



In this 100-day devotional, you'll be comforted as you meditate on God's character. You'll find courage in His promises to you. And as you soak deeply in God's love and compassion, you'll become better equipped to love and bless the family, friends, and people God has placed in your life.

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Contents

A Note to the Reader	10
1. Mercy Over All	12
2. To All Who Are Thirsty	14
3. Goodness Waiting for You	16
4. Everlasting Arms	18
5. Unmatched Affection	20
6. Your Need and His Provision	22
7. So Much to Look Forward To	24
8. Where Joy Is Found	26
9. God's Usual Way	28
10. Feel the Relief	30
11. God's Heart for You	32
12. The Presence of a Storm	34
13. All the Accomplishment You Will Ever Need	36
14. When All Else Is Stripped Away	38
15. Unwavering Love	40
16. Satisfaction from Above	42
17. Inexhaustible Grace	44
18. How to Fight Your Fear	46
19. God Changes Seasons	48
20. Tell It to the Lord	50
21. When You Feel Weak	52
22. When You Feel Anxious	54
23. Jesus Understands Your Pain	56
24. Your Labor Is Not in Vain	58
25. Our Work and God's Work	60
26. Greatly Loved	62

27. Replenished	64
28. Reassurance for Restless Souls	66
29. Under the Smile of God	68
30. Out of Gas	70
31. Riches for All	72
32. Attracting Favor	74
33. The Attention of God	76
34. Pour It Out	78
35. Driven into His Arms	80
36. Straining Forward	82
37. Comfort in Affliction	84
38. When You Don't Feel Up for It	86
39. The Greatest Display of Strength	88
40. When God Is on Your Side	90
41. Unending Mercies	92
42. Distress, Dread, and Our Deliverer	94
43. The Reason Jesus Came	96
44. A Very Present Help in Trouble	98
45. Who Salvation Belongs To	100
46. Nevertheless	102
47. Sustained in Every Season	104
48. The Rearview Mirror	106
49. The Tender Mercy of God's Watchful Eye	108
50. The Path to Perfect Peace	110
51. Divine Delays	112
52. Faultless	114
53. The Grace I Need	116
54. Every Gift from God	118
55. What Jesus Is Preparing for Us	120
56. What Jesus Wants	122
57. A Mark of Spiritual Vitality	124
58. God Never Wastes Your Pain	126
59. You Cannot Out-Give God	128
60. Crying Out with Cracked Lips	130
61. The Paradox of the Believer's Life	132
62. Invited to Receive	134
63. Wisdom from Above	136
64. Remembering Jesus	138

65. Comfort in a Culture of Criticism	140
66. God Is Not Like Us	142
67. From God's Perspective	144
68. Still, There Is Room	146
69. The Tender Mercy of Our God	148
70. What God Gives	150
71. Peace with God, Purpose in Life	152
72. Suffering for Righteousness' Sake	154
73. The Greatest Act of Kindness We Can Give	156
74. Blessed in Christ	158
75. When You're Dazed and Confused	160
76. What <i>God</i> Is Waiting For	162
77. For the Soul That Needs Reviving	164
78. Over the Raging of the Sea	166
79. When We Can't Trace God's Hand	168
80. Looking Up	170
81. When You Don't Know What to Do	172
82. The Origin of All Ministry	174
83. Don't Be Surprised	176
84. The Warmth of the Sun	178
85. How God <i>Never</i> Feels	180
86. The God of Hope	182
87. What We Were Made For	184
88. The Secret to Contentment	186
89. Again, Again, and Again	188
90. The Reason We Persevere	190
91. Blessed to Bless	192
92. Tenderhearted	194
93. More than Enough	196
94. The Lord Is Near	198
95. Mercy Unrestrained	200
96. Return	202
97. The God of Unshakable Peace	204
98. The Door of Mercy	206
99. All Things New	208
100. Multiplied	210
Acknowledgments	212

1 *Mercy Over All*

PSALM 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

God's inmost heart for you is one of grace, mercy, goodness, and love. The Lord is not ashamed of you. He is not embarrassed by you. God is not quick-tempered toward your faults. He is not put off by your quirks and idiosyncrasies. Yes, in His omniscience, God is fully aware of everything about you, and nothing is hidden from Him (Heb. 4:13). Yet each one of your weaknesses, faults, frailties, and failures does more to arouse God's love than to stir up His anger.

Every single day, the Lord showers you with goodness from above and mercy from His heart of unshakable love. Consider His mercies: the very breath you are breathing testifies to the goodness of the Lord in your life; every gasp of air proclaims His great love for you. "He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything [else]" (Acts 17:25). Even when you have been unfaithful to Him, hasn't He been good to you? Even when you've been thankless, hasn't He greeted you in the morning with favor that you could never earn? Hasn't He protected you throughout the day from the fullness of what your actions have truly deserved?

Every blessing in your life is meant to draw your attention to God's gracious and merciful heart of goodness and love directed toward you. Yes, you. "The LORD is good to *all*, and his mercy is over *all* that he has made." *All* includes *you*. Friend, the Lord loves you. Don't think that His love for you is an afterthought. No, "God shows his love for us in that *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Rom. 5:8). God's love is

an honest love, amid the full knowledge of the worst about us. It's a purposeful, passionate, persistent, and perpetual love.

Oh, that you would trace His gracious heart for you and embrace His immeasurable love for you. God is "abounding in steadfast love" for you. Embrace His love with the eyes of faith and love Him in response.

Reflect

Where do you see marks of God's grace, mercy, goodness, and love in your life right now? How do you respond? Check out 1 John 4:19.

Let's Pray

Gracious God, thank You for loving me so much. Thank You for the breath You've given me, the life You've given me, and the mercy You've showered on me. Even in the midst of all my unfaithfulness, You've been faithful to me, and I'm so grateful for Your grace, mercy, patience, and love. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

2 To All Who Are Thirsty

ISAIAH 55:1

*Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

Those who view God as a disinterested, standoffish, harsh ruler with a “you-better-get-your-act-together” kind of attitude and posture will do everything they can to stay away from Him. They will not approach God to relate with Him, and they will not draw near with their spiritual needs and desires. They will be like the man who received the one piece of money he was entrusted with and came forward to account for it upon the Master’s return, saying, “I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground” (Matt. 25:24–25). Hard views of God are a breeding ground for fear and hiding. They also lead to ultimate separation from God (Matt. 25:30).

But this is not God’s heart for you at all. The true heart of God is one of compassion and tenderness, of open-arms invitation, and of promised blessings to any and all who come to Him. The invitation is *urgent*. See the call to “come” four times here in this one verse from Isaiah above. Our God bids you to come! He welcomes you with arms of mercy, and all you must do to receive that mercy is come to Him, just as you are. This invitation is *universal*. It is for “everyone who thirsts.” Everyone means *every one*, and that includes you, dear reader. When all you have to bring to God is your own spiritual thirst and need, He welcomes you and receives you with compassionate open arms.

The invitation is also *generous*: “He who has no money, come, buy and eat!” You don’t have to bring any offering other than your need. Here’s all the invitation your thirsty soul needs: “Come . . . come . . . come . . . come.” All you have to do is come to Him. If you feel that your soul is hungry and you sense that your spirit is thirsty, you are most blessed of God, as it is *you* who are invited to “come.” Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matt. 5:6). He also said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

Reflect

How does this invitation *from* God change your view of God?
How will you respond as a result?

Let’s Pray

Lord, I come to You with the empty arms of faith, bringing nothing but my need, my arms stretched out for Your mercy. Thank You for inviting the thirsty to come and drink, the hungry to come and feast. Thank You for inviting the spiritually poor to come and receive. Just as I am, I come to You. Please satisfy me in Your presence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

3 Goodness Waiting for You

PSALM 31:19

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you.

Dear believer, because of the truth of this verse, you can banish every foreboding thought and every imagination of impending doom. Our gracious God has emphatically expressed His heart for you in our text this day. Here's what God has ready and waiting for your future: *His goodness*.

When Moses prayed, "Please show me your glory," the Lord responded saying, "I will make all my goodness pass before you" (Ex. 33:18–19). What is amazing is that we see the glory of God most clearly in His goodness directed toward us. We have that goodness expressed in our text in future tense; it is a goodness that has been "stored up" for those who fear the Lord. Believer, God's goodness is waiting for you, as if your name were written on the tag. Think of it! You have an inheritance of *goodness* being held specifically for you. Every morsel is yours to receive, yours to enjoy, yours to honor your Lord with, so identified to your individual personhood that it is as much your possession now as if you held it in your hands in this present moment.

And notice this description: "How *abundant* is your goodness." What a wealth of grace is in this one word, *abundant*! The goodness God has in store for you is more than enough! It's a cornucopia of plentiful, nourishing, overflowing favor that has been expressly set aside for you. Yours is the promise of future goodness and everlasting mercy and grace. The psalmist exclaims, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Ps. 23:6).

May this promise of forthcoming goodness, which is more than enough for you now and for all eternity, be a ray of light to warm the frigidity from your soul and incline your sighing spirit to sing amidst the cloudiest of days: “Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you.”

Reflect

When you think about the future, do you typically imagine the goodness of God or something else? How does the truth of this psalm change your perspective of what’s in store for you in the days to come?

Let’s Pray

Lord, thank You that You have goodness in store for me, set aside for me, and waiting for me and for all who fear and trust in You. Please show me Your glory! Help me see Your goodness with the eyes of faith and to trust that my future is secure in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

4 *Everlasting Arms*

PSALM 145:14

*The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.*

Perhaps I am speaking to one who is depressed in soul this very moment. You may feel as if no one on earth can understand what you are wrestling through. After all, “the heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy” (Prov. 14:10). Indeed, at times you would admit that you yourself stand aloof from any comprehension of the cause of the gloominess within your own soul.

Have you wondered, *Why do I wake up sad, heavy-hearted, head full of nothing but doubts and fears? Where is all the joy of my former days?* The psalmist had the same musings: “Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” (Ps. 77:9). Yes, some of us have known darkness too deep for trivial descriptions. Darkness that breeds only questions, devoid of any answers. What hope is there for you who are not only *not* standing firm, but feel as if you are falling?

Here is comfort for you in your affliction: “The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.”

You cannot uphold yourself, *but the Lord upholds you*. “The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27a). If you must fall, you will fall into His arms. He who has loved you from eternity past will not let you go, so fall right into His great love for you.

When you have nothing to trust in but the everlasting arms of the eternal God to catch you as you are falling, you have everything you need for this life and for all eternity. The Lord Himself will uphold you who are falling and will raise up every single one who is bowed down

(John 6:39–40). Trust not this day in the state of your emotions, but in the strength of His everlasting arms.

Reflect

How have you experienced the Lord upholding you in the past? Do you feel like you are falling right now? What would it look like for you to fall into the arms of God?

Let's Pray

Lord, I admit that my emotions can be all over the map. One moment, I can be sighing deeply and another moment singing joyfully. I thank You, Lord, that whether I am singing or sighing, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). When I am falling, it is You who holds me up. Please hold me up this day and help me find rest and peace in Your everlasting, unfailing arms, for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

5 Unmatched Affection

GALATIANS 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

God's love for you and me does not fluctuate based on our own achievements or accolades. It rests on us in Christ. Christ died for our sins, "the righteous for the unrighteous," to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). So believers can now say that they have been crucified with Christ. The Son of God suffered in *our* place. He was condemned that we might be forgiven.

Because of this, we can confidently say that we are loved by God. Go ahead and say this out loud: He "loved *me* and gave himself for *me*" (Gal. 2:20). Hear the significance of these immeasurably powerful words of Christ's personal affection for you. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). What more does Jesus need to do to show you that He loves you? He has already done it all! There is no greater love He can express toward you than what He has already done in laying down His life for you, and He calls you friend (John 15:15). Yes, the Lord knows you are a sinner. The good news is that Jesus is a "friend of sinners" (see Matt. 11:19). He laid down His life for His friends who had fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23-25). This is amazing love, unmatched affection!

Christ sacrificed His perfect life to secure our eternal life. Jesus' love is everlasting, eternal, unceasing, unchanging, steadfast, and unrelenting (Jer. 31:3), and it has *nothing* to do with your own performance,

your own good works, or your own achievements. It has everything to do with His own great love, wholly and completely unmerited, unearned, and unalterable, laid down for you.

Take heart, dear friend—Jesus loves you. Rest in His great love. And if you don't yet know this love, do not rest until you can assuredly say, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." When Christ is your life, all of time is in your favor, even to eternity. Why would we not surrender in wonder to so great a love?

Reflect

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die to secure our righteousness before God, and how does Jesus' death on the cross display His love for us?

Let's Pray

Jesus, Son of God, I surrender to Your great love. Thank You, Lord, for laying down Your life for me. In view of Your mercy, I freely offer my life back to You. I live by faith now in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. I love You, Lord, and I am fully Yours, for Your glory. Amen.

6 *Your Need and His Provision*

PSALM 102:17

*He regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.*

O my soul, do you feel destitute right now? Do you sense you are in an impoverished state? Do you recognize your need for something greater, for Someone greater? If so, take heart: the Lord regards your prayer. Others may have no regard for you. You may be held as the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world (1 Cor. 4:13). You may even hold little regard for yourself, but take heart: *the Lord regards your prayer*. Our God respects, esteems, and favors the appeals of the destitute. He looks upon the lowly with tender mercy. God's sympathetic gaze is upon the broken, and He honors their prayer (Isa. 66:1–2).

Our text goes further: *He does not despise your prayers*. Others may despise you, but only one opinion matters. God's grace gravitates toward the lowly, toward the lonely, and toward the loathed. Those who feel scorned in the world find favor with the Lord. He does this to show His immeasurable love and so that no one boasts in themselves, but instead all boasting is in the Lord Himself. Jesus alone is our wisdom, our righteousness, and our redemption; all exultation is reserved for Him alone (see 1 Cor. 1:28–31).

Your need qualifies you for *His* provision. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). Bless God for the sense of scarcity that drives you into His arms for safety! "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Ps. 91:1–2).

Far from despising your prayer, the Lord welcomes your cries as He eagerly desires to show you mercy: “Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him” (Isa. 30:18).

Your pleas will prompt His provision and awaken His compassion. “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).

Reflect

Are you ever hesitant to communicate your needs and desires to God in prayer? Does this psalm change your perspective of how God views your prayers?

Let's Pray

Lord, You know my desperate state. I bring my unending need to Your never-failing provision. Thank You for using the hard things of life to drive me to the tenderness of Your mercy. I take refuge in You alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

7 So Much to Look Forward To

PROVERBS 4:18

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Listen carefully to these words of wisdom from Proverbs because there is so much hope for you within these truths! Dear believer, your best life is not *behind you*; your best life is not *right now*; your best is *yet to come*. The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn. As first light shakes off the darkness, it carries with it the promises of an even brighter hour. Dawn is the beginning of a new day, the first appearance of light touching the sky before the sun fully rises, warming the earth.

Your path, your way, your life on this side of eternity is like that light of dawn. Fear not when you consider your future—you have so much to look forward to! Scripture says, “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6) and “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above” (Dan. 12:3).

So do not look upon *your past* as though your best moments are in the rearview mirror. The author of Ecclesiastes wrote, “Say not, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this” (Eccl. 7:10). Instead, thank God for the grace you have experienced in the days of old, but thank Him most of all that those past mercies are only a glimmer of the good He has in store for you. Say with the psalmist, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me *all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever*” (Ps. 23:6).

In the same way, do not look at *your present* as the pinnacle of your days of glory. Now we see as in a mirror dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now we know in part; then we shall know fully, even as we have been fully known (see 1 Cor. 13:12). Rejoice in this, that *your future*

is incredibly bright. Let the knowledge of God's pending glory fill you with gratefulness for every past mercy and every present grace. Today is but the light of dawn! A bright future is coming for all those in Christ, "and night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5). It is settled, believer; your best is yet to come!

Reflect

What emotions typically surface in your heart when you think of your past, present, and future?

Let's Pray

Lord, it is so tempting to view the past with rose-colored glasses, as if all my glory days have passed by. It's also so easy to see the challenges of the present and to consider the future with fear. Please give me Your perspective. Help me grasp the hope of future grace and to view the days to come with faith-filled eyes. I believe; help my unbelief. In Jesus' name, amen.

8 *Where Joy Is Found*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Occasions of joy are sure to come, though they oscillate like the changing of seasons. For our joy to be a constant, it must be grounded in something firmer than our own fluctuating fortunes. If I find no joy in my present circumstances, I can still rejoice in God’s presence. As God’s presence is with us always, we always have reasons to rejoice (see Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). So what does it look like to rejoice in the Lord?

When we rejoice in the Lord, we rejoice in His *sovereignty*. The Most High rules with absolute authority over the kingdoms of the earth, governing all of history and every detail of our lives (see 1 Chron. 29:12; Ps. 139:13–16). Even when “The lot is cast into the lap, . . . its every decision is from the LORD” (Prov. 16:33). No matter the situation, we can rejoice that the Lord our God is in complete control.

We also rejoice in His *wisdom*. God is boundless in wisdom. We may not understand what He is doing in our lives or in the world, but we can rest in the assurance that He is wisely steering all things toward His glory and the good of His people (see Rom. 8:28). When we rejoice in the wisdom of God, we proclaim with the apostle Paul, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” (Rom. 11:33).

We can also rejoice in God’s perfect *love* at all times. We may not understand what we’re going through, but we can trust that God loves us at the bottom of it all. So “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:37–39).

When we consider the sovereignty, wisdom, and love of God, we can “rejoice in the Lord *always*” because in the Father of lights “there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). Our unchanging God is invariably a stable source of steadfast joy.

Believer, take heart this day, and *rejoice in the Lord!*

Reflect

Who do you know whose joy seems untouched by their circumstances? How does their example inspire you?

Let's Pray

Lord, I admit that it is easier for me to rejoice when my circumstances are favorable than when they are challenging, but I want the kind of joy that is untouched by changing circumstances. I want to rejoice in You always. Even when I'm praying for my circumstances to change, I rejoice that You are in complete control, that You are infinite in wisdom, and that You are perfect in Your love. I trust You; I look to You in prayer; and I rejoice in You. Please fill me with Your Spirit and Your joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

9 God's Usual Way

PSALM 119:132

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.

God has a certain way with those who love His name. It does the soul good to know it, to believe it, and to rest in the assurance of it. That way is spelled out for us in our text: He is *favorably inclined* to bless those who love His name.

It's incredible, and it's true! The God who made the heavens and the earth, who created the cosmos and rules over the galaxies, governments, and granular details of our lives is *favorably disposed* toward those who love Him. What could be more assuring than to know that God is for us? As the apostle Paul has expressed so wonderfully in Romans 8:38–39, I, too, am convinced that nothing—neither personal financial woes, nor a global crisis, nor persistent health concerns, nor challenges relationally, nor internal emotional struggles, nor external opposition and ridicule from others, nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, “if God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

So, my soul, do you truly love the Lord? Is He the treasure of your heart? Do you long to know Him more and to enjoy more of His fellowship? Do you *love* Him? If so, you can be assured that *the Lord loves you*. You would not love Him if He had not first loved you as we read in 1 John 4:19. It was God's love for *you* that inspired your love for *Him*. Yours is a responsive love, yet it is a love that is accompanied by the immeasurable blessing of His grace and mercy: “No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor. 2:9).

God's way toward those who love Him is to bestow His grace and mercy upon them. The Lord turns toward the one who yearns for Him. He doesn't turn *away* from you; He turns *toward* you! The Lord turns toward us with gracious kindness. Even the trials that come our way are designed to be a blessing as Deuteronomy 8:16–17 reminds us. So we can confidently pray with the psalmist, "Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name."

Reflect

Do you truly love the Lord? If so, *why* do you love Him, and *what* do you love about Him? Tell Him.

Let's Pray

Lord, I love You. I truly do. I know that I love You because You first loved me. Thank You for loving me even when I was unlovable. I pray, Lord, please turn to me and be gracious to me, since that is Your way with those who love Your name. Help me and comfort me again, Lord; I am Yours. Amen.

10 *Feel the Relief*

ROMANS 4:7-8

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

Anyone whose financial debts had been fully forgiven would not only breathe a sigh of relief but would sing with shouts of joy! Think of it. No more student loan payments, no more car payments, no more house payments, no more credit card statements inducing stress, no more installments, no interest required, no more burden of debt. What a happy day! The one whose debts are forgiven is truly blessed, and the more the indebtedness, the more the joy would be when that debt is fully forgiven.

Dear reader, your greatest burden is not the load of your financial debt, but the weight of your sin against almighty God. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Jesus, the Son of God, came from heaven to earth to pay the debt we owe for our sin, so that we could be fully and freely forgiven. Fully God and fully man, Jesus was born to die in order to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).

Jesus lived the perfect life we could never live, and on the cross of Calvary, He took our place; He received the punishment we deserve for our sins. He bore the wrath of God for all who trust in Him. He paid for our sins in full and purchased forgiveness and eternal life for all who trust in Him. If you have trusted in Christ, you are blessed indeed as Romans 4:7-8 assures us.

If you have not trusted in Christ, all the debt of your sin remains on your shoulders, and you will have to pay. Yet God invites you into this

blessing of forgiveness right now. Why not call on Him now and let the weight of your sins fall off your shoulders as you perceive them landing squarely on the shoulders of Christ Jesus? *You*, too, can enter into this free, full, and forever forgiveness: Everyone is welcome. Everyone is invited. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (see Rom. 10:12–13).

Reflect

Have you ever had a massive debt paid? If so, what emotions did you experience when that happened? If not, what emotions could you imagine experiencing to be completely debt-free? Have you had your sins forgiven through faith in Christ? If not, why not ask Him for that gift right now?

Let's Pray

Merciful God, thank You for sending Your Son as my Savior, to take the punishment that I deserved, to pay the debt that I owed. That my debts can be fully and forever forgiven is incredible mercy! I'm so grateful, Lord. Please help me realize the glory of this good news and walk in the good of it. My life is Yours. In Jesus' name, amen.

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