes our defense. When a tornado of lies and strife twists around us, kicking dirt and dust in our faces, Jesus envelops us inside of him. There we wait. We trust. We quiet our need to prove everyone wrong, and we allow him to purify our hearts and motives.

Lies hurt. Strife strokes our egos and prods us to retaliate. Strife thinks it will win. But when we remain in Christ, these situations serve to unveil the truth about our own souls. We see what's really going on inside when our buttons are pushed. Every weapon formed against us will serve as a refining tool in God's hands if we remain humble and trust him as our advocate.

*Father, I yield. When the storms rage and I have every right to retaliate, I will bow low and give you my rights. I will humble myself and choose the path of righteousness. You will defend me and wrap my reputation inside of yourself where it's kept safe.*



*November*

NOVEMBER 1

# LOVE ALWAYS WINS

"I promise you, no weapon meant to hurt you will succeed."

ISAIAH 54:17

*When* we are shackled to our deepest pains, it's hard to imagine that the enemy hasn't already succeeded. For a moment, all we see is the darkness of our swimming vision. Hasn't the enemy already won when all we can do is sit in the shock of tragedy? The answer is no.

In a time of great disappointment and calamity, Jesus kneels beside us. With gentle mercy and compassion, he carries us into his presence, knowing we cannot walk on our own. Pain rips us open, giving Jesus, the Great Surgeon, easy access to our hearts. He breathes softly upon the flickering embers of hope until the strength of a raging fire burns once again. This is what keeps the enemy's plans from succeeding—the miraculous exchange of strength from Jesus to us.

*Father, I'm blown away by your ability to resurrect my life. When all of my strength was gone, you gave me yours. Just when I thought I'd never experience joy again, your laughter echoed inside of me, healing my heart. No, the enemy will not win because he cannot take me from you.*



## DRENCHED

"Listen! Are you thirsty for more?  
Come to the refreshing waters and drink."

ISAIAH 55:1

*T*he waters of his love are cascading over your soul. This is where you were created to live—right here where heaven and earth unite within you. The more his love saturates you, the greater your thirst. Though it satisfies, it also gives you the capacity to contain more and more of his glory until every fiber of your being is drenched with his essence.

Life doesn't have to suck you dry. You don't have to collapse by the streams of his presence, using shaking hands to lift drops of water to parched lips. He's inviting you to live here. To drink every day from the well of Living Water that never runs dry. To swim in the waters of holy intimacy every single day.

*Father, drench me in your love. I want to live saturated with the awareness of your presence. I cannot do life well without you. My every longing, the deepest desires of my soul, and the thirst for true happiness are all satisfied when they are submerged in your Living Waters.*



## FLOURISHING

“Pay attention and come closer to me,  
and hear, that your total being may flourish.”

ISAIAH 55:3

Jesus wants us to flourish in every area of our lives. Spirit, soul, mind, body, emotions—every single part of our being was designed for wholeness. Our search for wholeness always leads straight to him. When we recognize that it really is *in him* that we live, move, and have our being, time with him becomes a priority.

We become the best versions of ourselves when we remain close to him, aware of the miraculous intermingling of his life with ours. We thrive in relationships, we succeed at parenting, we crush our goals, and we feel stable and centered by peace when we continually pay attention to his presence within us. When we seek to experience the empowering of his Holy Spirit on a continual basis, every area of our life will flourish.

*Father, I want to experience the fullness of life you've promised. Teach me how to pay attention to you in every situation. With my gaze set on yours, I offer you every part of my being so I will be whole. I place each aspect of my life into your hands and lean into the leading of your Holy Spirit.*

# THE APPROACHABLE GOD

Seek the Lord Yahweh when he makes himself approachable;  
call upon him when you sense he is near.

ISAIAH 55:6

*T*he immortal God, who lives in the unapproachable light of divine glory, has made himself approachable. Jesus has opened the way for us to go as close to him as we desire. The invitation to divine romance need only be accepted. No matter how long you've walked with the Lord, you can experience new levels of his glory on an ongoing basis.

It is such a beautiful, effortless relationship. One that ebbs and flows in a rhythm of perfect love. There's no striving, only responding to the magnetic tug upon our hearts. At times, we press into his chest with adoration that spontaneously arises from deep inside. At other times, we sense his presence wooing us to draw near to him. And every time, we experience glory unspeakable as we go closer and closer to him.

*Father, thank you for making yourself constantly available to me. For not only allowing me to go close but also inviting me to. Fine-tune my spirit so I never miss the moments of bliss you long to share. Each day may I experience the fresh encounters found in your love.*

## IN HIS TIME

As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so my ways and my thoughts are higher than yours.

ISAIAH 55:9

Sometimes we want so badly to figure everything out. We present our prayers to the Lord and offer him our praise for what we believe he'll do, only to question him the moment waiting becomes difficult. We're comforted by knowing that his ways and wisdom are perfect, but resting in that truth can be painful. Can't he just give us a hint of what's happening behind the scenes?

The lifestyle of faith is one of patience and trust. It is one that knows God has everything under control. When it's time for us to have more details, he'll share them. He hasn't forgotten his promises. He isn't concerned that we might miss his instructions. He knows exactly how to get our attention. Let's rest in him and trust him to release wisdom and understanding in his time.

*Father, forgive me for being impatient. I know your thoughts are higher than mine and your ways are perfect. I release all anxiety and choose the posture of faith by resting in your love. You have everything under control, and I can trust you without question.*

## FAITHFUL AND TRUE

"So also will be the word that I speak;  
it does not return to me unfulfilled."

ISAIAH 55:11

God's promise of abundant life through Jesus is sealed with the Lamb's blood. All that his Word has set out to accomplish will come to pass. His Word has a purpose—to save, deliver, and empower with irrefutable truth. Jesus is the Word, and he is more than able to do the impossible when we take his promises to heart.

You are the object of his affection. You are the target his Word wants to pierce with faith and hope. It is his joy to watch you feast upon his words and hold them dear. He loves when you remind him of the promises you're standing on. The truths of Scripture that light your path are reliable and sure. God cannot lie, so pour every ounce of faith into his Word and know that they will come to pass.

*Father, let the faithfulness of your Word come to pass in my life. I unite my faith to the promises you've given me, and I will not be afraid to believe with radical faith. You are worthy of my trust. Your Word is faithful and true.*



NOVEMBER 7

## CHOOSE FREEDOM

You will leave your exile with joy and be led home wrapped in peace. The mountains and hills in front of you will burst into singing and the trees of the field will applaud!

ISAIAH 55:12

*You've* been waiting for this moment. The point in your life when *you* choose to step out of the grave clothes that have shrouded your soul and allow the Lord to wrap you in garments of peace, joy, and courage. It is time to emerge from your anguish.

Too often we become prisoners of our mindsets. We stare with unblinking eyes at our problems instead of holding them before the Lord and asking him how he sees them. Usually our perspectives aren't the same. The Master of understanding wants us to take confidence in his plans even when we aren't exactly sure what they are. When we allow his love to unlock the cages of our thoughts, we step outside of our minds and into a place of freedom that only comes from trusting him.

*Father, I'm ready to leave this prison. I've waited so long for you to push me out, but now I see you've been standing across the threshold waiting for me to take your hand. Today is a new beginning. A day to embrace your perspective and throw off old mindsets. I choose freedom!*

NOVEMBER 8

# JESUS HAS BECOME OUR SABBATH REST

“Blessed is the one who will faithfully keep his commitment. Yes, blessed is the one who honors the Sabbath and does not disregard it, and the one who keeps their hands from doing evil.”

ISAIAH 56:2

Jesus has become our Sabbath rest. It is no longer our religious obligation to dutifully honor him once a week. Instead, his presence has become our continual delight. His ways have become our intentional journey.

When we make our relationship with Jesus our priority, not our requirement, we're honoring the price he paid to set us free. We don't clock in or out of his presence. We get to live here, fixated on his love. And we certainly don't gain favor points as if anything we do could earn the grace he freely gives. Every day is holy unto Jesus, and he is Lord of every second. Enjoy him. Honor him with a grateful heart. Savor the One who has become our Sabbath rest, and tuck yourself away with Jesus as often as you'd like.

*Father, thank you for giving me the freedom to enjoy and serve you from a position of thankfulness and devotion instead of a place of obligation. It's my desire to carry a heart of true appreciation into your presence and for you to know how absolutely in love with you I am.*

# TRUE SUCCESS

The eunuchs should never say,  
“Because I can’t have children, I’m just a barren tree.”

ISAIAH 56:3

Our desire for success can give us a skewed view of fruitfulness. Unless our movements, first and last name, or works have become a known hashtag, we wonder if we’ve done enough. We measure our usefulness by our accolades. We believe success equals fame. If we haven’t “arrived” according to the world’s standards, we see ourselves as a barren tree.

Yes, God wants us to impact the world around us but only in congruence with what he has placed in our hands. Our season may be geared toward raising children, befriending the lonely widow next door, or pouring encouragement into the lives of friends and strangers. Regardless, true success only happens when we pay attention to the people and situations in front of us and act accordingly by responding to the leading of his Spirit.

*Father, teach me to love well, to maintain a thankful heart, to inspire others, and to do all that you’ve placed in my hands with intention and compassion. As long as I’m fruitful in your eyes, it doesn’t matter what the world thinks. I live to honor you in all my ways. That makes me a true success.*

## IN THIS FAMILY

"I will bestow upon them within my household both an honored place and an honored name, even better than the honor that comes from having children. I bestow upon them my everlasting favor; you will never be forgotten."

ISAIAH 56:5

*You* and I have been given the honor of carrying his name. We are royalty. We've been granted a seat at the Lord's table, not at the children's table beside it. He wants us right next to him so he can lean close and share his secrets. He wants us in on his plans.

When we remember that we were created because God longed to share himself with us like a parent who desires children, we gain a sense of belonging. Being in this family is empowering and perfect in every way. With this Papa, we are known, desired, and cherished in ways we never knew possible. We are given everything we need to thrive in our identity and purpose. In this family, we stand humbly confident because we are fully known and fully loved.

*Father, I want to pause and ponder the wonder of being your child. I want this truth to permeate into the deepest part of my soul: I am wanted. No parent on earth, no friend, sibling, or spouse could ever love me the way you do. Thank you for the great price you paid so we could be together for eternity.*



## TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

"I will denounce your presumed 'righteousness' and your 'good works,' so don't trust in your idols to help you."

ISAIAH 57:12

Nothing we have done or ever can do has earned our favor with the Lord. Our self-made masks of righteousness are paper-thin and don't hide anything from God. The tower from which we look down upon others, the one built upon moral integrity, fancy titles, years of church attendance, fasting, prayer, and all our other good works, will never lift us to the heights of his glory. All we have to stand upon are mercy and grace. They are enough.

Our desire for goodness and perfection can only be obtained through absolute surrender and humility. When we realize that apart from him we are nothing, it frees us to know ourselves. To understand our great need for God's gift of righteousness that we cannot earn and do not deserve.

*Father, as I stand before you, wholly accepted even in my worst condition, I'm convinced my righteousness comes from nowhere else but you. Instead of trying to hide my imperfections, I'll rejoice because you shine radiantly through them. May I always remain humble, truly humble in the depths of my soul, remembering that you alone are my righteousness.*

# NOTHING WILL STOP THEM

Yahweh says, "Let the people return to me.  
Build! Build up the road, clear the way, and get it ready!  
Remove every obstacle from their path."

ISAIAH 57:14

*N*othing can stop a heart intent on returning to the Lord. Addictions, bad habits, brokenness, shame—the list of things working to hinder a soul's return is endless. But God never ignores the cry of his children searching for home, and he will move anything that tries to get in their way.

When we're praying for the prodigals, we occasionally get discouraged by the stumbling blocks we see in their lives—the people they're associating with, things they're subjecting themselves to, etc. We judge what we *think* is happening inside of them based on what they say and do. But God sees everything, and the most minuscule movement of their hearts coming back to him sets him running in their direction. He will blow every distraction and obstacle out of their way with the force of a hurricane.

*Father, your Word encourages me by reminding me how incredibly in love with the prodigals you are. We have nothing to fear because you notice what we miss. You will never turn away the one who moves even an inch in your direction.*

# HIS GLORY CHANGES EVERYTHING

... the one who fills the eternal realm with glory ...

ISAIAH 57:15

God fills the expanse of eternity with his glory. If he can do that, what can he do in our family, our trial, or our dilemma? The Creator of all that is seen and unseen has held time and space safely in order without flinching.

We don't seem to have a problem believing the sun won't crash on our heads, but stretching our faith for an answer to prayer can seem a bit over the top. Why do we pick and choose what we think God can or can't, will or won't do? Why do we limit him based on what we decide is a miracle we can wrap our brains around and accept? God wants to flood our lives with the same glory that fills the eternal realm. Glory that changes everything about the way we experience him in our lives.

*Father, I'm ready to experience the radical and outrageous. Burst through any lingering doubts with the power of your love. If you can set the oceans within their borders, care enough to know the number of hairs on my head, and hold the sun in place, you can answer my most extravagant prayers. You can encounter me with your glory!*

## FROM HIGH ABOVE

"I dwell in high and holy places  
but also with the bruised and lowly in spirit."

ISAIAH 57:15

Our Father is more dependable and available than anyone on earth. He's with us in joy and suffering, victory and pain. He is the Constant One. Never demonstrating favoritism. Always bowing low to comfort, yet from high above the storms, he views our situations from a perfect vantage point.

We are his children—confident and secure in his unbiased love. There is nothing normal or cautious about the way he cares for us. He laid it all on the line to have us by his side. Unconcerned about how low he'd have to reach to pull us up. Now, we can talk to him about anything, knowing he's not only listening but also sincerely interested. One moment in his presence can satisfy our greatest needs and most trivial desires. May we never take his love for granted.

*Father, no matter how much time I spend with you, I'm always surprised by the way you greet me with your presence. One moment I'm blissfully overwhelmed with fiery glory, and the next you're calming me in the waters of peace. You reach from high above and draw me close. You never let go.*



# YOU WERE GOD'S IDEA

"I am the One who gave the breath of life to my people."

ISAIAH 57:16

*You* were God's idea. You are not a mistake. He was the One who decided to implant you in your mother's womb. Your parents were only the vessels he released you through. Before you were conceived, he knew you. Held you safe within him where his deepest desires begin. His breath flowed into you, seeping into every cell of your forming body. He wanted you to be filled with him, with the very essence of glory, from the beginning.

That hasn't changed. Every fiber of your being contains him and is contained *in* him. He wants you to remember. To remember the great love that taught your heart to beat. He wants you to encounter his Fatherly heart that gives definition to who you are.

*Father, all I feel is the sweetness of your presence wrapped around me. The words "I love you" are coming alive again. The gentle breeze of heaven—your very breath—is filling my lungs again. Nothing else matters here. I am content in your love. In you, I have found my delight.*

## STEP FORWARD

"Even though I've seen their ways, I will heal them.  
I will guide them forward and repay them with comfort."

ISAIAH 57:18

Step forward. Come face to face with God. Look him in the eye and let Love hold your gaze. He already sees. He knew everything you would try to hide before you ever tried to conceal it. It may feel like there's something standing between you and him, but it's only a smokescreen. It's only the snare of distance seeking to invade a space that he is meant to fill. Distance that was closed by a blood-soaked cross. Step through it.

Love himself beckons you closer. Guides you into freedom. Extends healing for your soul that drips with mercy. Nothing can ever separate you from his love. Step into this provision. Walk right into his open arms and ignore everything else.

*Father, the sins that once ensnared my soul are nothing more than a vague memory. I am yours. Stained by nothing more than sacred blood. I will not hide from you when it is the warmth of your embrace that brings me back to life.*

## IN GRIEF

"I will guide them forward and repay them with comfort,  
giving mourners the language of praise."

ISAIAH 57:18

God's healing in grief is tender and intentional. When we have nothing to offer, no strength of our own, he comes close and lies beside us. With the love only the Father in heaven can demonstrate, he pulls us into himself and absorbs our pain. The One who watched his own Son die knows anguish and is able to heal ours.

Ever so gently, with compassion and inexplicable power, he whispers words that we may not hear but most definitely feel. The heaviness of our souls is soon infused with the life of God. When it seems nothing in the world will ever give us joy again, he gives us himself. He lifts the shroud of heaviness and places a garment of healing melody upon our shoulders. True love becomes our song, surging from a place once wrenched in agony and emptiness. It is him rising within us with the same resurrection power that conquered the grave.

*Father, all I can do is offer you my pain and my weak, but sincere, love. Come, hold me. Heal me. Lift the pain as I hide myself in you. You will resurrect the joy grief has stolen.*

## HE OFFERS PEACE

"I offer peace to those who are far from me,  
and I offer peace to those who are near,  
and I will heal their deepest wounds," says Yahweh.

ISAIAH 57:19

The God of peace wants all of us to live from a place of deep-seated rest. He offers peace to everyone, near and far, but even those who are close to him must choose to accept it. Every single person on earth must decide whether tranquility will be granted authority over fear.

The details of our lives don't have to line up perfectly before we partner with peace. This is not a conditional gift based on what's happening to us. It is a spiritual place of existence found by living in the awareness of God's love and his desire to take care of us. It enables us to go beyond circumstances, straight into the truth that sets our minds at ease. It comes as we not only draw near to him but also literally become one with him.

*Father, I want to live in this place of rest that settles every angst. I want to know you in ways I never have before. I long to live in the continual awareness of your presence in and around me. To not only experience peace for myself, but also to release the fragrance of it everywhere I go.*



## FASTING

"This is the kind of fast that I desire: Remove the heavy chains of oppression! . . . Break off every yoke of bondage! Share your food with the hungry! . . . Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood!

ISAIAH 58:6-7

Fasting is much more than a refrain from eating. It's a form of surrender that says, "God alone satisfies the deepest cravings of my starving soul." It's a decision to choose the eternal sufficiency of Christ over the temporary gratification of food.

Fasting has a way of slowing us down and helping us tune into God's heart. This form of surrender comes from a desperate longing to know his will. It releases us from lesser loves and reminds us what's important. It strips us of natural strength and teaches us how to draw from his. We often find ourselves acutely aware of his desire and are reminded of what moves his heart. This sacrifice is both private and powerful. It secretly sets us on the path of partnering with God in the way he planned from the beginning.

*Father, I don't need to impress anyone but you. Give me the grace to surrender every part of me, without the need for recognition. When I fast, help me tune into your desire for the people around me and make your presence my priority.*

## A POWER SOURCE

“Then Yahweh will answer you when you pray.  
When you cry out for help, he will say, ‘I am here.’”

ISAIAH 58:9

God is always answering our cry, but something mysterious about fasting catches his attention. When we set ourselves to fasting and search for him more than we search for food, he notices.

This is our promise from heaven—he will answer us when we pray and cry out for help. It’s hard to fathom that we could have his attention any more than we already do. However, we mustn’t underestimate the importance of a heart so intent on discovering God’s will it denies itself. What an incredible privilege we have to honor the Lord with not only our words but also our actions. May today’s devotion remind you of the power available to those who set themselves aside in this way.

*Father, thank you for sharing this key to breakthrough. Lead me into a lifestyle of prayer and fasting where I’m available to you in every way. Whether you ask me to give up food, frivolous habits, or even social media, I will gladly yield. Nothing is more important than knowing your will and yielding my spirit, soul, and body to you.*

# A LIFE OF COMPASSION

"If you offer yourselves in compassion for the hungry and relieve those in misery, then your dawning light will rise in the darkness and your gloom will turn into noonday splendor!"

ISAIAH 58:10

*T*ake his hand and walk into the world with him. Don't be afraid of contamination. Don't think for a moment that darkness is more powerful than light. All that you need to affect change is found inside of you. It's time to give the world a true understanding of what God is like. You can only break false perceptions by offering an encounter with truth.

You don't have to plan an event to feed the neighborhood's homeless. You don't need to move to the slums of Kenya to prove your compassion. All you need to do is pay attention. Listen to the Holy Spirit when he prods you to pick up lunch for the homeless man on the corner. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call the woman whose husband left her. A life of power begins by opening your heart.

*Father, forgive me for complacency. I want to be a dawning light rising in the darkness. I want to be someone whose heart of compassion causes them to notice and run with you to action. I want to be selfless and aware of the people around me. I want to live with the courage of love.*

## LOVE'S MERCIFUL REFRESHING

"He will fill you with refreshment even when you are in a dry, difficult place. He will continually restore strength to you, so you will flourish like a well-watered garden."

ISAIAH 58:11

The most refreshing experiences of our lives usually come when we are weary. Nothing makes us appreciate the influx of God's blissful presence like the experience of being without it. Though we are never truly without him, all too often we're too stuck in our minds to notice him.

The dry and difficult seasons needn't be the fuel for our spiritual thirst, but thankfully, God is full of compassion. When our strength is gone, he gives us his own. When the weeds of distraction threaten to overtake the garden of our heart, he patiently waits for us to acquiesce so he can tenderly pull out each one. This Lord of Living Waters, so ready and able to quench our souls, doesn't stand by with furrowed brows and wonder at our slothfulness. He simply allows the sound of playful streams to draw us. This is mercy. This is the way of love.

*Father, thank you for your patience. Thank you for always extending the cup of refreshment and never getting frustrated when I overlook it. All I desire is to stay saturated in your presence and to grow in grace so I will never become dry.*



# THE DECISION TO SEEK HIM FIRST

"If you call the Sabbath a delightful pleasure and Yahweh's holy day honorable, if you honor it properly by not chasing your own desires, serving your own interests, and speaking empty words, then you will find the joyous bliss that comes from serving Yahweh."

ISAIAH 58:13-14

Every day has become God's holy day. Jesus, who has become our Sabbath rest, fills every day the same way. Our blessing, our entrance into a life of joyous bliss, begins when we decide that he is our priority and heart's delight. When we allow trivial pursuits and worldly distractions to slip like sand through our fingers, what's left are substance, stability, and peace.

It's vital that we seek Love, the person who *is* love, first. Too often we rush around trying to fill our souls with what we *think* will make us feel good, forgetting we freely receive these things when our lives are centered in Jesus. It seems too simple to believe that all that we yearn for is found in his presence. But until we live this way, we will never truly know.

*Father, I want to find the joyous bliss you've promised. I want to know what it's like to stand on a reliable foundation that never falters. In every way, I choose you. I choose to put you first and to discover the joy of your presence in every situation.*

## STILL OUR HERO

Then he was astonished to see that there was no champion,  
not even one, who would rescue the oppressed.  
So then his own mighty power was released to deliver.

ISAIAH 59:16

Our Father is always paying attention. Though at times it may feel like he has been ignoring the needs of those he loves, he hasn't. Perfect wisdom has perfect timing. And the One who *is* Wisdom knows how and when to set his plan in motion. He sees every detail that needs to line up, and he knows each heart that must be included. Like a master chess player, he carefully sets each piece in place, strategically putting things in order for his brilliant win.

He was not simply a Champion who came on the scene long ago, paid for our deliverance, and then left us to fend for ourselves. Jesus is our everyday Hero. The same wisdom that orchestrated our salvation is setting you up for victory right now. Turn your eyes to him and trust his perfect wisdom.

*Father, I know you never leave me and always have the perfect plan in motion for my success. I lift these worries to you and lay them at your feet as an offering of my trust. You are still my Hero.*

## OVERTAKE ME

He will break in as a flooding,  
rushing river driven on by the breath of Yahweh!

ISAIAH 59:19

The flood of power that flowed from the cross separated us from the grip of darkness. It rushed in with an answer to our greatest problem and answered it with the passion and strength of love. It was the explosive desire of the Father to rescue his children, which set us free.

The breath of God, strong and unstoppable, continues to push opposition aside like the waters of the Red Sea. God always has a way to save us. He has an answer to every dilemma we face. When we stand focused and convinced of his love, he will come crashing in with breakthrough. He will surprise us with answers that have no rebuttal. Our stance of faith pleases him and opens the floodgates for our deliverance. Faith is what connects us to our Deliverer.

*Father, I'm beginning to understand that nothing can stop you. I've spent too much time doubting, though you've proven your love repeatedly. Now I know that your passion is powerful and unrelenting. I gratefully stand in love's crashing waves. Overtake me.*

## HOLY SPIRIT

"From now on, my Holy Spirit will rest on them  
and not depart from them."

ISAIAH 59:21

The best version of ourselves is always found as we live our lives inside of Christ. The greatest part is that this freedom to be amazing isn't loaded with pressure. Becoming who we were created to be naturally reveals itself when we walk in unity with the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit who leads us through our day and reminds us of the Father's will. He has become our fulcrum, our center of gravity, and our guiding force. By giving us the Holy Spirit, Jesus left us with the best gift imaginable so we would be empowered with everything we could possibly need. It is inconceivable how he can be both in and upon us, but as we enjoy the mystery, we also partake of it. How grateful we should be, knowing our Counselor, Teacher, and Comforter is as close as our breath and will never depart.

*Father, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Teach me to hear his voice more clearly and to give him the honor and attention he deserves. Holy Spirit, I want to be aware of you in every situation. Reveal yourself to me in new and fresh ways.*



## YOU CAN HEAR GOD

"My prophetic words will fill their mouths."

ISAIAH 59:21

*You* can hear God's voice. You have the ability to partner with the Spirit of God inside of you to know his desire for yourself and others. Study his Word and the foundation will be laid. Scripture clarifies the main points of his will so you won't stray into error. It is also one of the ways he speaks, but it doesn't necessarily tell you which job to take or give you personal direction. This is when we rely on his eagerness for communication.

The Lord's desire is revealed in a myriad of ways. Most of us don't hear him audibly but as a still small voice within. Don't dismiss the random thoughts, ideas, and images that stir hope and faith. They are more than likely him. Sometimes he reveals his will through emails, conversations, books, articles, and even in the beauty of creation. We only need to pay attention.

*Father, I'm leaning in. Speak to me, loud and clear. I want to know your voice more intimately than any other. Teach me to recognize your faintest whisper as it brushes my subconscious. Help me to discern your intentions as they spark my mind like a brilliant idea. I tune myself into you.*

## SHINE, BEAUTIFUL ONE

"Rise up in splendor and be radiant, for your light has dawned,  
and Yahweh's glory now streams from you!"

ISAIAH 60:1

*A*re you finally understanding? Have you embraced the radical message of your identity? You are radiant, adorned with the beauty of the King. You are a luminary, emanating the Source of life everywhere you go. Jesus has entrusted the glory of his Kingdom to you in order to give the world an encounter with the reality of his love. You are his beloved.

Many gladly accept their position of being God's child. Few are courageous enough to take their stand as royal representatives of heaven. Not only were we called to carry the treasure of his presence—we are his treasure. We must be okay with radiating glory, healing, and encouragement while extending these things with hands of humility. Go forth, beautiful one. He is all the confidence you need.

*Father, it seems surreal—thinking that the literal presence of God is in me and shines from me. I want to embrace this truth entirely and not hold back. I am so saturated with you that a simple touch of my hand can impact someone's life with your glory, forever.*

# DISPELLING DARKNESS

“Look carefully! Darkness blankets the earth, and thick gloom covers the nations, but Yahweh arises upon you and the brightness of his glory appears over you!”

ISAIAH 60:2

God has never asked us to ignore the darkness. In fact, he tells us to look carefully at what’s happening all over the earth and in our own towns. When we see evil through the eyes of righteousness, knowing who we are and what we’re called to do, we aren’t afraid. Instead we tune into the Holy Spirit for the purpose of uniting with his will and bringing change.

Jesus came to do the will of his Father. As a man in right relationship with God, miracles, signs, and wonders flowed through his hands. As Christians, we too are in right relationship and have the honor and responsibility of following Jesus’s example. Darkness doesn’t overwhelm our souls when we shine. So let’s shine. Let’s love boldly, pray with faith, and courageously speak truth.

*Father, I have decided to unite myself to your will in every situation, to stop hiding behind excuses, and to love so passionately that I no longer ignore the darkness. I have the power of breakthrough within me. From now on, I will yield to your leading and release glory everywhere I go.*

## PAY ATTENTION

“Nations will be attracted to your radiant light  
and kings to the sunrise-glory of your new day.”

ISAIAH 60:3

*D*on't be surprised when people you barely know begin telling you their problems and opening up to you like you're their best friend. Start expecting the favor of God to drive attention in your direction. Hearts that are hungry for God are looking for someone who will introduce them to Love. And God is bringing them to you. You only need to pay attention and be willing to share your experience.

When we're connected to God's desire and have a yearning to draw people into his presence, opportunities will present themselves. We shouldn't be intimidated when the CEO of a Fortune 500 company, a senator, or a famous speaker sits next to us on the airplane and begins chatting. That person has the same need of God as you do. Tap into what God wants to say, and say it with conviction and authentic compassion.

*Father, it's time I put my phone down and start paying attention to the people around me. Sometimes I forget that every time I step foot outside of my house, I may be on a holy assignment. Give me the words to say and the burning desire that compels me to release them.*





December

## BELIEVE ANYWAY

"Lift up your eyes higher! Look all around you and believe."

ISAIAH 60:4

Someone sent you a text with bad news. Instead of sinking into a pit of despair, frustration, or anger, stop and tap into God's presence. Immediately ask him to reveal his take on the situation. When you truly believe God is for you, you don't succumb to every bad thing that happens. You believe.

When trials throw life off track, lift your eyes higher. Look for God's plan and be courageous enough to believe. When the doctor's report isn't what you expected, believe anyway. When a door of opportunity slams in your face, get excited, because God has a better way. Believe anyway.

It's time we stop acting like victims. It's time to rise up in faith, knowing who God is and believing in his outrageously inexplicable love. Love that changes everything. Love that commands us to believe anyway.

*Father, I feel faith invigorating me and bringing me back to life. I refuse to act like the victim in a story you are writing. Your love enables me to believe. No matter what the enemy throws at me, I will believe anyway!*

# HE WILL CARRY THEM HOME

"Your sons are returning from far away and your daughters are being tenderly carried home. Watch as they all gather together, eager to come back to you!"

ISAIAH 60:4

When a son or daughter has turned away from the Lord, our parental heart wants to rescue them. We want to kiss the boo-boo and make everything better. We feel the responsibility to help them and talk sense into them. We want to *do*. To *fix*. To *control*. But this is not the way of faith.

Faith for our wayward children means releasing control. It means trusting that God loves them more than we do. (Ouch, right?) In the passage above, we have a promise to hold onto. The God who is faithful and true, who cannot lie, says our children will return. Our daughters will be tenderly carried home. When we stop yielding to fear by manipulating circumstances, we are free to love, and God can step in. He knows exactly how to draw their hearts back to him.

*Father, I'm standing on your Word. Rescue my children. Soften their hearts and encounter them with the reality of your love. I won't dare give you suggestions for how because you know them better than I do. Pour out your love and make yourself irresistible. I wait in joyful anticipation.*



## NO MORE LIMITATIONS

"Then you will understand and be radiant. Your heart will be thrilled and swell with joy. The fullness of the sea will flow to you and the wealth of the nations will be transferred to you!"

ISAIAH 60:5

Everything starts with faith. When we're brave enough to admit we've limited God based on what we think makes sense, we finally embark upon the path of breakthrough. The decision to believe despite what we see flips a switch inside us. Faith smears us with the oil of God's presence, causing doubt to slide off. It becomes easy to believe, despite what our minds try to convince us is unreasonable.

No matter how many times we face disappointment, we mustn't settle into it. Disappointment is not our home. Faith is. Faith, seasoned with God's wisdom (not *man's*), causes our hearts to swell with joy. God's grace enables us to accept and anticipate what may seem inconceivable. Faith makes us radiant. It attracts unfathomable blessings and changes the course of our lives.

*Father, the limitations are off! My heart is soaring once again. The thrill of anticipation is swelling within me. Give me the grace to wait as long as it takes to see your promises come to pass. I will guard my heart and mind in Christ. My expectation is from you alone.*



# STILL MORE GLORIOUS

"I will adorn with more glory my glorious temple."

ISAIAH 60:7

*You* are the temple of God, beautified with the glory that flows from his being. He has washed you with the power of love and adorned you with his exquisite grace. If you could see what all of heaven and hell see, you'd realize you're shining from the inside out. Every part of you has become holy and radiant in his presence.

What you pursue in the secret place reveals itself openly. Though you pursue him in hiddenness and humility, it will manifest in your words, actions, and even the sparkle of your eyes. Never be satisfied with occasional encounters of his glory. Long to experience the reality of his presence in deeper ways and seek him every day. There is always more.

*Father, when I look in the mirror, I want to see your Spirit gazing through my eyes. Adorn me with your beauty. Wrap me in the weighty blankets of glory and never release me. It is my zealous passion to know you and go deeper into your presence every day.*

## TUCKED IN

“Who are these who soar like clouds,  
flying like doves into their portals?”

ISAIAH 60:8

In the Song of Songs, we are compared to doves who have hidden themselves in the split-open rock (see Song of Songs 2:14). We are those who know the way into his presence, able to hide ourselves at any moment. The portal, or gateway, that leads us there was opened by the pierced side of Christ. His sacrifice has given us unlimited access to the safety of love.

We fly high above controversy, division, and limitations, thereby confusing the enemy. Concealed in the Lord's presence, we appear like clouds of glory. We are unusual and unstoppable. We are led by him. Lifted high as we tuck in beneath his wings. Here we are safe. Here we are glorious.

*Father, teach me to float above trials like the effortless clouds, moved by your breath. I want to have eyes of tender devotion—dove's eyes, which only focus on one thing at a time. Draw me into your arms of love where I'm moved by nothing but you.*

## PRAYING FOR OUR ENEMIES

"The descendants of your oppressors will come bowing low before you, and all who hated you will bow down at your feet."

ISAIAH 60:14

Our heavenly Father is superb at taking what the enemy meant for harm and turning it around for our good. When it seems that someone has it out for us, looking to make life miserable at every turn, our job is to pray for them and to ask the Lord for the grace to see them as he does.

When, instead of becoming hardhearted toward those who rub us the wrong way we go to the Lord on their behalf, things often turn around. They soften and see us through the filter of God's favor. Yes, the hatred of some runs deep, but we must manage our own souls and stand in righteousness. This is why we pray for those who are against us. Not all will humble themselves in this lifetime, but God has given us this promise—if they join us in heaven, expect them to become an eternal friend.

*Father, it's hard to imagine those who feel like enemies becoming friends. But I join my faith with your promise. I lift up those who seem to have nothing but malice toward me and ask you to encounter them with the depths of your love that will heal and soften their hearts.*

# WHEN YOU'RE MISUNDERSTOOD

"Although once you were rejected and despised, undesirable for anyone to pass through you, I will make you majestic forever, a source of joy for every generation."

ISAIAH 60:15

*The* One who gave his life for the very people who despised and rejected him understands your loneliness. When it feels as if no one understands you, he peers deeply into your soul and highlights its beauty. With gentle breath, he stokes the flickering flames. You are seen, known, and loved. He is about to celebrate you in ways you've only dreamed.

The Most Desirable One was once deemed undesirable. He wasn't only ridiculed. He was beaten to death because he was misunderstood. His accusers couldn't wrap their minds around him so they cast him aside. Remember this: Just as he did for Jesus, when people push you aside, God will take what the world calls unimportant and cause you to shine with his glory. You have value. You have a destiny.

*Father, all that I am I lay before you as an offering. The world may not see me as valuable, and sometimes I question it myself, but you have given your life to be with me so I must be desirable. Resurrect my soul and let new life flow from me. Make me all you want me to be for your glory.*



# PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS

"I will install peace and prosperity as your government and righteousness as your overseer."

ISAIAH 60:17

Throughout the Bible, God has always paid attention to the conditions of government. He has set rulers in their places and brought others down. He has revealed his miraculous wisdom through the most unlikely leaders and softened the hearts of wicked kings. God cares about those who steer our government.

Our political preferences have nothing to do with our responsibility to pray for those in authority. With compassion, conviction, and expectation, we must intercede for those we support and those we don't. God's promise for a peaceful and prosperous government must have our *amen*. He is looking for those who will take his Word to heart and set themselves in agreement with it. His desire for *righteous rulers* must be met with the *righteous prayers* of humble believers.

*Father, forgive me for spending more time complaining than I do praying. I bless my leaders and ask that you would overtake them with the wisdom of heaven. Cause them to see truth and stand for what is righteous in your eyes. With your astounding mercy, turn the hearts of the wicked and let peace rule in our land.*

## BATHING IN HIS LIGHT

"The sun will no longer be needed to brighten the day, nor the moon to shine at night, for Yahweh will be your unfailing light; your God will be your glory!"

ISAIAH 60:19

Close your eyes in the brilliance of the sun and you will feel its warmth. As it drenches you in its rays, you will be awakened with hope, troubles will begin to melt away, and you will feel the physical effects of its blessing and possible harm. But bathe in the glory of Jesus's presence and you will experience an infusion of true enlightenment.

When the spring sun welcomes us into a new season, our souls come alive. It seems we're less encumbered and more expectant. We cast off the restrictive garments of winter and move freely. Creation begins to sing, to bloom, to fill the air with the fragrance of hope. This is such a poignant, yet small, sample of the beauty of God. In the light of his glory, we are free, hopeful, and alive. Even in dark, bitter winters, the warming rays of his presence are always shining.

*Father, you are the light shining in the darkest night of my soul. Your glory fans away the gloomy clouds of winter and refreshes me. I feel the light of hope. I can breathe again. In you, I truly feel alive.*

# HEAVEN'S GLORY HERE ON EARTH

"Your days of sadness will be over."

ISAIAH 60:20

*I*magine a day when the only tears we'll cry are tears of overwhelming love, surprise, and joy. An eternity of God's presence flowing like soothing oil. A calendar of forever when we encounter all that is glorious and true. A place where darkness cannot exist and mysteries reveal the depths of his love.

One day heaven will be our permanent home. But the glory it contains—the bliss of wholeness, peace, and limitless encounters with our Beloved—is available right now. The unfathomable euphoria that will one day rapture our hearts is meant to be experienced now. We are continually going from one degree of glory to the next until one day our hearts will be fully unveiled. Until then, we are called to live a captivated life. Seeking to experience the beautiful expanse of his love right here on earth.

*Father, drench me in your glory pool. Leave no part of me dry and untouched. The beauty of communing with you has connected me to the joy of heaven. I can scarcely stand in this place of glorious encounter, so I bow low and release my love as an offering.*

# YOU ARE ANOINTED

The mighty Spirit of Lord Yahweh is wrapped around me  
because Yahweh has anointed me, as a messenger  
to preach good news to the poor.

ISAIAH 61:1

*T*his glory, this inexplicable outpouring of tangible encounter that has wrapped around you, has a name. You are daily enveloped in the person of Jesus. You are clothed in the essence of God himself. More than clothed—infused. Every fiber of your being resonates with the glory of God. There is a reason.

If there were no one else on the planet who needed what you carry, God would still wrap himself around you. He loves you and wants you to have the opportunity to sense that love anytime you desire. There is a world in need, and you are called. You have been anointed because the lost need the facet of God you've been entrusted with. You are anointed and set apart to do his will. You are continuing the legacy that Jesus left behind.

*Father, thank you for the Holy Spirit who is teaching me how to follow Jesus's example. I believe you have anointed me to share the good news of the gospel to others. I submit myself to you, ready to release the glory you've entrusted to me. Let me be a vessel you continually flow through.*



# SHARE YOUR FREEDOM

He sent me to heal the wounds of the brokenhearted,  
to tell captives, "You are free," and to tell prisoners,  
"Be free from your darkness."

ISAIAH 61:1

*Y*our breakthrough, the nuggets of truth you have purchased in the fires of affliction, has become gold for you to share. No one understands what it's like to be held captive like someone who has suffered the enemy's snare. When you have experienced the Lord's deliverance and have his Spirit within you, you're equipped to share this freedom with others.

Seasons that felt as if they were crushing you really were. But only in comparison to grapes being crushed in order to produce a sweet wine. Now the healing ointment of his love drips from your lips. Mercy and compassion are imprinted upon your soul. Power is surging through your veins. His Kingdom has been released in your life, and the gift of freedom is yours to share.

*Father, I will not be stingy with my breakthrough! All that you've given me, each blessing and truth you've gifted, is meant to be shared. Bring the hurting across my path—those you know will benefit from what I have to give, and I will gladly set them free.*

# THE POWER OF GRACE

I am sent to announce a new season of Yahweh's grace.

ISAIAH 61:2

*You* have been granted access into the chamber of the King—the very presence of God himself. When you choose to worship the Lord and turn all your attention to him, you're accepting his invitation for a deeper relationship. You're stepping into grace.

It is God's grace that draws us close. Grace, which opens our hearts to receive, to give, and to encounter his wisdom. Grace, which enables us to hear his voice and share his heart. His grace thrusts us beyond the threshold of breakthrough and into our destiny. It tucks us in tightly so we'll never slip. It unfurls the sails of our hearts and sets us on a course that no man can stop.

*Father, I honor you for the perfect gift of love you've given me through your Son. Give me grace to pursue your heart with unrelenting devotion. Our relationship means more to me than any other. Your love satisfies every longing of my heart. Over and over, I will choose you and remember your perfect love has set me free.*

# HE KISSES AWAY OUR PAIN

Give them a beautiful bouquet in the place of ashes,  
the oil of bliss instead of tears, and the mantle of joyous praise  
instead of the spirit of heaviness.

ISAIAH 61:3

*W*hen we process our pain with the Lord, miracles of healing are released. No trauma is too great for him to bear. No memory is so deep that he cannot reach into it and remove the sting. His love and power are unstoppable. In the midst of life's deepest loss, his love transports us beyond sorrow into heavenly relief.

God's love has no limits. It's surprising, mystical, and magnificent. It extinguishes every fear and heals every disappointment. When he plucks the weeds of despair, he doesn't leave empty holes. Instead he plants seeds of beauty so the ashes of defeat become rich, fertile soil for our blossoming souls. In ways much too profound for us to comprehend, he does what only our Father can do—he kisses away every pain and gifts us unfathomable joy.

*Father, I open my heart to you. Bring wholeness to my life. Every painful memory and trauma—anything that makes me react in a negative way—I lay it all at your feet. You can heal the pain of the past in a split second and inexplicably turn tears of sorrow into tears of joy.*

## DOUBLE FOR YOUR TROUBLE

Because you received a double dose of shame and dishonor, you will inherit a double portion of endless joy and everlasting bliss!

ISAIAH 61:7

*F*or every hardship, disappointment, and devastation, God promises to give us a double blessing. As someone once put it, "God will give you double for your trouble!"

When the posture of our heart is one of intention—choosing his presence, his ways, and his face over all else—Jesus takes notice. He cannot deny a longing heart which declares that, despite the opposition, it will not be swayed. There is such power in a lifestyle of devotion and surrender. We are those held captive—not by the enemy or the commotion he waves in our faces but by the beauty and faithfulness of Jesus. As we take the stance of unflinching adoration, Jesus reintroduces us to a life of joy and bliss. For every hardship, he promises to bless us with twice as many blessings and encounters of endless joy.

*Father, I'm after your heart. When I'm surrounded by difficulties and heartache, I choose to set my thoughts on you. I aim to keep my heart soft and pliable in your hands. My soul is laid bare before you, and I am yours. Pour out the glory of breakthrough as I keep my gaze fixed on you.*



# GOD'S WILL FOR OUR CHILDREN

"Their seed will be famous among the nations . . .  
All who see them will recognize that they are the seed  
that Yahweh has blessed with favor!"

ISAIAH 61:9

Something that blesses me about the Lord is that he cares about our children. I suppose it's because, as much as we love our children, he loves them more. After all, they belong to him even more than they belong to us. This perfect example of a good Father equips us with tools for parenting. He gifts us with the knowledge of his will and invites us to declare it over our kids, regardless of their ages.

It's his will that our children succeed. His desire that they grow close to him and disperse the fragrance of his presence everywhere they go. That when people notice them, it's obvious they've been in the presence of God. He wants us to leave a legacy of righteousness, holy devotion, and radical zeal. Even if our children are grown or away from the Lord, the power of faith-filled prayer, uniting with God's will, can set things back in order.

*Father, I set myself in agreement with your will. I take these words to heart and declare their truth. My children are blessed. They will succeed because they're covered in your favor. They are your seed, rooted in you, growing in your image.*

# ALL THE GOOD STUFF

I will sing and greatly rejoice in Yahweh!  
My whole being vibrates with shouts of joy in my God!

ISAIAH 61:10

Everyone wants something more. All of us want more joy and peace. Many are searching for breakthrough. For success. We want to be known, celebrated, and happy. Sometimes we don't even know exactly what we want; we just know we don't have it. We just want more of the good stuff. Bring on the good stuff, Lord.

The good stuff is revealed when you remember what God has already done. When you start rehearsing what you *already* have to be thankful for. Joy crashes over the dam when you choose to engage with it, when you stop focusing on the negative and remember that the good stuff starts with gratefulness.

Maybe there's a little more of the good in your life than you realize. Yes, there's more to come, but it's time to put on the garment of praise and greatly rejoice in him and all he's done.

*Father, I choose joy today. You're my reason for celebrating. You're my delight. You cheer me on and run with me through doors of favor. I'm not going to waste another day waiting for who knows what! I'm going to engage my faith and behave like the blessed person I am.*

## ARRAYED IN HIS GLORY

He has dressed me with salvation  
and wrapped me in the robe of his righteousness!

ISAIAH 61:10

*T*he Lord has wrapped you in a garment of light. It is the substance of his glory, radiating from your being. It is the reality of who you have become—more glorious, stunning, and mysterious than the aurora borealis. Salvation has kissed your soul and made it come alive.

This spiritual reality, which is visible to angels and demons alike, is evidence of your eternal connection to the Lord. You're wrapped in a robe of righteousness that doesn't belong to you but to Jesus, and all of heaven and hell know this. When they look at you, they see you through his glory. The Lord has personally chosen this outfit for you. It is his pleasure to array you in the glory that belongs to him. It is his delight to wrap you in himself.

*Father, I'm so honored to be wrapped in your beauty. So blessed to wear heaven's most glorious covering. Give me the grace to display your glory with dignity, humility, and deference. Your gift of unselfish love radiates from me everywhere I go.*

## OUR NEW NAME

You will be called by a brand-new name,  
given to you from the mouth of Yahweh himself.

ISAIAH 62:2

One day the extraordinary worth God has placed upon your life will be revealed. The excitement he feels about you and the joy that rises within when he thinks about you will be shared with all of heaven.

God has always seen the real you. He has always believed the best about you. People on earth may have labeled you wrongly, but God is going to change that. The beauty of the real you, the truest description of who you are, will one day be made manifest for all to hear. His secret and well-thought-out name, which describes his great affection for you, will help you understand exactly how he sees you. It will melt your heart. For all eternity, you will be called by his chosen name.

*Father, it's exciting enough knowing you call me your beloved, but knowing you're going to give me a new name thrills me. You've already warmed my heart by telling me how you see me, but to think I will one day know your love in fullness is overwhelming in the best possible way.*



# HE ADORNS HIMSELF WITH YOU

You will be a beautiful crown held high in the hand of Yahweh,  
a royal crown of splendor held in the open palm of your God!

ISAIAH 62:3

God wants you to see yourself the way he sees you. Your surrendered life—the one filled with ups and downs, glorious moments and horrendous failures—is of the utmost value to him. He loves you so much that he wears you like a royal garment. He is so enamored with you that he has chosen you as the perfect gift for his Son.

Think about that. This Creator of every spectacular, beautiful thing in the entire world could adorn himself with anything. Yet he chooses you. He believes you are the most desirable item in the entire world. You will become like a jewel in his crown. The very person he's longed to be near. You will make up the collective glory of his stunning bride. You must never doubt your worth again.

*Father, I've never considered myself as valuable or desirable as you say I am. To think you will adorn yourself with me when you are the very definition of beauty is bewildering. Yet this is what you've said, and this is how I will carry myself—deeply moved and humbled by the way you see me.*

# YOU ARE HIS BRIDE

As the bridegroom finds joy in his union with his bride,  
so will your God take joy in his union with you!

ISAIAH 62:5

*You* are the joy that moves his heart. The entire Bible is a love story of divine proportion. It was written to give you an understanding of how devoted Jesus is to you and how willing he is to do anything to be with you. It's important to him that you know how loved you are.

Jesus is wooing your heart, beckoning you to come closer so he can drench you with affirming words of sacred love. He will remind you of your beauty over and over until you believe it. You are his. He loves you. He believes in you. You are worth the price of love. You are his beautiful bride. You are royalty, and he wants to be with you forever.

*Father, thank you for always reminding me how loved I am. Thank you for giving all that you could possibly give to prove how excited you are about sharing eternity with me. Never stop whispering these words of devotion and affirmation. I can't get enough of this sacred love.*

## NEW ASSIGNMENTS

Pass through, pass through the gates, and go from old to new.  
Prepare a new path for the people.

ISAIAH 62:10

*P*ay attention to the doors that open and close in your life. There are times when the Lord holds you back and tells you to enjoy him beside the still waters, and times when the gates fling wide open and he ushers you into something new. When your life is yielded to the Lord, you can remain confident that he will make sure you know when to rest and when to forge ahead.

When the Lord says “Pass through!,” we mustn’t hesitate. Careful not to become so comfortable that we allow fear to keep us from the blessing of the unknown. Reasoning will quench what we sense in our spirits. Approaching new assignments and seasons must be done with hearts fully tuned to the Lord and the sense of peace that surpasses earthly wisdom.

*Father, take my hand. I don't want to trip over my own interpretation of how things should be. I want to walk in perfect step with you. Give me the courage to run past the gates of the comfortable into the fields of wild abandon. Tune my heart to you.*

DECEMBER 23

## CONFIDENT LOVE

And you will be known as Those Whom God Loves.

ISAIAH 62:12

*L*et the way God sees you become your source of confidence and stability. Know who you are. Allow it to settle your soul once and for all. You are the one God loves. The one he chose and never regrets choosing. The one who still catches his attention, not from across the room but all the way from heaven.

This is the truth that changes everything about you. The confidence that infuses every thought. He wants it to become a constant reality. Yearns for you to be led every single day by the awareness that he is absolutely smitten by you. Turns in your direction the moment you whisper his name. Accept this. Embrace this truth and hold on tight. You are dripping with his essence everywhere you go.

*Father, I am lovesick. So overwhelmed by your love and the way you care for me, I can scarcely handle more. Yet I must have more. I must be so saturated with your palpable presence that others feel your touch just by being near me.*



## THESE STRONG ARMS

Out of his enduring love and compassion he redeemed them.  
He lifted them up, carried them in his arms, and cared for them  
all the days of old.

ISAIAH 63:9

Love is what bound those strong arms to the cross. Love carried away our sins and ushered us before the throne of mercy. It wasn't an obligation. It wasn't just a good plan to set the world in order. It was the purest, most incomprehensible display of love—for you.

These arms still pass through the darkness, reaching for you. They never tire of caring for you. Never push you away in weakness. Jesus's grip is sure. With an urgent sense of excitement, he clasps his hand around yours and twirls you with delight. Eagerly, he declares, "Wait until you see what I have in store for you, beloved!" These are the arms that never let go. Jesus is the One whose love endures.

*Jesus, I've never known anyone like you. Never felt so safe and secure. I am surprised by the excitement stirring in my soul as I cleave to your heart. Thank you for caring, for lifting, for surrendering to the cross—for me. Thank you for wrapping me in forgiveness and power.*

# THE GREATEST GIFT

A child has been born for us; a son has been given to us.

The responsibility of complete dominion  
will rest on his shoulders, and his name will be:

The Wonderful One! The Extraordinary Strategist!  
The Mighty God! The Father of Eternity! The Prince of Peace!

ISAIAH 9:6

U nto us a child has been born. A pure and spotless lamb who forever takes away our sin. There is no gift that can compare to this gift of perfect love. For all eternity we will sing our praise to the One who came to rescue us. The One who gave it all so we could be with him forever. Nothing compares to the gift of eternal salvation.

Tuck yourself into the Person of Love. Whether today is filled with festivities or disappointments, Jesus must be the center of it all. In thankfulness, turn your praise to him. In sorrow, bask in his ever-present love, which heals and releases joy. He is the reason we worship. The very breath in our lungs. Our peace. Our joy. He is all we can ever hope to have, know, or accomplish. He is the perfect gift.

*Father, I praise you for the gift of Jesus, which we celebrate today and every day. You are the reason I sing. You are the joy of my salvation. I step back from all of the busyness or loneliness this holiday brings and set my heart on you. You are the reason I celebrate today. I love you!*

# NOTHING IS HIDDEN

Lord, look down from heaven, from your holy,  
glorious dwelling place, and see us.

ISAIAH 63:15

Stand unashamed, fully open to the One who sees every detail of your being, inside and out. Don't be embarrassed as you gaze into his eyes, knowing nothing is hidden from him.

Don't neglect quiet time with the Lord, when you lay prostrate before him, inviting him to search your every thought, desire, and motive. Give all that you are, hope to be, and have ever been to the One who loves you unconditionally. It's here in his private chambers where he admires your beauty and prepares you for what's ahead. He studies you with unrelenting passion and perfect understanding. He sees you—even the deepest thoughts and intents of your heart. Nothing is hidden. He sees it all and still calls you beautiful.

*Father, I want to come closer. As close as any person has ever dared to go. I'm not ashamed. Every moment I spend with you fills me with confidence, courage, and understanding. I am yours. I am beautiful because you have infused me with yourself. I am growing into the person you've created me to be. I am your masterpiece—a beautiful representation of my Father.*

# A CRY FOR PURITY

In the same way that fire sets kindling to blaze and causes water to boil, let the fire of your presence come down.

ISAIAH 64:2

There are times when the presence of God comes tenderly, alighting upon our hearts like a gentle dove. Now and again he rushes in with vats full of new wine, pouring out joy—unspeakable and full of glory. Other times, the roar of fiery purity blazes through our souls and burns through every hindrance. God has a way of getting our attention.

God alone is holy. He is purity and passion unlike anything the world has ever known. This mighty Redeemer, Creator, and tender Father is intent on giving us what we need. At times, we need to face what is hindering us from deeper communion with him. When our hearts search for him and long for truth, he will answer that cry and nothing will get in his way.

*Father, manifest your presence in whatever way you know I need to encounter it. Pour out mercy, sweep me up in a tornado of glory, or convict my heart so I'll be free from every encumbrance. I'm not afraid of the fires of purity. Consume me with yourself.*



# STAYING TRUE WHILE WE WAIT

No eye has ever seen a God like you,  
who intervenes for those who wait and long for you!

ISAIAH 64:4

*O*ur holy longing has caught his attention. Our tears of sacred desire, poured from surrendered hearts despite the trial, summon his grace. True love has captured us, even when the enemy throws dirt in our faces.

Our loudest songs of praise, our softest whispers of adoration, or our absolute silence when all we can do is wait, all carry our truest offering when they overflow from a surrendered heart. We set our face like flint and the Lord takes notice. Our determination to seek him in the middle of pain has apprehended him, and he will not forsake us. Despite how it may feel, he is intervening. His faithful love is coming to the rescue, and he is calming the storm.

*Father, it is my greatest desire to honor you in the midst of this onslaught. Give me the grace to keep my heart connected to you and to ignore the fear. I want my worship during trials to reveal my determination to keep you first, no matter what. As I wait for you to rescue me, may my heart of devotion stay true.*

## HIS DESIRE

Yet still, Yahweh, you are our Father.  
We are like clay and you are our Potter.  
Each one of us is the creative,  
artistic work of your hands.

ISAIAH 64:8

*E*very intricate detail about you has been carefully planned. You are the Father's desire. Unique. Significant. Rare. You are *his* beautiful design. The melody that flows from his heart to bless the world. You are his most exquisite work of art.

When you look in the mirror, connect your worth to what God says about you: You are flawless, beautiful, and sublime. You're the apple of his eye, his treasure, and his bride. You're his temple, his garden, and his voice upon the earth. You are wise, favored, and successful. You are the fragrance of Christ, complete in him. Your creativity and emotions are like poetry written upon your soul. The synergy of your cells and the beat of your heart are the intermingling of his wonder within you—the artistic, creative outpouring of the Father's love. You are his.

*Father, from now on, my life will be defined by what you say about me. Hope and confidence are rising within me. The power of your truth is like a breath of fresh air. I am all that you say I am, and though I may not understand it, I choose to believe it.*

## THIS GREAT MERCY

"I said to a nation that did not call on my name,  
'Here I am! Here I am! I will help you!'"

ISAIAH 65:1

*W*hat mercy! What indescribable kindness God shows to those who not only deny him but also express nothing but disdain for him. Jesus is the man of beauty. The Savior who loves in the purest possible way. Always ready to rescue. Always willing to help.

Look into the face of compassion. He never turns anyone away, no matter how vile or filthy. Oh, that we would love this way. That we would express forgiveness so completely. That we would this easily welcome the haters into our circle where they receive a sampling of true friendship and light. Oh, that people would see the image of Love himself when they stand in our presence and hear our words. He wants them to feel at home in his love. He wants us to be the vessels he does this through.

*Father, forgive me for judging. Forgive me for withholding compassion and mercy, even though this is what you freely give me. Teach me to see from your point of view. Soften the hardness of my heart and lead me with wisdom whose foundation is love. May mercy define my life and lead others to you.*

## A RAVISHED HEART

"As you wait for the reality of what I am creating,  
be filled with joy and unending gladness!"

ISAIAH 65:18

*A*nticipation fills your soul. Joy is overwhelming your spirit as you dream with the Lord. Your desires, when you're fully submitted to the Lord, are his desires. He cares about your plans. He knows every longing of your heart, and he's excited to walk with you into a new year.

Whatever this past year held, you are still in his hands. You are more loved, known, and celebrated than you can imagine. All that you need, hope, and desire must first find its center in the Lord. As you wait for the reality of your promises to come to pass, remain in him. Allow your heart to be captivated every single day, and never yield your heart to fear again. Jesus longs to draw you into a lifestyle of holy intimacy that leaves you wrecked in the best possible way.

*Father, I commit myself to you afresh. I'm not the same person I was at the beginning of this year, and I pray I will continue to grow in grace. Whatever the future holds, I know you will be with me through it all. Come, ravish my heart, and I will ravish yours.*



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Dr. Brian Simmons** is a passionate lover of God. He and his wife, Candice, and their three children spent eight years in the tropical rain forest of the Darien Province of Panama as a church planter, translator, linguist, and consultant. He assisted in the Paya-Kuna New Testament translation project, and after their ministry in the jungle, Brian was instrumental in planting a thriving church in New England (U.S.). He is the lead translator for The Passion Translation Project and travels full time as a speaker and Bible teacher.



**Gretchen Rodriguez** has coauthored four books with Brian Simmons: *Prayers on Fire*, *The Divine Romance*, *Ever Present Love*, and *I Hear His Whisper*. Her heart burns with one main message: intimacy with Jesus and discovering the reality of his presence. She and her husband invested nine years as missionaries in Puerto Rico, along with their three daughters, and now make Redding, California, their home. For more about Gretchen, see her website: [gretchenrodriguez.com](http://gretchenrodriguez.com).

