



TO THE BROKENHEARTED

MITCHELL JOHN WITH GEORGE HUMLIE



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DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate this book to Steve Gregg and the Narrow Path, who has faithfully been teaching the word of God for over 50 years. Unbeknownst to him, he has played a major role in our lives and provided us with a solid foundation for our understanding of the Bible. Steve is one of the most humble yet knowledgeable scholars of our day. God has had His hand on him throughout his life, and will continue so, till the end of his journey.

Thank you brother Steve.



PASTOR REVIEWS

I believe that everyone will go through heartbreak at some point in life, but with no one to guide them through—no one who has been where they are—they are left to navigate the dark times alone. In *To the Brokenhearted*, Mitchell John and George Humlie leverage their brokenheartedness as a beacon of hope for anyone navigating the storms of grief, loss, or despair.

Jim Ramos

Men in the Arena Founder and President

This book is a thought-provoking consideration of the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes provide us with the keys that restore the brokenhearted back to wholeness. We know that the personal restoration of every Believer is the grand work of the Holy Spirit. Mitchell John and George Humlie's insights help lead us back to living in the fullness of the Spirit we all long for.


Pastor John Palacios

Northwest Harvest Church in McMinnville, Oregon

The words of Jesus have had a profound effect throughout history, especially in the lives of those who are broken enough to receive them. As imperfect men who have been redeemed by a Savior, Mitchell John and George Humlie discuss the love and grace that they have received from Jesus. Are their lives spotless? No, but they have been washed by the Blood of the Lamb, forgiven, and walk in a grace that can only be a result of gratitude for their unlikely redemption.

Brandon Ahu

Pastor, Metro Christian Church in Honolulu, Hawaii



**“MANY ARE THE PLANS IN A
PERSON’S HEART, BUT IT IS
THE LORD’S PURPOSE
THAT PREVAILS.”**

(PROVERBS 19:21)

**GOD’S PATH
CODY, WYOMING**

FORWARD

I have had the pleasure of both knowing and being part of the lives of Mitchell John and George Humlie, both as a friend and their Pastor.

As the Lord Jesus Christ walked this earth, He brought hope and love to those that had been broken. He spoke the word of God and transformed the lives of those who received His word. His ministry to people who had been broken was what Jesus did during His time on earth. This is what both of these men desire to be the testimony of their lives.

To write a book about being broken-hearted is a difficult task unless you have experienced the deep caverns of life. Those places where the darkness and cold can seem to overwhelm you. Areas where any light is a light of hope and strength. It is in these places that the light begins to reveal a truth that you can hold onto and use as steps to move forward in the darkness into a world that is filled with renewal, hope, and love.

This book comes from a place that these men have experienced in their personal lives. They have been in that cavern and have found their strength in Jesus as He shined that thread of light into their lives.

To The Broken Hearted is a book that was birthed in those caverns; it is a book that contains the foundation on which those steps led them higher and higher into the light. It is a book that contains living words that can change the lives of those individuals that find themselves in their own caverns.

I believe that this is the prayer of these men: that whoever reads this book will find Jesus, Who can shine the light and help them step out of the darkness and into the light. I pray that as you read this book you will find the transforming power of Jesus in your life.

Craig Durbin

Senior Pastor, City of Hope Church
McMinnville, Oregon

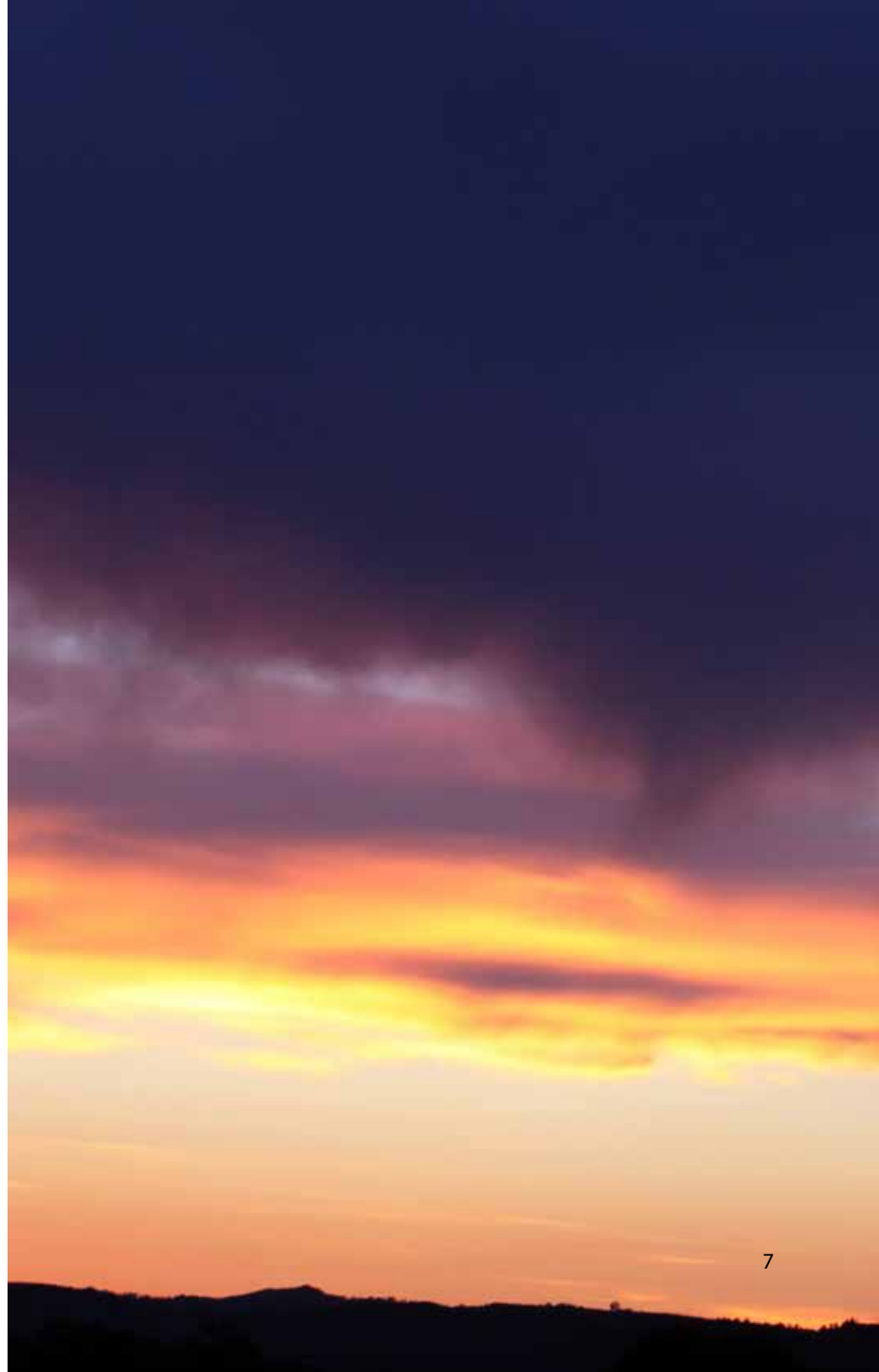




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**“IN THE BEGINNING
WAS THE WORD, AND
THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD. AND THE WORD
WAS GOD.”
(JOHN 1:1)**



INTRODUCTION

DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN,

I empty myself only for your glory to show the grace that you have chosen to give.

I come to you with humility and a broken and contrite heart.

I see my greed, my lust, and my ambitions which were mine and not yours.

I see my faults and lies, which have caused harm and hurt to others.

I am nothing but a sinner with a broken and crushed heart.

I have used the gifts you gave me to serve my own interests and not yours.

I come to you humble and poor in spirit.

I come to you with mourning and sorrow for the mistakes I have made.

I come to you only because of your grace, which has been given freely to me
by the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

I mourn the lack of time I have chosen not to spend with you.

I mourn the time I have wasted ignoring the many times you have called.

I mourn!

Father, I write this book with George not for me but for your glory

and the prayer that it moves others as you have moved me.

I believe in the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Let your Glory reign forever!

In Christ's name!

Amen.



**“CARRY EACH OTHER’S BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY YOU
WILL FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST.”**

(GALATIANS 6:2)

BROTHERHOOD

Do you think of “brotherhood” as something that ties a family together, an association, or a society of people linked together by a common interest, religion, or trade?

My Grandfather, Carl Hansen, lived his life in the collective brotherhood of family as a Montana Power Lineman who worked and risked their lives together. He became the Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Growing up, I had a sense of the power of those connections. But somehow I never found a connection quite like that until I met George Humlie in July 2020. I had been asked to sing at my Pastor’s Father-in-law’s funeral. Pastor Craig sent me over to meet George to pick up some sound gear that the Church needed.

I had heard about George, and I knew he was known as a very talented guitarist. When I returned his gear following the funeral, we

sat outside for a while talking about music and the different paths we had both walked in life and music. We decided that we would get together and jam some time. Little did I know how that fortuitous connection would be the beginning of a new life for me.

At the time, I was burdened with anger and still held onto things from the past. I was bitter on the inside and full of excuses in my own mind for the trials I had been through. My heart was still hard and prideful.

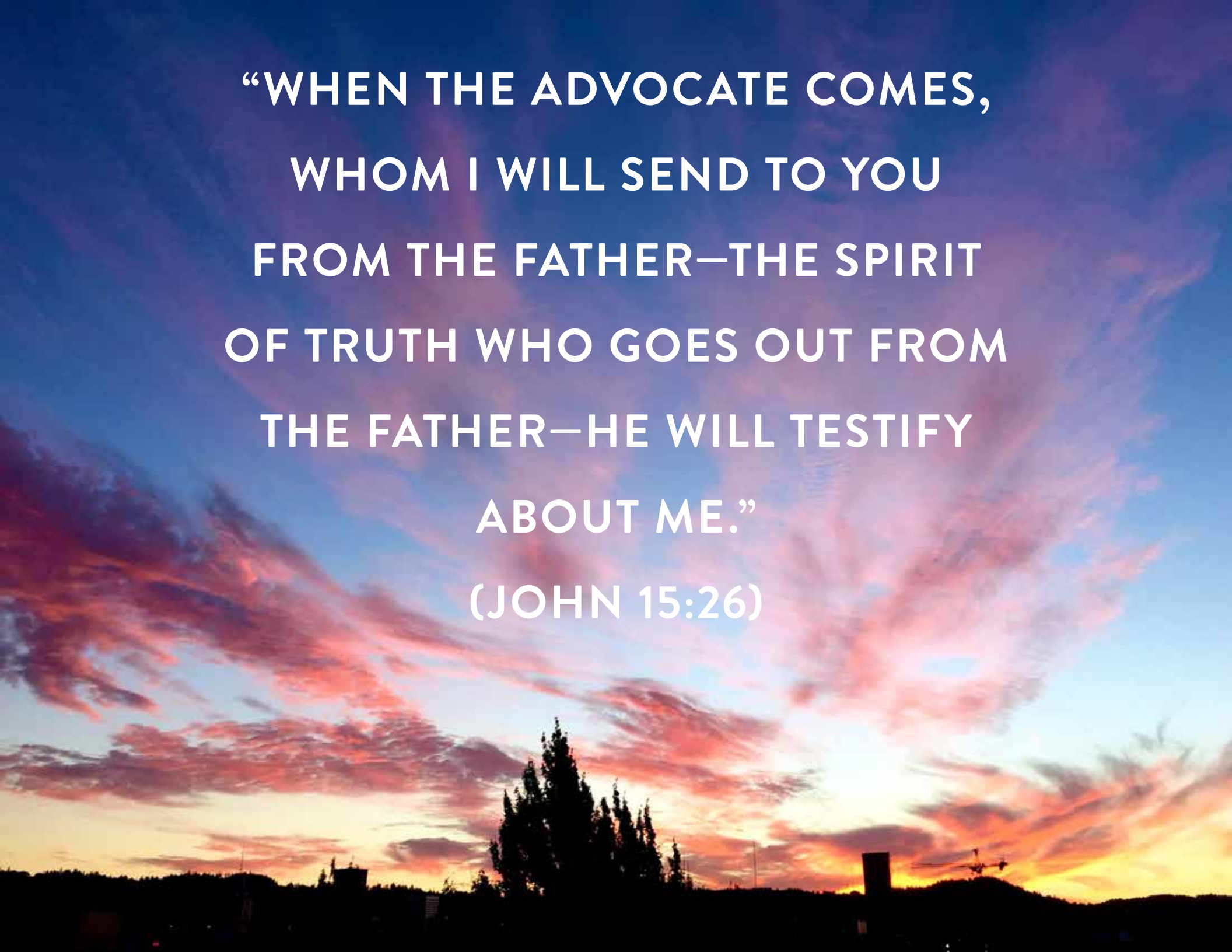
George invited me to a Bible study that he taught at his home on Mondays. At first, I politely declined, and yet he continued to ask. One night he came by my house when I was not in very good shape. We talked for a few hours and never played a note of music.

The next Monday, I decided to accept his invitation for Monday Bible study. I did not know it at the time, but through George’s words, God spoke to me. His presence gave

me hope to begin healing my broken heart. I was amazed at the words that came from George. God had put me right where he wanted me, with a teacher of His true word, so that He could go to work on my broken heart.

I pray that this book will give you hope in God’s promise of comfort to those with a broken heart.

When I was young I remember the song “He Ain’t Heavy He’s My Brother” and for some reason it has stayed with me throughout my whole life. And now I know what brotherhood really means, thanks to God, bringing George Humlie into my life.



**“WHEN THE ADVOCATE COMES,
WHOM I WILL SEND TO YOU
FROM THE FATHER—THE SPIRIT
OF TRUTH WHO GOES OUT FROM
THE FATHER—HE WILL TESTIFY
ABOUT ME.”
(JOHN 15:26)**

SWEET SPIRIT

Sweet Spirit, please come on down to me
Sweet Spirit, I need comfort would you please
Sweet Spirit, I am lost in my own sound
Sweet Spirit, please come on, come on down to me
Sweet Spirit, please come and strengthen me
Sweet Spirit, I need to know your here with me
Sweet Spirit, I bow my head to thee
Sweet Spirit, please come on, come on down to me
I was lost, but now I'm found
I called your name and you turned around
You filled my heart with your sound
I'm coming around
Sweet Spirit, please come and comfort me
Sweet Spirit, as I pray to thee
Sweet Spirit, as I bow my head to thee
Sweet Spirit, please come on down to me
Sweet Spirit, as I pray to thee
Sweet Spirit, please come on down to me
Come on down to me
Please come on down to me

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GOD'S PLAN

“THE ONE WHO COMES FROM ABOVE IS ABOVE ALL.” (JOHN 3:31)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:1-5)

Before Jesus became human and was called a son, He was identified as the Word, the Word of God. “Word” in the Greek is Logos, which not only means word but has a broader meaning, having to do with one’s speech, thoughts, motives, will, reasoning, and purpose. The “Word” is the very character of God Himself, and His character became a human being. Through the Word, He gave us life and the ability to see the light, which is the truth. An internal and external witness, showing us the very purpose of creation.

When the light is seen through the eyes of a child, awe and wonder overwhelm him. He pursues the discoveries of creation, ultimately looking for Who created it. May we like children, allow the awe and wonder of this beautiful creation to bring us closer to the Creator Himself. In doing so, His light will illuminate the dark places in our lives.

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1-2)

HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED

This is why God's Word became human, to assist the brokenhearted. When Jesus came to a local synagogue, He was asked to read from the prophet Isaiah. Of all the days, and of all the scriptures to read, this passage was chosen for Him to read. It just so happened to be a passage about Himself, and what His mission was all about. Then He read...

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-21)

This is what was prophesied about the Messiah. When He would come, this is what He would do, and how they would recognize Him.

Even Jesus' cousin John the Baptist lost sight of what to expect from the Messiah. John was in prison, and very discouraged. He even

considered that Jesus may not be the Messiah to come, because Rome was still the governing force with no opposition on the horizon.

The Messiah was supposed to be a conquering King, overthrowing all governing powers and establishing an everlasting Kingdom. John sends a message to Jesus asking Him if there

is someone else coming who is the true Messiah. So Jesus sent a message back to John with this answer:

“Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.’ ” (Matthew 11:4-6)



**“I AM THE WAY
AND THE TRUTH AND
THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES
TO THE
FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH ME.”
(JOHN 14:6)**





CHRIST I NEED YOU IN MY LIFE

I come to you on humbled knees
Begging forgiveness, would you please
My damn foolish pride.
Keeps you on the outside
So I need you in my life
Christ I need you in my life
Always thinking I know best
Never lets my thoughts rest
And the lies I have told.
Makes me feel so damn old
So I need you in my life.
Christ I need you in my life
It gets so dark here sometimes
Can't seem to clear my own mind
Whiskey, pills to ease the pain
Lonely heart as cold as rain
So I need you in my life
Christ I need you in my life
And I know how it feels to see
You inside of me
And I don't know why I stray
Always getting in your way.
So I need you in my life
Christ I need you in my life.

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“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

I believe it all begins when you actually come to the realization of just who Jesus Christ really is. Once you are there, then you can begin the journey that God has planned for you.

Repentance to the Father is the first step.

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My Yoke is Easy, my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

A scenic landscape featuring snow-capped mountains in the background and a forest of trees in the foreground. The sky is a clear, bright blue. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid in the center of the image, containing white text.

THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND

“Repent! For the Kingdom is
at hand!”

(Matthew 3:2)

HE CAME TO SAVE THE WORLD

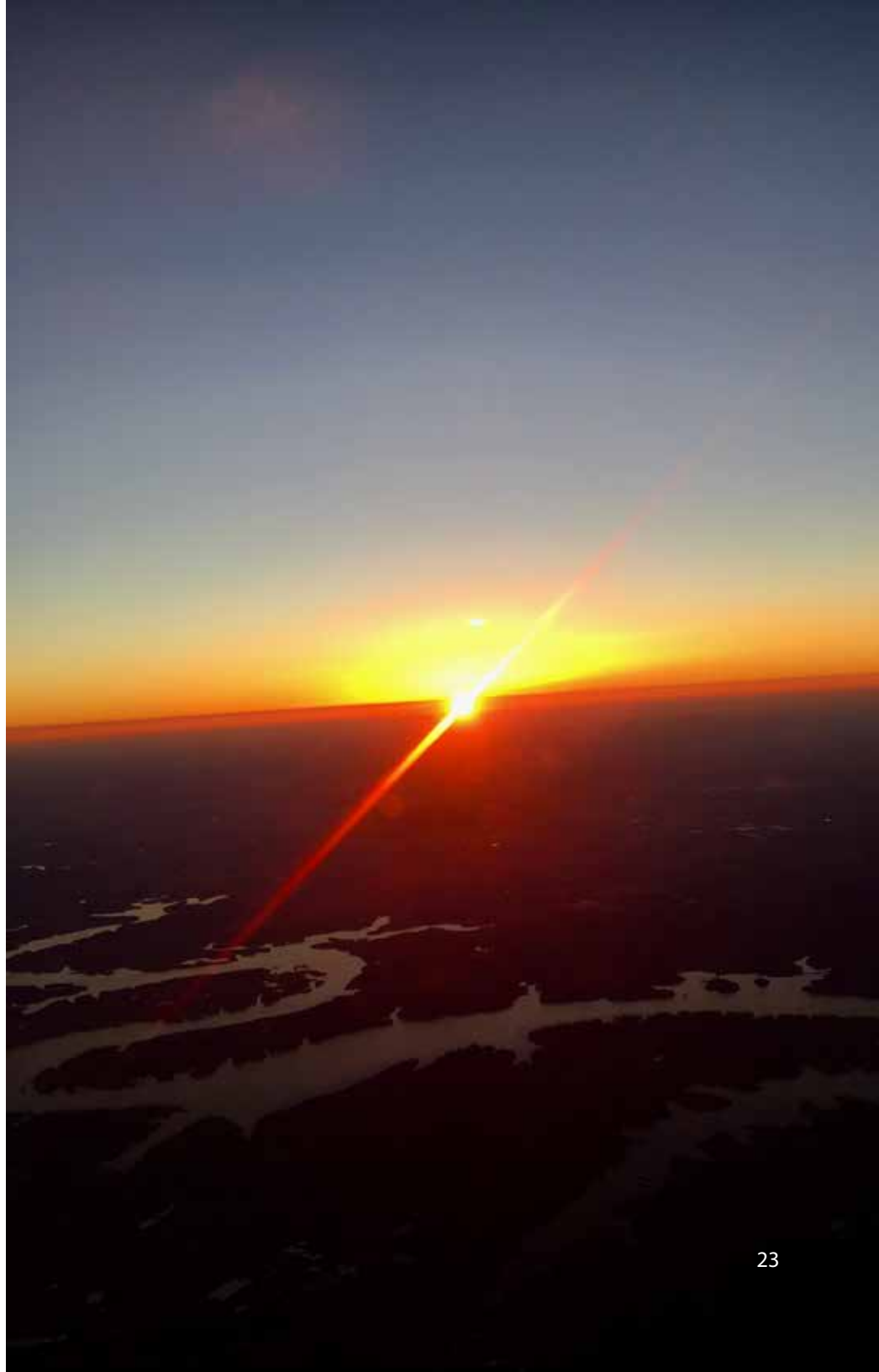
“For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

The long-awaited Kingdom of God has finally arrived. It was anticipated for a thousand years because of the words of the prophets of old, and now the final Old Testament prophet says it is at hand, in our midst.

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (Matthew 11:11)

John the Baptist is considered the greatest of all the prophets of old, because the best they could do was speak of the Kingdom to come, but John’s message is that the Kingdom has arrived! Now there is even a greater message, from a person considered least in the Kingdom, one who is poor in spirit and brokenhearted. His message is; The Kingdom is here, and I’m in it!

“Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?” (James 2:5)



THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know me.” (John 14:7)

The coming of the kingdom was first prophesied to King David.

“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

(2 Samuel 7:12-13)

When David was dead and buried, one of his descendants (Jesus) would become the reigning King, forever. He will establish a dynasty of many children, who would inherit the Kingdom.

“...Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:12-14)



**“IN THE TIME OF THOSE KINGS, THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL
SET UP A KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED.”**

(DANIEL 2:44)

THE DAYS OF THE KINGS

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (Daniel 2:44)

Rome was the last world-wide kingdom that would be in power when God set up His Kingdom. So it was, Jesus was born and would grow up during the Roman rule, all the while being prepared to ascend to His Throne.

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.” (Luke 2:1)

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

People from the Far East, who were familiar with the prophecies of the coming King, traveled many miles to see Him.

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’” (Matthew 2:1-2)





“When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ ‘Why were you searching for me?’ He asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’ ”
(Luke 2:48-49)

THE FATHER’S HOUSE

We don’t know much about the younger years of Jesus; only a small window is given to us to see Him when He was twelve years old. Three times a year, all male Jews were to travel to Jerusalem to attend the festivals; Pentecost, Tabernacles, and Passover. Passover was the greatest of the three, and so Mary would have traveled with Joseph on this occasion, along with Jesus Who was twelve years old. Jesus was anticipating His thirteenth birthday which was when a Jewish boy entered into manhood. It was important that Jesus attend this Passover Festival with His parents. This could have been His first festival, although it is possible that He went with His stepfather to previous ones. No doubt, Jesus was a prodigy.

“Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” (Luke 2:46-47)

After the Festival, Joseph, Mary, and other family members of the caravan journeyed home. After a day of traveling, they noticed that Jesus wasn’t with them, most likely supposing He was with someone in the large company of travelers. But after a good search, Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus wasn’t with the group, and so they went back to Jerusalem to find Jesus. What they discovered made a significant impression on Mary’s heart.

THE GRACE OF GOD

“And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.” (Luke 2:40)

This was probably the first time that Jesus referred to God as His Father, and it seemed to take them back to those most memorable days of the miraculous conception.

“But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:50-52)

Jesus, honoring His Father and Mother, submitted Himself to their care for the next several years. He grew up, became wise, and continued to make His real Father happy.

PRAY IN THIS MANNER

Jesus was about thirty years old when He made His move to establish His Kingdom. He gathered many disciples and appointed twelve to be His Apostles. He taught them about what the Kingdom would be like.

It took Jesus three and a half years of preparation, to usher in the final world wide Kingdom.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for It's coming.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by Your Name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.”

(Matthew 6:9-13)



DON'T WORRY

He taught them to pursue the Kingdom and not to worry about their lives.

Here are 4 reasons not to worry.

First, it is not necessary.

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (Matthew 6:25)

In other words, if God already did the more difficult thing by creating life in the first place, what’s the big deal about sustaining it with food and clothing?

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26)

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”
(Matthew 6:28-29)

HE GIVES US HOPE

Second, it's not helpful.

“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”
(Matthew 6:27)

Worry changes nothing for the positive; it won't add to one's life.

“You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.

But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:5-7)

Every person has been given a certain number of breaths; when the last one arrives, worrying won't add anymore. You will live until you die.





**“BUT FIRST SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

(MATTHEW 6:33)

HE GIVES US HOPE

Third, it's not appropriate.

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

Disciples of Jesus are a different kind of people. Worrying is what pagans do because they have no God. They have reason to worry. Worrying is dishonoring to God; it suggests that we don't trust Him!

Fourth, It is not wise.

“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matthew 6:34)

When we worry about tomorrow, we torture ourselves with something that may not even happen; if it does, we are double tortured.

We as believers must remember that we are only given grace when it is needed; with the trouble comes the grace to overcome.

**“AND NOW, LORD,
WHAT DO YOU WAIT
FOR? MY HOPE IS IN
YOU.”**

(PSALMS 39:4)

**“NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU EXCEPT SUCH AS IS
COMMON TO MAN; BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL,
WHO WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND
WHAT YOU ARE ABLE, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION
WILL ALSO MAKE THE WAY OF ESCAPE,
THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.”**

(1 CORINTHIANS 10:13)



**“AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED
IN ALL THE WORLD AS A WITNESS TO ALL THE NATIONS, AND
THEN THE END WILL COME.”**

(MATHEW 24:14)

**“HE SENT THEM TO PREACH
THE KINGDOM OF GOD
AND TO HEAL THE SICK.”
(LUKE 9:2)**

He taught them to tell the world and to preach the Kingdom of God.

“When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

(Luke 9:1-2)

Unfortunately, the word preacher has become a religious word. Its origins are from Old English, expressing the idea of a runner from the battlefield racing back to the kingdom to proclaim the good news of victory!

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ ”

(Isaiah 52:7)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

(Matthew 24:14)





“IT IS FINISHED.”

(JOHN 19:30)

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

In His final hours on this earth, Jesus proclaimed to the Father that the mission was accomplished. It was time to bring the Kingdom.

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” (John 17:4)

The ascension to His throne required the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It all happened according to the plan.

So the Apostles gathered together and watched the King ascend to His throne.

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9)

How did they know that He was going to the throne room? They remembered the words of the prophet Daniel.

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 17:13-14)



**“HE WAS RECEIVED UP INTO
HEAVEN, AND SAT DOWN AT
THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.”**

(MARK 16:19)

THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

This is why Mark writes the account with these words.

“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” (Mark 16:19)

The Apostles recognized the second Psalm to be another prophecy of Jesus on His Throne, first born from the dead, and asking the Father for all the nations of the earth.

“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.’ ” (Psalms 2:6-8)

Nation after nation, for the last two thousand years, has been toppled and brought under submission to the King. God’s Great Reset is in the process of making all things right and conforming all to the Kingdom’s manifesto.

One day, hopefully soon, at the final trumpet, all peoples, tribes, and nations will recognize the King, King Jesus!

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ ” (Revelation 11:15)



THE KINGDOM'S MANIFESTO

THE MOST IMPORTANT OF GOD'S COMMANDS

“Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:17-18)

A manifesto is a document, publicly declaring the position or program of its issuer. A manifesto advances a set of ideas, opinions, or views, but it can also lay out a plan of action.

Jesus was asked, Which of God's commands are the most important?

“ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’ ” (Mark 12:29-31)

By the end of Jesus' ministry, He had demonstrated what true love is. So He gave them a new command, an even greater commandment than the first one. So He gave them a new command, an even greater commandment than the first one.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

This new command is illustrated through the Manifesto of the Kingdom. It's found in the famous Sermon on the Mount, with the opening eight states of blessing, known as the Beatitudes.



BEATITUDES

**“NOW WHEN JESUS SAW THE CROWDS,
HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN SIDE AND
SAT DOWN. HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO
HIM, AND HE BEGAN TO TEACH THEM.”**

(MATTHEW 5:1-2)

THE BROKEN SPIRIT

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 5:3)

Jesus was not trying to be innovative; He was reminding them of what the Old Testament already said.

“My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.” (Psalms 51:17)

This beatitude has a present promise, while the others seem to have a future promise. To our twenty-first century ears, it sounds like it should say, “Blessed are the rich in spirit.”

We are continually encouraged in our day to never think lowly of ourselves.

We need to make sure that we love ourselves, because that is the only way we will be able to love others.

We are always to work towards high self esteem. In other words, be rich in spirit.

Jesus does not agree with our twenty-first century sentiments. He tells us to love others as we love ourselves. This takes humility, and that is what being poor in spirit means. Poor in spirit is a humble person who esteems others better than himself. This attitude won't hurt you.

**“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”
(Phillipians 2:3)**

HIS COMFORT

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

(Matthew 5:4)

How can it be said that a mourning person is blessed? We live in a day when a great deal of money, time, and even the use of chemicals are used to keep us from mourning and being depressed. The truth of the matter is that mourning can be beneficial in at least two ways.

First, we could never appreciate the value of comfort without experiencing the difficulties. The contrast is a benefit. We are now poised to comfort others going through a similar experience.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Second, a person who finally comes to the realization that they are not their own and have lived their lives as if they were has cheated the real owner of His right to that life. This is a cause for deep mourning. This will bring comfort!

“Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

(Psalms 100:3)

HE IS NEAR

Mourning can get us in touch with reality.

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

(2 Corinthians 7:10)

This is what King David was experiencing when he kept silent about the sin he committed with Bathsheba and the killing of her husband. His mourning drove him to repentance.

“Of David. A maskil. Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.’ And you forgave the guilt of my sin.” (Psalms 32:1-5)

THE MEEK

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Again, Jesus was not being innovative; He was simply reminding people of what was important to God.

“But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Psalms 37:11)

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—It leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.” (Psalms 37:7-9)

Meek is the opposite of being self-assured; he is a person who looks out for himself in order to get what he wants. A meek person cannot be a weak person. One who is meek has the ability to get his own way but chooses not to. In our day and age, we are told that we should look out for ourselves because no one else will.

“But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.” (Isaiah 11:4)

It sounds like God is looking out for the meek. This must mean that it is a waste of time for the meek person to look out for himself.



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
(Matthew 5:6)

“For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” (Psalms 107:9)

How can it be said that being hungry and thirsty is an enviable condition? Hunger and thirst are unsatisfied desires and are the cause of unhappiness.

No one likes to have desires that can't be satisfied. So what are our options? Some would say, Go for it; satisfy yourself. Others say to reduce your desires, and you won't have unsatisfied desires. This is what brings happiness.

Jesus says the opposite, and He uses the strongest desires a human has to illustrate His message. His message is to be sure to desire the right things, and make sure that

they are strong desires, because only desiring the right things will bring satisfaction.

He says the most important things to desire are doing what's right and demonstrating justice and fairness toward everyone.

Righteousness is not seamless in our lives, so to desire it will lead to frustration. This is why so many people simply adjust to the level around them, in order to alleviate frustration.

The man, Lot, didn't do this.

“For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to

ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard.” (2 Peter 2:4-8)

Lot was frustrated with the ungodliness that surrounded him because he was hungering and thirsting for righteousness. He was frustrated and grieved in his soul, but one day will be filled with no more tears.

“As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.” (Psalms 17:15)

THE FACE OF GOD

So it shall be with a disciple of Jesus. He should be unsatisfied and at times grieved in his soul because things aren't as they should be. Though he should be content with the progress the Kingdom is making.

“Not that I have already obtained all this or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
(Phillipians 3:12-14)

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Satisfied means that all of my desires have been fulfilled.”
(Phillipians 4:11-13)

Satisfied means that all of my desires have been fulfilled.

Contentment means that I still have unfulfilled desires, but I'm ok with that because I have the

things that God wants me to have. I am where I am because this is where God wants me to be, so I am content for now.

If we set our hearts to only be satisfied with what is right and just, settling for nothing less, all the while knowing that we will temporarily be unsatisfied, then one day we will be satisfied forever!

If, on the other hand, we attempt to satisfy our desires now and at any cost, we will forfeit the promise of satisfaction, potentially forever.
(Steve Gregg)



**“AS FOR ME, I WILL SEE YOUR FACE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS;
I SHALL BE SATISFIED WHEN I AWAKE IN YOUR LIKENESS.”**

(PSALM 17:15)



MERCY

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”
(Matthew 5:7)

Is Jesus saying that only the merciful will be shown mercy? It sounds like it. Mercy is tied to compassion, if not synonymous with it.

“In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’

The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’

Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ ” (Luke 10:30-37)



**“THEN JESUS, MOVED WITH COMPASSION,
STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCHED HIM,
AND SAID TO HIM, ‘I AM WILLING; BE CLEANSED.’ ”**

(MARK 1:41)

COMPASSION

Oftentimes, compassion is seen as something merely in the heart, but notice what is said of Jesus.

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?” (James 2:15-16)

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

There are two ways in which mercy is demonstrated:

First: Assisting the pitiful. If we are to be shown compassion in our times of being pitiful, we must do the same.

Second: Dealing with offenses. Forgiveness means turning the other cheek. Giving away your rights for the benefit of another.

“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.” (Psalms 32:1-2)


Showing mercy does not mean earning mercy; it means mercy is in you and ready to be given away.

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25-26)

Justice towards another person means never violating their rights. Mercy is the giving away of your rights when someone has violated you. This is a benefit for them.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38-42)

A large, glowing yellow moon is centered in the frame against a solid black background. The moon's surface is detailed with various shades of yellow and orange, showing craters and lunar maria. The text is overlaid on the moon's surface.

**“BLESSED ARE THE PURE
IN HEART, FOR THEY
WILL SEE GOD.”
(MATTHEW 5:8)**

A PURE HEART

Pure: clean, clear, pollutant-free, no contamination.

Heart, feelings, thoughts, and will.

The Pharisees and previous generations polluted the attitude of the heart by introducing and requiring rules and traditions that God never intended. Because of this, the Pharisees appeared pure on the outside, but Jesus knew what was on the inside.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.” (Matthew 23:27)

During Jesus’ time, caves were used as burial grounds. They were also used as public restrooms. If a person using a cave as a public restroom came across a dead body, this person was considered unclean and could not participate in any of the festivities taking

place in Jerusalem. To alleviate this problem, they painted the outside of the caves with a white color, alerting people that there was a dead body in the cave.

“Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.” (Psalms 24:3-5)

Why is the heart so important? Here are four reasons we can see in scripture.

First, the heart is the seat of all secret thoughts, emotions, and motives.

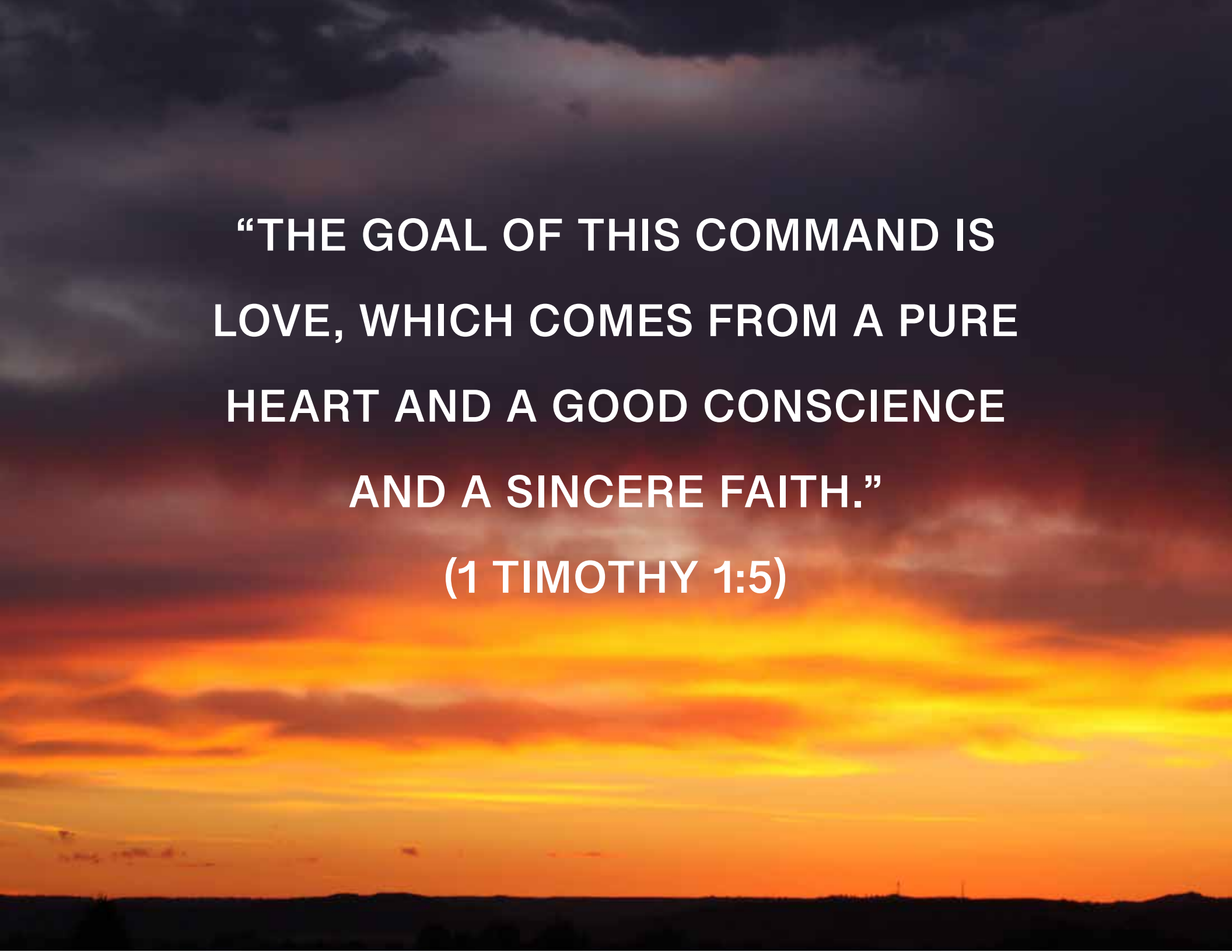
“Do not eat the food of a begrudging host, do not crave his delicacies; or he is the kind of

person who is always thinking about the cost. ‘Eat and drink,’ he says to you, but his heart is not with you.” (Proverbs 23:6-7)

Second, all of life’s issues emanate from the heart...

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matthew 5: 18-19)



**“THE GOAL OF THIS COMMAND IS
LOVE, WHICH COMES FROM A PURE
HEART AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE
AND A SINCERE FAITH.”**

(1 TIMOTHY 1:5)

A PURE HEART CONTINUED

Third, God's primary interest is in the state of the heart...

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (Isaiah 16:7)

Fourth, love out of a pure heart is the goal of Christianity.

"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."
(1 Timothy 1:5)

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." (1 Peter 1:22)

"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

What constitutes purity of heart?

Purged of guilt...

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"
(Hebrews 9:14)

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."
(Hebrews 10:22)

"When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.'" (John 1:47)

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart." (Ephesians 6:5-6)

"No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless." (Revelations 14:5)



A PURE HEART CONTINUED

Unpolluted. Wholly for God.

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” (Matthew 23:37)

“You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Simplicity of heart.

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.” (Acts 2:46)

“And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’” (Luke 10:41-42)

Morally pure.

“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28)

“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.” (Job 31:1)

Not loving money.

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)

Trusting not doubting.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.” (James 1:5-8)

“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.” (Mark 11:23)



“BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY.”

(1 PETER 1:16)

SIGNS OF A POLLUTED HEART

Casual thoughts and speech.

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”
(Matthew 12:33-37)

Lukewarmness.

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I Am Holy.’ ” (1 Peter 1:13-16)

“The wicked flees when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”
(Proverbs 28:1)

No confidence before man or God.

“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved,

if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.” (1 John 3:20-21)

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”
(Hebrews 12:14)

The pure in heart are promised to be the ones who will see God.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)



“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.”

(MATTHEW 5:9)

BE A PEACEMAKER

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

First of all a peacemaker is a person who has made peace with God and is no longer His enemy.

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” (Romans 5:10)

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Phillipians 4:6-9)

A peacemaker also looks for every opportunity to be at peace with all men.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:18)

Peacemakers will ultimately be called sons of God. Who will call them sons of God? God Himself will. Also, all of creation will call them sons of God. Creation is looking for the identity of those who are the sons of God.

Because when they are identified, the curse will be lifted and all of creation will be liberated.

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.” (Romans 8:18-23)

A landscape of rolling green hills under a grey sky with a faint rainbow. The hills are covered in dense green vegetation and stretch across the foreground. The sky is a uniform grey, and a faint rainbow is visible in the distance, arching over the horizon.

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE.”**

(MATTHEW 5:10)

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO THE RIGHTEOUS

A disciple must start out by rejecting the world's values and replacing them with what God values.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 5:10)

“He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.’ ” (Luke 16:15)

When a person values what God values and lives his life according to those values, this could bring persecution from the world around him.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.” (Luke 16:22-23)

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Love Your Enemies. But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”
(Luke 6:26-28)

Persecution is not being cut off in traffic or even necessarily being mugged in a dark alley. Persecution is a personal and malicious act that is considered a blessing when it happens for His sake.

If people hate Jesus and see the things they hate about Jesus in you, they will hate you too. Persecution is a blessing because you will be approved by God despite what men do to you.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”
(Matthew 5:11)



SUMMARY OF THE BEATITUDES

THIS MANIFESTO IS THE GOAL FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF THE KING.

WE ARE TO BE HUMBLE AND EMPATHETIC TOWARDS OTHERS, HELPING THOSE IN NEED AND ALWAYS FORGIVING OFFENSES, NEVER BEING SELF-ASSERTIVE AND DEMANDING ONE'S OWN WAY, BUT RATHER DESIRING THE VERY BEST FOR ALL BY PURSUING JUSTICE

FOR THE INNOCENT WHO ARE BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.

THE FOLLOWERS OF THE KING MUST KEEP THEIR MINDS ON THINGS THAT ARE GOOD AND TRUE, WHICH CAN BRING PEACE IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS, EVEN THOUGH HOSTILITY MAY BE PRESENT IN SOME SITUATIONS.



CONCLUSION

LOVE IS THE GREATEST

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

Finally, for the brokenhearted, there are three key components to successfully navigate through life as a follower of the King.

“For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

(1 Corinthians 13:9-13)

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

(Revelations 21:4)

When that day comes, we will no longer need faith or hope, only love. Faith and hope will have been realized and actualized.

Until then, we function in all three. These three are the essence of the human experience, and to the degree that any given person chooses to exercise these three, that person will be living an abundant and contented life.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

(Hebrews 11:1)



**“LORD, IF IT IS YOU, COMMAND ME TO COME
TO YOU ON THE WATER.”
(MATTHEW 14:28)**

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith turns hope into the anticipation of the inevitable. Faith is also like a looking glass into the invisible world. Faith ignites hope. Hope without faith is empty and really only a wish because there is no substance in that hope. A person can hope for anything he wants, but if it is not possible or not there, it won't happen.

But aren't all things possible with God? Peter walked on water, which was impossible. All things are possible with God. He can defy the natural and function in the miraculous.

But that's the point. Only faith in the One Whom all things are possible makes hope something to hang on to, not only as a possibility, but ultimately an inevitability.

“And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” (Matthew 14:28)

Here is a principle that we would be wise to never forget. Peter knew that if the Lord commanded him, the Lord would also enable him to accomplish the task. If the Lord hasn't commanded us to do something, don't expect any help from Him. In fact, you might even experience resistance from the Lord. But on the other hand, if He has commanded you, then step out of the boat with total confidence that you can do it.

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Fourth, love out of a pure heart is the goal of Christianity.

“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1 Timothy 1:5)

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.” (1 Peter 1:22)

”Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)



WHAT IS HOPE?

When you are hanging on to something as a possibility, that is hope! But only if God wills it. Hope is a deep, hardwired thing that God has done to man (I'm not totally sure about the animals). This hard wiring of hope is incomplete without faith.

(Polarity)

Hope is already connected to God, while faith needs to be connected to us. It's our faith, and it's our job to make the connection. Faith and Hope must function together. Like the positive and negative poles, the circuit is incomplete without both being connected, and the same is true with Faith and Hope.

Faith is trusting in someone or something that is trustworthy, making our hope come alive.

Much of humanity has great hope in many things without any substance to their hope, because they really can't trust for sure that the thing they are hoping for can be delivered.

This is why they cross their fingers.

Crossing your fingers is not an adequate hope, but it reduces hope to a wish. Gambling is a great example. Gambling is hoping for the odds to turn your way. This is unwise because the odds can't be trusted.

These components are the three necessary functions of the human experience. Faith is the substance of Hope. Hope is an anticipation of the inevitable future, not a wish. Love is the motivation behind it all. There will be a day when faith will no longer be needed because the One in Whom we put our trust in, will bring all good things into reality.

Hope will also be a thing of the past because the very things that were hoped for will have been fulfilled.

FAITH AND HOPE MUST FUNCTION TOGETHER.



**“HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD,
FOR GOD IS LOVE.”**

(1 JOHN 4:8)

WHAT IS LOVE?

So that leaves the greatest of the three, which is Love. Love will continue throughout all eternity.

Why?

Because God is love.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

(1 John 4:7-8)

“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

(1 John 4:16)

Love is not God, but rather, God is love. Justice is not God, but rather, God is just. Goodness is not God, but rather, God is good.

All too often in our day, people try to elevate their understanding of love to a godlike status, and it becomes that which they bow to and serve at all costs.

It sounds right and good, but it's a distraction from recognizing God Himself. Serving love, especially a misunderstanding of what love is, is a cheapening of love that can lead many down a path of futility, all the while thinking they are pursuing the highest goal.

When love is called God, it is like nature being called “Mother Nature,” as if she has the ability to move all of us to a utopian state if we would only cooperate with her, and some would say worship her.

Nature is groaning for the curse to be lifted when the Sons of God are revealed.

Nature is powerless, impotent, and not worthy of worship! But you know what? The same is true of love.

Love has no abilities in and of itself. Love can't unite the world. It can't subdue the minds and will of men, and it can't bring peace to the earth in and of itself. In this present age, Love is weak. Therefore, it has to rely on faith and hope.

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16)



WHAT IS LOVE? CONTINUED

Love is like the rays of the sun, which are only as good as their source. We love to absorb the wonderful sunlight, and we need the rays of the sun to survive. But the rays wouldn't be there without the Sun. Are the rays the same thing as the Sun? Only to the extent that the words of a person are said to be that person.

[“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” \(John 1:1\)](#)

This says that God's very words became a reality. God is love, and His words came to us in the form of a human in order to demonstrate what love is. Love is a lofty concept. That is why Jesus came to make it understandable. This is why He gave us this commitment.

[“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” \(John 13:34\)](#)

His life demonstrated what love is and how it functions, and the Bible gives us tactics to accomplish this task of loving others as He loved us.

Four examples are given that demonstrate God's very nature. They are Justice, Mercy, Humility, and Faithfulness.



JUSTICE, MERCY, HUMILITY, AND FAITHFULNESS

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” (Matthew 23:23)

These two passages give us a list of virtues: Justice, Mercy, Humility, and Faithfulness. They put love into action and make it recognizable.

Justice means being fair. It is giving someone what they deserve or protecting them from what they do not deserve. Justice is concerned about the rights of others. It is the commitment to never violate another person’s rights and the determination to uphold the rights of those who are being violated.

This is why abortion is so abhorrent. It is the great injustice of our day. We recall

past generations who owned slaves and acknowledge the terrible injustice of it.

One day, generations will look back to our generation and see the great injustice of taking an innocent baby’s life? Justice stands up for what is morally right. It supports our neighbor’s rights and refuses to take advantage of them or allow them to be treated unfairly.

That is Love!

“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” (Ephesians 5:2)

Mercy is a character of God that is an absolute proponent of Justice. It agrees with Justice, and it is very much connected to Justice, but it has a different purpose and function than Justice.

While Justice looks out for the rights of others, Mercy helps us to be more loving and patient toward those who have violated our own rights.

When an injustice occurs to us, we have the choice to acknowledge its unfairness, then demand that justice be served by insisting that the perpetrator should be punished. Or we could choose to acknowledge that God could have taken the same attitude toward us, but instead chose to show mercy and forgive our injustices.

Mercy is giving away our rights for the benefit of another.

Mercy is saying, I won’t be petulant, bad-tempered, irritable, sulky, snappish, crotchety, touchy, grumpy, crabby, grouchy, or cranky. Instead, I will show mercy to someone who has done me wrong.

JUSTICE, MERCY, HUMILITY, AND FAITHFULNESS CONTINUED

That is Love!

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

(Phillipians 2:3)

Faithfulness is saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

It is making your yes be yes and your no be no. If you say you will do something at a certain time, then be a little early and don't quit till the job is finished. If you've said the marriage vows; “ I do, for better or for worse, whether rich or poor, in sickness or in health, until death do us part,” then stay married.

Being a faithful person makes it easy for others to trust us. While the Bible does not command us to trust others, the fact is, we must trust others.

Faithful people make it a whole lot easier. That is Loving!

Humility is not thinking more or less of ourselves than is true. CS Lewis summed it up best when he wrote,

“We shouldn't think less of ourselves, but rather think of ourselves less.”

Humility is thinking less about ourselves, which is a good thing to do because it leaves room for us to think of others and their needs.

We are to regard others as better and more important than we are. What if they aren't? It won't hurt us to consider that they are.

And if they are, well then good for us to be in touch with reality. That's loving!

Humility begins with a broken heart.

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
(Psalms 34:18)

This brings us full circle. If you find yourself with a broken heart, you're actually in a good starting place. This is the secret place where God will meet with you and give you hope for tomorrow and joy for today.





THE BEGINNING AND THE END

“He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.’ ” (Revelations 21:6)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:13)

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” (Revelation 22:6)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” (John 14:1-4)

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelations 22:20)



WHEN ARE YOU COMING, LORD?

Yesterday I gotta to thinking,
What's this really all about?
So much pain and sorrow,
You know I just can't figure it out.
A poor man on the sidewalk,
A woman on the corner street.
And I can see their struggles.
Begging would you help me please?

When are you coming Lord?
When are you coming Lord?
When are you coming Lord?
We need you now.

A daughter yells at her mother,
A son curses his father.
The banker takes what ain't his,
And the men of the cloth won't give.

When are you coming Lord?
When are you coming Lord?
When are you coming Lord?
We need you now.



“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” (Mark 6:50)

It’s easier said than done, for sure. But Christ knew when He said this that it wouldn’t be easy. He promised all of us that He would be there with us through all we would have to endure.

I have spent the majority of my life up until now trying to please others and to be something special in the world. It has been a very lonely journey with many ups and downs.

I was never content and always trying to fill this space in my heart that seemed so broken and alone.

It wasn’t until I was in prison that I started to read the Gospel of John. I realized just how much I had missed in my life. I began to understand who Jesus Christ was and why He chose to do what He did, not only for me but for everyone who has ever taken a breath on this earth.

I know we can all feel alone at times with the weight of the world on us. We struggle to find reason and purpose in all that goes on in our everyday lives. We work, and we work, and we work. But there is a promise from the Lord that can’t be ignored. The mere fact that He chose to come here, make all things right, and give all of us a place at His table is remarkable to me. He did not have to do that. He is the owner of everything! We have nothing without Him!

So I say to the brokenhearted: Rejoice in your mourning and struggles! Seek God every day and in every way that you can. Give all titles to the King of Kings, and rejoice in the fact that He is faithful!

Mitchell John



In my depths of despair, God presented me with a solution of comfort.

Don't I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity to share from God's word, especially in a book dedicated to the brokenhearted. I have experienced a broken heart a few times in my life, one in my mid- twenties when my first wife left me. Young and naive, I got married at nineteen, disregarding all warnings not to. We were both young and focused on ourselves and not on each other, which led to our eventual breakup. God has since reconciled our friendship, but that is another story.

My broken heart led me to the end of the earth, which happened to be Lincoln City, Oregon. This is where I got very close to God and found comfort and healing. This is also where I met my second wife and the mother of my children. It was a new beginning for me, and my broken heart seemed to have been mended. We were married in 1989 and raised three kids. We taught them many of the things in this book as they were able to comprehend the concepts. In September of 2015, my wife was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. She passed away in January of 2016. During those four months, knowing that her time with us was limited, we reflected on the goodness of God. He had given us three talented kids and an extremely good marriage. Once again, my heart was broken as she moved up north to the Lord's habitation.

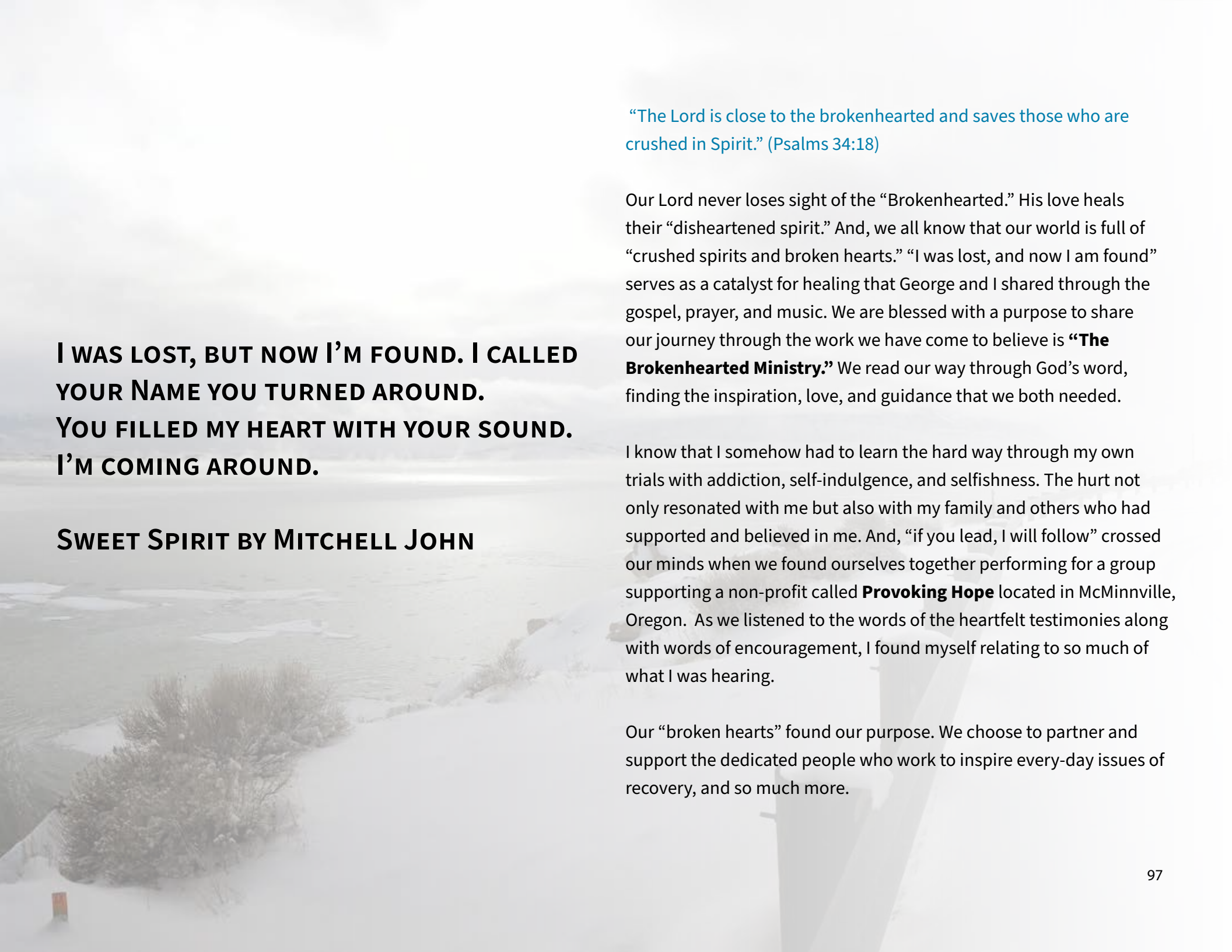
I was broken and somewhat terrified. At fifty- five years old, I knew that I was still a man who needed to be married. Because of my fear, I didn't want to marry a divorced woman or a woman with kids. I had plans that involved working with my kids and eventually my grandkids. Everything stopped. Life as I knew it was changing. Nothing would ever be the same. Yet, during this most difficult time, God was working behind the scenes.

In my depths of despair, God presented me with a solution of comfort. How about a childless widow? My response was, Is there such a person? To my surprise, God provided that very thing. I am now married to a lovely woman who is a childless widow. She always wanted to have children but was unable to because of her husband's illness. I told her that I have children and that I would share. We are two brokenhearted people that God brought together in order to demonstrate His goodness. I love her dearly.

May this book and testimony be an encouragement to all who read it, and may it lead you to the Lord and His comfort. He is the Emperor of the great and final Kingdom.

George Humlie





**I WAS LOST, BUT NOW I'M FOUND. I CALLED
YOUR NAME YOU TURNED AROUND.
YOU FILLED MY HEART WITH YOUR SOUND.
I'M COMING AROUND.**

SWEET SPIRIT BY MITCHELL JOHN

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in Spirit.” (Psalms 34:18)

Our Lord never loses sight of the “Brokenhearted.” His love heals their “disheartened spirit.” And, we all know that our world is full of “crushed spirits and broken hearts.” “I was lost, and now I am found” serves as a catalyst for healing that George and I shared through the gospel, prayer, and music. We are blessed with a purpose to share our journey through the work we have come to believe is “**The Brokenhearted Ministry.**” We read our way through God’s word, finding the inspiration, love, and guidance that we both needed.

I know that I somehow had to learn the hard way through my own trials with addiction, self-indulgence, and selfishness. The hurt not only resonated with me but also with my family and others who had supported and believed in me. And, “if you lead, I will follow” crossed our minds when we found ourselves together performing for a group supporting a non-profit called **Provoking Hope** located in McMinnville, Oregon. As we listened to the words of the heartfelt testimonies along with words of encouragement, I found myself relating to so much of what I was hearing.

Our “broken hearts” found our purpose. We choose to partner and support the dedicated people who work to inspire every-day issues of recovery, and so much more.



MITCHELL JOHN

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Mitchell John's musical journey continues as he reflects on where he has been...some of what he has done...and, more importantly, what he discovered through it all.

When he was young musical notes first found their way to him via Elvis Presley. He wanted to be like "Elvis"...and he literally saw this man as the "King". He spent his youth listening to and trying to emulate the sound of Elvis through his own music. Nothing could have prepared him for the tangled web that this imaginary world of success would bring. Years passed like waves lapping up on the shore of his life, a melody of sorts that he wanted to capture for himself. Maybe it was the storm that hit him full force and took him down...almost burying him in the sand of regrets and shame. No one knows for sure when Mitchell began to see the light that suddenly surrounded him with the warmth of love and forgiveness. The presence of Jesus soothed his troubled heart...and a new melody emerged from within...a "Sweet Spirit"... saved him.

Visions of Elvis's entourage and screaming fans faded away, momentarily leaving a lonely man with only a guitar, who started to sing. One by one, mutual hearts and minds, gathered to create a new sound akin to Jesus and all of them. Mitchell John's musical journey will take you on a trip through his life of self-indulgence, his awakening, and his realization that "music" has been his lifeline.

Mitchell John has had a long career as a recording artist. He started recording music albums in 1993 and is now commemorating 30 years as a recording artist. Mitchell has released 13 albums, including two live albums, which have been broadcast on radio stations all over the world. He won the New Christian Music Radio Mike award in 2008 and 2009, and his latest album, Carbon County, was released in July of 2023.



GEORGE HUMLIE

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

George Humlie has experienced several levels of grief in his life that have led to a broken heart. This broken-heart experience drove him to find answers that would make sense of it all. Coming out of a broken marriage in his twenties, he moved to the end of the earth, Lincoln City, Oregon, where he would deal with his grief. Surprisingly, this is where he began a new life, finding a new wife, and they would bring three children into the world. As a professional musician, he was unable to provide for his new family, so he had to take on a second job as a garbage man. This was exactly what he needed in his search to find the answers he was looking for. As a captive audience in the cab of his truck, he spent fifteen years going through seminary-level training and became very acquainted with the Bible. After twenty-seven years of marriage to the mother of his children, God had another plan. She passed away in 2016, adding to his broken-heart experience. He remembered the Master's words: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Comfort came as he found new love with a childless widow who was experiencing a broken heart as well. George is acquainted with grief and has learned to exploit it for the advancement of the Great Kingdom.

TO THE BROKENHEARTED

This book was written for those who are living life with a broken heart. A heart that has experienced pain due to; the death of a loved one, broken relationships that can't seem to find common ground, the consequences of wrong behaviors, the contemplation of a life lived for self gratification, and those who will one day experience a humbled broken heart.

Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

This is counterintuitive to the 21st century mindset. "Rich in spirit" seems much better.

The fact of the matter is, rich in spirit thinking is the cause of what we are experiencing in our society today, and our society has gone off the rails. Today, individual identity is determined by how one feels. Our society has lost touch with reality because they are looking for a "rich in spirit" experience.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10)

To be poor in spirit is to be humble and in touch with reality. A broken heart is the first step to a humble heart, and a humble heart brings Grace from God Himself. His Grace brings a new purpose for living and the assistance to accomplish great things. This book will help you begin your journey as a citizen of the Great Kingdom.

Mitchell John



George Humlie



Visit Mitchell John's official website at:

bendintherivermusicgroup.com/music

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