

CHAPTER FOUR

1. One thing I have asked of the Lord, the one thing that I seek most of all, to dwell in the house of the Lord, living in His presence, all the days of my life, to **behold** and gaze upon the beauty of the One I love, delighting in His incomparable perfection and to meditate and inquire in His temple (Ps. 27:4); for my heart has heard the Lord say, 'Come and talk with Me;' and my heart responded, Lord, I am coming (Ps. 27:8); my Beloved came for me, and blessed me with His **beauty** and delightfulness and favor, He has rested them upon me (Ps. 90:17a); the **sweet fellowship** I share with the Lord my God enables me to be victorious over the evil one (1 John 2:14)
2. My God did for me what the Law of Moses could not do, because its power was weakened by the flesh, which is the entire nature of a person who is without Holy Spirit; **though** I know and can recite the commandments of God, they couldn't save me from sin's grasp, since I couldn't and didn't keep them because of my sinful nature; so God put a different plan into effect to save me, He sent His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh, so He could condemn sin in the flesh; God declared an end to sin's control over me by giving His Son as a sacrifice for my sinfulness; now I can overcome and deprive sin of its power in my life because I belong to Christ Jesus; my Beloved has also released me from the dreadful weight of shame, condemnation and guilt; and because I belong to Jesus, the power of the life-giving Spirit of God, a power that is mine through the One I love, has freed me from the vicious cycle of sin and death (Rom. 8:1-3).

3. My Beloved gives me more and more grace, which is the power of Holy Spirit to fully meet and defeat all my evil tendencies; for I have chosen to humbly submit myself to God (James 4:6-7a); I have chosen to believe there is one God; and you may think I do **well**, because only believing is enough; but I assure you the demons also believe so strongly there is one God they shudder and tremble in terror (James 2:19); my choice, my decision is to live and walk after the directives of God's Spirit, and not the demands and desires of my flesh (Rom. 8:1); I want to be victorious in this battle with my flesh; therefore, I must resist the devil, and stand firm whenever temptation assaults me, because the One I love assures choices and decisions like these will surely make the devil flee (James 4:7b).

4. And this is my desire, for I no longer want to be deceived; so again there is a choice to be made, because the person who sows to please their sinful nature will reap deception and destruction from that nature; however, the one who sows to please the Spirit of God, will reap truth and eternal life from the Spirit; so my prayer is that I don't become weary of doing good (Gal. 6:7-9); this prayer I offer from a heart that is braced with comfort, cheer and encouragement; because I believe Holy Spirit has knit my heart together with my Beloved by strong ties of love; so I can come to have all the abounding wealth and blessings of knowing Christ Jesus with real certainty and clear understanding; an understanding that enables me to become progressively more intimately acquainted with the One I love; for in Christ Jesus lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and **knowledge** and enlightenment (Col. 2:2-3).

5. How it pleases God to be able to give me these treasures (wisdom, knowledge and enlightenment) so I can have peace, and spend my time in godly living thinking often about the One I love; God can accomplish this, but I must accept and understand this truth: God is on one side and all the people are on the other side, and my Beloved, Christ Jesus, Himself a man, is between us to bring us together (1 Tim. 2:3-6), by (*uniting us with the covenantal threads of love and honor and obedience*); for triple-braided cords are not so easily broken (Eccl. 4:12); so I embrace this truth: there is only one God and one Mediator Who can reconcile God and humanity (1 Tim. 2:5), and I hold tightly to this knowledge, believing every sacrifice I make to please God instead of my own selfish desire can be given to the One I love as an offering of love and honor and obedience with shouts of **joy**, and songs of praise (Ps. 24:6b).

6. I now know that I have been approved by God to be entrusted with the glad tidings of the Gospel of Christ Jesus; therefore, no more will I speak to please people; I will speak to please God, Who tests my heart (1 Thess. 2:4); and Who keeps my heart and mind quiet and at rest because I trust in Jesus; I fix my mind, my thoughts on what is true and pure and lovely; and think of all the countless reasons to praise God and be glad knowing He is always helping me (Phil. 4:7-10); knowing it is the breath of the Almighty that gives me understanding (Job 32:8); because the Breaker, Who breaks open the way goes before me; and I too will break through, and pass in through the gate and go out through it, and my King will pass through **before** me, the One I love is ever at my head (Micah 2:13).

7. Every day I have help which comes from God, Who protects me so I can know and testify and assert that nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses declared will come to pass – the Christ, God’s Anointed One, would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce and bring God’s light to all people (Acts 26:22-23); even the prophets wanted to know about this gracious salvation that was prepared for me and for all who choose to trust God, Who told them in advance about Christ’s suffering and the great glory to be given Him (1 Pet. 1:10-11) for bringing to the world the absolute remission of man’s sins; and my Beloved has added, He will never again remember ours sins and lawless deeds; I have received God’s forgiveness, and hopefully you too; for no longer will offerings or the sacrifice of animals be made to atone for sin; my sins have forever been forgiven and forgotten, and the penalty for them cancelled, because of the blood of Jesus; my Beloved has opened up for me a new, fresh, life-giving way by tearing the **veil** – His human body – so I could enter into the presence of God (Heb. 10:17-20),

8. I give praise to God, for I have been born again, not by perishable seed, but by imperishable seed, that penetrated to the core of my being through the living and enduring Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23); giving me confidence to boldly speak about God’s messages of love and peace and salvation without **fear** (Philp. 1:14); because I choose to believe the testimonies of the One I love are everlasting and true; the decrees of my Beloved are binding to eternity, giving me understanding so I will live (Ps. 119:144), God saved me and called me to a holy life – not because of anything I had done; instead, He had purposed to show me His love and kindness; so I could come to know His grace and mercy (2 Tim. 1:9) endure forever; so I could place my faith and trust in the One I love knowing He is on my side; Jesus is for me and will help me when I call out in distress; my Beloved will answer me and set me free (Ps. 118:4-5).

9. How astonishing, God did not hand me over to the enemy (Ps. 31:8); instead, He used my troubles to speak in a way that made me listen (Job 36:15); and then the opposite occurred, I received the kindness and love of my God and Savior, for He saved me (Titus 3:3); God spoke to me in the person of Jesus, His Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things; and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time; the One I love made, produced and **arranged** them in order (Heb. 1:2).

10. God wooed me from the jaws of anguish and distress, into a large and spacious place away from danger; a broad place where there is no situation of perplexity, no confusion or deprivation, no poverty or need (Job 36:16); a place where I could come to know His love will keep me **strong** (Eph. 3:19) and His abounding goodness will keep me satisfied (Jer. 31:14); for my Beloved has made me to be a priest to serve my God (Rev. 5:10), and stop thinking about myself and what I want; for anyone who tries to save their own life will end up losing it; because self-help is actually no help at all, self-sacrifice is the only way, because it's God's way to finding yourself, your true self (Luke 9:23-24), and those who are crooked in heart, who keep their distance, one could surmise, even they know God has His eyes on salt-of-the-earth people who are working with Him; men and women who are following Jesus on the straight and narrow; those who have chosen to be on God's side (Ps. 101:4-6).

11. When a person decides to follow Jesus, they will learn not to run from suffering; instead, how to embrace difficulty and disappointment; for how else could a person come to realize there is no worth for someone to have the whole world if they themselves are lost or destroyed (Luke 9:23&25); even a fool learns something when a scoffer is punished, but those who desire godly Wisdom, and good sense must learn by being instructed (Prov. 21:11); so ask God for a discerning heart, one that desires to seek knowledge (Prov. 15:14), and you will discover the Lord Jesus, is the God of truth and faithfulness (Ps. 31:5b); you will discover His words, His promises will be as a hedge of protection surrounding you and your home and your possessions; the Word of God works in our behalf, not only to bless the work of our hands (Job 1:10), but to teach our soul to prosper as we grow in knowledge of the Holy One of Israel (3 John 2), it is through our knowledge of Him, Who called us by His own glory and goodness, that we are given everything we need for life and godliness by God's divine power (2 Peter 1:3); yes, the One I love gives us life and godliness because through these He can give us knowledge of His very great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4), which in turn gives us power to obey and follow the way that we should go (Isa. 48:17); God does all of this so we can know and appreciate our hope of glory (1 Thess. 2:19); the glorious riches of this mystery God has made known to us, which is Christ in us (Col. 1:27); how mysterious indeed, for with this knowledge we come to realize we are the hope, the glory and the **joy** (1 Thess. 2:20) that was set before Him Who endured the cross (Heb. 12:2); so we could know God's hope is for each of us to do as eagles, and **mount** up to the sun spreading our wings wide so we can soar closer and closer to our God (Isa. 40:31).

12. Our God wants us to be as close to Him as family; to strengthen us so we can become great stewards containing awe and fear of God, with our hands extended to revere and worship Him, Whose heart's desire is for each person to be safe; for each heart to be opened wide to receive His salvation; a gift so great for it contains our Defender, our Deliverer, our Rescuer, our Savior, Who adds to us the faith we need to be born again; God does this to bring us back and cause us to dwell securely; for He has mercy, loving-kindness and compassion for us; God wants it to be for us a new beginning; as though our sin had never cast us from our Lord and God, Who hears and answers us (Zech. 10:6-7a); and makes all of this to rest upon our heads – the choicest things of heaven to cover us as dew; and fill us to overflowing as fountains springing from the depths; blessing us with the best radiance of the sun, with the precious yield of fruits that grow richly month by month; blessing us with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains, and the abundance and fruitfulness of the everlasting hills, the best things of the earth and its fullness; and blessing us with the favor of Him who dwelt in the burning bush (Deut. 33:13-16); God blesses us with all this so we can become as a mighty warrior with hearts rejoicing, for our children will see what God is doing and rejoice; because He is filling our hearts with great delight as we glory triumphantly in the Lord our God (Zech. 10:7); grateful for the greatest gift, which gives us the privilege to **commit** our spirit into the hands of the One Who redeems (Ps. 31:5a).

13. The hearts of all God's sons and daughters should be rejoicing; those who put their trust in His holy name (Ps. 33:21), who don't allow evil to get the upper hand, for they are learning to conquer evil by doing good (Rom. 12:21); by not being selfish, and trying to impress others (Philp. 2:3); and it may be possible that God has given you as He has given me a physical condition which has been a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to hurt and bother me and **prick** my pride so it would not puff us up (2 Cor. 12:7-8) like those who turn away from following the Lord; the corrupt and murderers, the immoral and those who speak with demons, along with those who practice magic arts, idol worshipers and all liars because one day they will discover themselves to be **found wanting**, and their doom is in the Lake that blazes with brimstone and fire; the unfaithful to God are destined to face this second death (Rev. 21:7-8), because they are treacherous betrayers, rash and inflated with self-conceit; lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements rather than lovers of God (2 Tim. 3:4); they are persecutors who will be put to shame and dismayed on the day of evil; for they will suffer double destruction for what they have done (Jer. 17-18a); forsaking the Lord, the Spring of Living Water; so shall they disappear like writing in the dust (Jer. 17:12).
14. Yes, my Beloved, the Son of Man, came on the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him; and there was given to Him, the Messiah, power to rule – all the glory of royalty; that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away; His kingly rule will never be replaced, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed (Dan. 7:13-14); my Beloved will destroy the covering of gloom that is cast over the heads of all peoples, and the veil of wretchedness that is woven and spread over all nations (Isa. 25:7); and in that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see; once more the humble will rejoice in the Lord; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel; however, the ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear; all who have an eye for evil will be **cut down** (Isa. 29:17-20).

15. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under our feet (Rom. 16:20); He will swallow up death in victory; yes, the Lord will abolish death forever; the One I love will wipe away tears from each and **every** face; and take away forever all insults, mockery and reproach from off His people and all the earth; in that day voices will be heard proclaiming, 'This is our God in Whom we trust, for Whom we waited and hoped; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation,' (Isa. 25:8-9).

16. So I shout to my Beloved with joyful praise (Ps. 47:1), and give thanks to God, Who called me through the Good News of the Gospel, to obtain and share in the glory of the One I love; I will forever be grateful to God, for He called me to experience salvation- a salvation that comes through the sanctifying **work** of Holy Spirit and my belief in the Truth (2 Thess. 2:13-14), which comes from Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:21), Whose breath gives me life, which inspires me; and understanding (Job 33:4) so I will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that I have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion (1 John 5:13); for it is God Who makes us stand firm in Christ; He has anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come; and God's Spirit Who is in me, the breath of the Almighty One, makes me understand (Job 32:8), by teaching me God's Word, which is Truth (John 17:17b); God's breath of Life (Job 33:4a), the source of inner power that will stir up into flame a strength and boldness, so I will never be afraid to tell others about the One I love (2 Tim. 1:6&8).

17. When I began to welcome and accept the promises of God with a humble spirit (James 1:21a), I was able to recognize my rebellion against God; I began to realize the things I had done that were evil in His sight, and that I had sinned against God; and that He would be proved right in what He said, and His judgment against me would be just, I began to desire God's mercy and His steadfast and unfailing love, because I saw the sinner I was; however, God had great compassion for me; He blotted out the stain of my sin; He **washed** me thoroughly and repeatedly from my iniquity and guilt, cleansing me and making me wholly pure from **all** my sin (Ps. 51:1-2); by His Word, **which** contains the power to sanctify me (John 17:17a) and save my soul (James 1:21a); for God's Word is Truth (John 17:17); praise be to God, by His boundless mercy I have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3); God did this for me so I could come directly to Him with my requests; and because I come before Him in the name of Jesus, my joy is **made complete** as I receive what I ask from my heavenly Father (John 16:23-24), Who did this for me by making me alive, for He forgave all my sins and brought me **together** with the One I love (Col. 2:13).
18. It took time for me to become acquainted with Jesus as my Lord and Savior, but I came to discover it is my Beloved that makes it possible for me to escape the wickedness of this world (2 Pet. 2:20) because I accepted Him as the sacrifice God sent for sin (Rom. 8:3a), and by doing this God's peace became mine; I received God's peace, which transcends all understanding; it began to garrison and mount guard over my heart and mind because I chose to live in Christ Jesus; it took time for my soul to truly believe and rest in this tranquil state being assured of its salvation through the One I love; although, over the course of time I was able to really feel this peace with God in my heart because I saw and then understood what my Beloved was offering me; I was and continue to be amazed and in awe at the magnitude of this gift of salvation the Lord has given me; a gift which enables me to fear **nothing** from God; I can relax as I live in Jesus and enjoy true contentment in the everyday circumstances of life, whatever they may be (Philp. 4:7).

19. I can confidently trust God has begun a good work in me, and He is going to carry it on to completion until the day of the Lord (Philp. 1:6); yes, God started His work within me to condemn and **deprive** sin of its power over me (Rom. 8:3); and I began to participate with God by reading His word; by doing this, I have gained great joy and comfort from the knowledge of His abounding love for me; I am encouraged and strengthened by the kindness He extends, which refreshes my heart; the kindness and mercy God has shown has produced and promoted such faith in me (Phm. 5-7).
20. So the prayer of my heart is to never be **deprived** of Truth; for God's words, His commandments are what I depend on; and I will guard all that God has revealed to me now and forever with my life (Ps. 119:41&45), for God's Word has become my all and all; of course there was a time when things were much different, when I placed all my faith in the wrong directions – in myself and others; today my faith rests in God, Who helps me to understand all the good things I have in Christ; and because my faith rests in God, Holy Spirit can help me to recognize and accept the awareness of who I am, and who I can become in Christ Jesus (Phil. 6-7).

21. Since God has placed this faith within my heart, I have become determined to seek Truth from the Word of God, which in turn makes God determined to help me exercise foresight; and as I began to realize God's Word could intervene to protect me during the process of making decisions, my faith in the Truth that rests in God's Word seems to be ever increasing, keeping me watchful and alert so I don't fall back from and fail to secure power from God's grace, for it's God's Word that protects me from evil, and keeps a poisonous root such as bitterness from shooting forth to cause me trouble and torment; and because I have chosen to lean on and follow God's Word, Truth gives me a different perspective so I can understand that bitterness works to produce rancor, resentment and hatred, which can cause hurt to myself and others, because it defiles and contaminates us (Heb. 12:15); so God continues to strengthen the faith I now possess in Him, making it possible for me to appreciate and value His love; His unfailing love that has the power to reshape my life, because I believe salvation has come to me, exactly as He promised; God's promises reinforce my faith so I can stand up to the mockery of others, because I trust and rely on **His words** (Ps. 119:41-42).
22. God has implanted and deeply rooted His Word within me; and Holy Spirit has taken hold of the **scarlet cord** that is binding my heart to the One I love because of the faith and trust I have placed in God's **promises** (Joshua 2:17-18), He has given me the desire to be rid of all that is wrong in my life, both inside and outside (James 1:21b).

23. Yes, I made amends for my ways and my doings to obey the voice of the Lord my God; and my Beloved took pity on me and comforted me; He reversed the decision concerning the evil which God had pronounced against me because of my pride and rebellion; and now as for me, I am in God's hands to do with me as seems good and **suitable** (Jer. 26:13-14); God began to reveal to me the glory, the majesty and the splendor of the One I love (Isa. 40:5), so I would not become **emaciated** by the dread and fear of those who could kill the body and after that have nothing more they could do; instead, God filled me with faith that would **bring forth** a fear of Him, an awe and reverence for Him Who has power to hurl into hell (Luke 12:4-5); a faith **to exalt** Him, Who has brought down rulers from their thrones, and lifted up the humble (Luke 1:52); Who fills every valley and ravine, and brings every mountain and hill low (Isa. 40:4a); Who fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich away empty (Luke 1:53); my Beloved makes the crooked and uneven straight and level, and the rough places a plain (Isa. 40:4); to clothe me with humility, so I can be free from my prideful and arrogant ways (1 Peter 5:5).
24. My Beloved speaks to me about my faults; He disciplines and diligently teaches (Rev. 3:19a) imparting His wisdom so as to save me from the ways of wicked people (Prov. 2:12); the One I love does this **because of** the foolishness that dwells within my heart (Prov. 22:15); however, I know the Lord convicts and chastens me to secure and **fasten on** me knowledge of how dearly and tenderly He loves me (Rev. 3:19b); because He desires for me to be strong and courageous knowing He is with me (1 Chron. 28:20a), helping me to seek and to do good, not evil, so that I may live (Amos 5:14) not being afraid or dismayed and discouraged; instead, believing my Beloved is with me; trusting He will not fail or forsake me (1 Chron. 28:20).

25. And with this knowledge I can be enthusiastic and earnestly repent, being zealous, turning from indifference by changing my mind and attitude so I can receive counsel from my Beloved, and be truly rich to purchase white garments from the One I love, and not be shamed by my nakedness; that I would be eager to buy from Him ointment to heal my eyes so I may see (Rev. 3:18-19) and understand, the Lord has torn so that He may heal His people; He has stricken so that He may **bind** us up (Hosea 6:1) with faith that proclaims Jesus died and was buried; faith that professes my Beloved arose on the third day just as the Scriptures foretold (1 Cor. 15:4), so we can know and understand Him; the One I love has revived me and given me life; so I could become acquainted with Him; so I could press on and be zealous to know and appreciate and cherish the Lord my God; Who has responded to me, for this was His promise: As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to me like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth (Hosea 6:2-3).

26. The One I love has done all this for my welfare and profit; He has not come to me to put a halter of restraint upon me, He comes to **promote** what is seemly and in good order, and to secure my undistracted and undivided devotion upon Himself (1 Cor. 7:35); how good, how suitable and how beautiful for me to listen and obey and honor my Beloved and to have eyes for only Him (Mark 9:5); Who is a fiercely jealous **lover**; what He gives in love is far better than anything else I'll ever find; for **surely**, God goes against the willfully proud, and gives grace to the willingly humble, so He can work His will in them; and I wanted God to work His will in me, when I realized there were choices to be made – so I said a loud – NO – to the devil, and quietly said – YES – to God (James 4:5-8a); realizing it is God's purpose to invite sinners to turn from their sins (Luke 5:32); so I quit dabbling in sin to allow God's Word to purify my inner life; I quit playing the field, the fun and games were over, I had to get serious, really serious; since I had hit the bottom, and was crying my eyes out (James 4:8b), because I had turned my back on the Lord; I had walked off and never looked back; my rebellion invited punishment; my bullheaded ways caused me to be stricken; my head was injured from beating it against brick walls; my heart was afflicted and made feeble by the protests it made against me (Isa. 1:4-5); so I got down on my knees before the Lover of my soul, realizing this was the only way I would be able to get upright so I could stand on my feet with God (James 4:5-10).

27. Praise God, Who came to my assistance, and paid the ultimate price to get me on my feet and out of that dead-end, useless way I was living; a way of life I learned by tradition from those who had gone before me; God purchased me from that self-destructive way of living, with the precious blood of His Son, Christ Jesus (1 Pet. 1:19); Who brought me into the blessing of God's grace that I now enjoy, because I threw open the door of my heart to God, only to discover that at the same moment God had already thrown open His door to me; God poured out His love to fill my heart through Holy Spirit, so I could stand **tall** and shout out my praise and thanksgiving (Rom. 5:1-2) to my God, my keen and firm Strength in Whom I can trust and take refuge, my Shield and the Horn of my salvation, my **High Tower** (Ps 18:2-3).
28. God's salvation has set me securely on high; I will praise the name of God with song, and magnify with thanksgiving Him (Ps. 69:29-20), Who liberally supplies my every need from His riches in glory because of what my Beloved has done for me (Philp. 4:19); making me to grow strong, like a tree firmly planted by a stream – a tree ready to bring forth its fruit when it should; because I delight in doing everything God wants me to; knowing there is great joy and blessings since I am not following the advice of evil people, or **hanging** around with sinners, or joining in with mockers; therefore, God knows and is fully acquainted with my way because the One I love has made me righteous in His sight (Ps. 1:1-3&6).

29. My Beloved appeared in visible form and became Man to take upon Himself sins, and in Him there is no sin; and because I abide in Jesus I don't practice sin; and I will not let anyone deceive me or lead me astray because I want to show that I am righteous, even as Jesus is righteous (1 John 3:5); therefore, I will not **associate with** anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or is abusive, or worships idols, or is a drunkard, or cheats people (1 Cor. 5:11); because I know my God will always condemn evil, for He is a good and righteous Judge; Who helps those who want to do right, so I know He will protect me; He is my **defense** and shield on Whom I depend (Ps. 7:10-11).
30. God deliberately chose what in the world is considered insignificant, and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to **nothing** the things that are, so that no mortal should have pretense for glorying and boasting in the presence of God; since it is from Him that we have our life in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:28-30); Who alone is the God in all the heavens; my Beloved is Ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth; His hand **has power** and such might that no one is able to stand against (2 Chron. 20:6) the One I love; my **Champion** on Whom I keep my eyes, for it is the Lord Who initiates my faith; He is the One who makes my faith complete (Heb. 12:2); as He makes me **excel** more and more so I can live quietly and peacefully, minding my own affairs (1 Thess. 4:10-11), living to please God (1 Thess. 4:1),

31. God helps me to **prefer** obedience, by inclining my heart to His testimonies and not to covetousness (Ps. 119:36); so I can become blameless and pure, innocent and truthful as a child of God, without spot and blemish in the midst of this crooked and perverse world; so I would become a light in the darkness, by holding firmly to the Word of God; while shining like a star among people who have lost their sense of what is right, and offering them His life-giving counsel (Phil. 2:14-16); for I too was a lost sheep that had gone astray, but now I have returned to the Shepherd, the Guardian of my soul (1 Pet. 2:25).
32. *Yes, I returned to the One Who asks, "Who is this that darkens My counsel by words without knowledge? Why are you using your ignorance to deny My providence? Why do you confuse issues by talking when you don't know what you're talking about? Gird up now your loins like a man, and I will demand of you, and you declare to Me - Who satisfies the **waste** and desolate ground and causes the tender grass to spring forth (Job 38:1-3&27): Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Do you still want to argue, My critic? You who disputes with Me, do you have the answers?"* I too discovered how insignificant I was (Job 40:1-3); but I also discovered the true strength of humility (that whenever I may be feeling very insignificant) in the presence of the Lord, it is He Who exalts me (Who lifts me up and makes my life significant) (James 4:10); because God is love (1 John 4:8), and Love never dies; inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limits; I only know a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete; BUT, when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be cancelled (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

33. I was struck speechless, in awe – words fail me, I should never have opened my mouth! How many times I've **talked** too much, way too much, I'm ready to keep my mouth shut and listen (Job 40:3-5); because the grace of God, which was given to us in Christ Jesus, assures that in everything we were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in us, so that we are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Beloved, Jesus Christ, Who will also confirm us to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord; because God is faithful; through Him we were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:4-9); so we could know our significance to Him, but also think about how this keeps our significance from getting blown up into self-importance; for no matter how significant we are, we are Christ's body – that's who we are! We must never forget this; only as we accept our part of that body does our "part" mean anything (1 Cor. 12:19&27).
34. It is God Who revives our spirits, and makes us proud to be on His side; so we can be utilized in His work of rebuilding (Zech. 10:4a); each one of us is a separate and necessary part; some of the parts He has placed in His Church, which is His body: Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who help others, those who get others to work together; those who speak different kinds of tongues, and others the interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:9-10); *(we co-labor with God)* to oversee His work, to be as tools and instruments in His hands, *(while serving God we discover He has been working in us along)* making us into foundations and pillars, courageous and vigorous because He is with us, He is in us helping us to be undeterred by the world's babble and gibberish, which causes many to wander like lost sheep without a shepherd; attacked because their household gods are worthless, their religious experts spout **rubbish**, fortune-tellers predicting only lies, and interpreters of dreams pronouncing falsehoods that give no comfort (Zech. 10:1-5).

35. The merciful kindness and steadfast love of the Lord are for my comfort; never will my Beloved forget His words and promises to me His servant, in which He has caused me to hope; they give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me – they have given me life (Ps. 119:76&49-50); I have been born again; this new life did not come from something that dies (1 Pet. 1:23a); as is the fate of every human being since we have a body made of dust just like Adam's (1 Cor. 15:48a); however, through Jesus I have been born into a new life, life that will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God (1 Peter 1:23b); a life that entitles me to one day have a body just like my Beloved's (1 Cor. 15:49) because I am one of God's chosen; consequently, I am **imprinted** on God's heart, and He will earnestly remember me and conceal me until His days of wrath are past, for which He has set a definite time (Job 14:13),
36. Yes, God has fixed a day when He will judge the world righteously by a Man Whom He has destined and appointed for that task; He has made this credible by giving assurance and evidence to everyone by raising my Beloved from the dead (Acts 17:31); this knowledge has become very **pleasant** to me (Prov. 2:10b), because the One I love has become the great **Shepherd** of the sheep by an eternal agreement between God and all who believe; an eternal covenant signed with His blood; and through the power of Jesus Christ, I know God is producing in me every good thing that is pleasing to Him (Heb. 13:20-21); for it is the Lord Who grants godly Wisdom to enter into my heart (Prov. 2:10a); and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding (Prov. 2:6).

37. God has overwhelmed me with **joy** in my Lord and Savior; I sing praises to the One I love from deep within my soul; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, and draped about me the robe of righteousness; my Beloved has made me to be as a bride adorned with jewels; I have given my heart to Jesus, and as a Bridegroom decks himself with garland, all my love and devotion has been draped upon Jesus (Isa. 61:10); I gave myself to God so He could work His will in me, and help me to stand against the devil; when I decided to draw close to Him, I discovered God wanted to come close to me, and this makes the devil flee; as I reflect, it seems so odd that I hadn't considered myself a sinner; that is until I realized I was trying to follow God and the ways of the world at the same time, then I realized how much sin really needed to be cleansed from my life; however, this question seemed daunting to me, how could my life and my thinking become pure (James 4:7-10); but God – so rich is He in mercy; in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loves us, even when I was spiritually dead because of my own shortcomings and trespasses, God gave me new life; He made me alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:4-5).

38. *(It seemed as though I was facing a huge quandary regarding what first Peter 1:23 says about being born again; this was because) my eyes could not see, nor could my ears hear, nor could I ever imagine what God has prepared for those who love Him; the reason being, God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of His purposes; this very special plan to make us alive with Christ was previously hidden from before the world began, even though He made it for our ultimate glory; and those who crucified my Beloved didn't have a clue about God's **eternal** plan, because if they had understood, they would not have put to death the One I love (1 Cor. 2:7-9); I was not only ignorant to God's eternal plan, but also to the fact that God's kindness is what led me to repentance, so I could change my mind and accept His will (Rom. 2:4); I became *(familiar with God's will through Holy Spirit, and for this I will be eternally grateful)*; because I now know God decided in advance to adopt me and all who accept His will, into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus; *(how awe inspiring it was for me to realize)*, before He made the world, God chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes (Eph. 1:4-5).*
39. *(Yes, I have draped my love) upon the One Who has made everything beautiful in itself and its own time; the Lord has planted eternity in the human heart; He has implanted a sense of a divine purpose working through the ages, which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy; yet people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end (Eccl. 3:11); oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable His judgments; how impossible to understand His decisions and His ways; for who has known the mind of the Lord, and who can know His thoughts; who knows enough to give my Beloved **advice or counsel**; and who has given Him so much that they might be paid back or claim a recompense; for everything originates with the One I love and comes from Him; all things exist by the power of the Lord; all things end in Him and are intended for His glory (Rom. 11:33-35);*

40. The One I love is the God Who made the world and everything in it; since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve His needs – for He has no needs; He Himself gives life and breath to everything, and He satisfies every need; from one man the Lord created all the nations throughout the whole earth; He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries; His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him – though my Beloved is not far from any one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist; poets have written, "We are His offspring;" and **since** this is true, the One I love is God, and He should not be thought of as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone; He has overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to Him (Acts 17:24-30); Who is able to strengthen and establish us in the faith with the Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ; for this message about my Beloved reveals God's very special plan for us, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time; but now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, the revelation of the mystery of the plan of redemption has been made known to all, so that everyone everywhere might come to believe and obey Christ Jesus (Rom. 16:25-26).

41. Yes, I have come to love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength (Mark 12:30); for He has been a stronghold for the poor and humble in spirit, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, a **shade** from the heat; a haven against the blast of ruthless ones, which is like a driving rain whose force melts down an earthen wall (Isa. 25:4); for their attitude toward my Beloved is proud and arrogant; they think it foolish to worship God and obey Him, because it does no good to obey His Word and repent of their sins; as far as they are concerned the proud and arrogant are happy, for those who do evil are exalted and prosper, and those who dare to challenge God **escape** unpunished; but those who fear and love the Lord speak often of Him to each other; so my Beloved has drawn up a Book of Remembrance in which He records the names of those who fear Him and love to think about Him; the One I love says, “**They are Mine; and in that day when I gather My jewels, those who are My treasured possessions, I will spare them as a parent spares an obedient and dutiful child**”; then it will be obvious to all the difference between God’s treatment of the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve Him and those who don’t,” (Mal. 3:13-17).
42. Those who desire to serve the Lord must follow Him, because His servants will be where He is; and the Father will honor anyone who serves the One I love (John 12:25); they will abide in Jesus, so as **to walk** and conduct themselves in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself (1 John 2:6); because they believe Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in my Beloved; and those who steadfastly believe in the Lord, will be able to do the things that He has done, and they will do even **greater** things because the One I love has gone to the Father; and whatever is requested along the lines of who the Lord is and what He has done, just ask because He will do it, so the Father is glorified and extolled in the Son; yes, the Lord Himself will do for us whatever we shall ask in His name, if we really love Him, and keep His commands (John 14:11-15); so rejoice and exultingly glory in God (in His love and perfection) through my Beloved, through Whom we have now received and enjoy (our) reconciliation (Rom. 5:11-12).

43. I want Christ's joy and delight to be in me, so my joy and gladness can be of full measure, complete and overflowing; so I can love others as well as Jesus has loved me; yes, my Beloved has shown me love; actually He has shown me the greatest love, by putting His life on the line for me and for all His friends; (John 15:9-13); how I look forward to and await the coming of my Beloved from heaven, the One Whom God **raised** from the dead, Christ Jesus; the One Who will personally rescue and deliver me and all who put their faith and trust in Him out of the wrath which is to come, as He draws us to Himself (1 Thess. 1:10); so I sing to my Beloved because He has so richly blessed me with salvation; my heart rejoices in His mercy and loving-kindness; I long to throw myself into His arms because He is and has been so very good to me (Ps. 13:5-6);
44. Behold, Jesus will be coming with the clouds; and every eye will see my Beloved, even those who (Rev. 1:7) have rejected Him, and those who have turned their back and walked away from Him, nailing Him once again to the cross (Heb. 6:6); they **provoke** the One I love to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations they provoke Him to anger; they have forsaken God Who made them; they have forsaken and despise the Rock of their salvation (Deut. 32:15-16); therefore, once more the Lord will shake and make tremble not only the earth but also the starry heavens; this means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain (Heb. 12:26-27); but for now, just as Abraham (Heb. 11:10a), those who have faith in my Beloved, who have **turned in** repentance to God (Acts 20:21), are confidently waiting for our heavenly Father to bring us to that enduring city which has fixed and firm foundations, whose Architect and Builder is our God (Heb. 11:10b); therefore, through Jesus I will never stop offering my sacrifice of praise and worship to my God (Heb. 13:15); for I have received from Him a Kingdom that is unshakeable (Heb. 12:28).

45. We should be thankful we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken or destroyed; therefore, let us please God with grateful hearts – brimming with worship, deeply reverent – and with respect and fear (*that fills us with awe and amazement*); because God is cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and He won't quit until it's all cleansed, for our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:28-29); dealing out retribution to those who do not know Him, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus (2 Thess. 1:8); Who died so we could be made holy and without fault, with no evil, no sin or stain of guilt within us (Eph. 5:26-27); the Son of Man, the One I love, the most excellent of all men; His lips have been anointed and flow with grace; He is blessed by God forevermore (Ps. 45:2); the Son of God, Who says to me do not be afraid, for I am the First and the Last, and the Ever-Living One; I died, but I will be seen alive forevermore; He holds the keys to death and the gates of hell (Rev. 1:17-18); I will not be afraid (1 Kings 18:21a), for I call upon the One I love, and He hastens to me; my Beloved listens when I cry out to Him; my prayers are set forth before Him as sweet smelling **incense**; He esteems my prayer as an offering for Him (Ps. 141:1-2), Who died so I would not choke or falter between two opinions; for Jesus is the Lord God, and I will follow Him (1 Kings 18:21).
46. This is what we were chosen to do, (*to follow the Lord God*); my Beloved suffered for us, leaving us (His personal) example, so that we should follow in His footsteps (1 Pet. 2:21); and God makes no distinction between people; the same Lord is Lord over all, and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him in faith; for **everyone** who calls upon the name of Jesus, appealing to Him as Lord, will be saved (Rom. 10:12-13); for His justice is eternal; His words are truth, and His instructions can be trusted; Jesus helps me understand His rules, which are always right, so I can live (Ps. 119:142-144), and become wise in His truth (Dan. 9:13); for the Word of God makes it plain how I should live, and this is what He is looking for me to do, it's really quite simple: Be fair and just with other people, love kindness and mercy, and humble myself so I can walk in obedience to my God (Micah. 6:8).

47. Therefore, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength; give to the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the splendor and **beauty** of His holiness (Ps. 29:1-2); because the One I love, Christ Jesus, came to do the will of God; my Beloved set aside the first covenant in order to establish the second (Heb. 10:9); for the old way of doing things, the system of commandments never worked as it was supposed to; so it was set aside because it was weak and couldn't make anything perfect; but now we have a better hope, Christ Jesus, Who opened up a new way so He could bring us right into the presence of God (Heb. 7:18-19); and it is good for me to draw near to God; so I have put my trust in the Lord God, and made Him my refuge, and I will tell the world of all He does (Ps. 73:28); for by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, the **fellowship** of Holy Spirit is with me (2 Cor. 13:14).
48. My Beloved saw truth was lacking, and that those who wanted to depart from evil were being attacked; the Lord was displeased to find there was **no** justice; He saw there was **no** intercessor, no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right; so He stepped in Himself to save; His own arm brought Him victory, and His own righteousness sustained Him; the One my soul loves put on righteousness as a breastplate, as a coat of mail, and placed salvation as a helmet upon His head; He clothed Himself with garments of vengeance, and wrapped Himself with zeal and divine passion as with a cloak (Isa. 59:15-17), to glorify the Father on the earth; that we may know Him, the only true God, and Christ Jesus Whom God sent to accomplish the work given Him – to give eternal life – to those God gave Him (John 17:1-5) by destroying the devil's work (1 John 3:8b); my Beloved appeared in visible form and became Man in order to take away (upon Himself) sins; and in Him there is no sin; the One I love never missed God's will at any time in any way (1 John 3:5).

49. Yes, for us a child was **born** a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11); *(even today we can hear God's messenger say)* do not be afraid; behold, I bring to you good news of great joy, which will be for all the people (Luke 2:10); Christ has been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all; summing up all the other sacrifices in this sacrifice of Himself, the final solution of sin (Heb. 9:26&28); therefore, give to God all praise for His wonderful kindness and His favor, which He poured out upon me and everyone who belongs to His dearly loved Son; so overflowing is God's kindness toward us that He took away all our sins through the shed blood of my Beloved, by Whom we are saved; God has showered down upon us the richness of His grace, for how well He understands us and knows what is best for us at all times (Eph. 1:6-8).
50. God is the One Who makes me and you strong in Christ so we can stand firm in Him; God is the One Who has chosen us for His work, for He has established us in **joint fellowship** with His Son; He has consecrated and anointed us, putting His seal upon us so we can identify ourselves with our heavenly Father, Who placed His Holy Spirit in our hearts as the security deposit that guarantees all that He will give us (2 Cor. 1:21-22); this is why I am in awe of God's Word (Ps. 119:16) and His love, for its perfume is more fragrant than all the richest spices (SS 4:10); and without God's love in me, I am nothing; without God's love in me, I gain nothing from all my efforts (1 Cor. 13:2-3), for it is God Who makes my love grow more **perfect and complete** because I confess Jesus as His Son (1 Jon 4:15a&17a).
51. My Beloved lives in the presence of glory and honor; I am in awe of His beauty, in awe of His great might; for royal splendor radiates from Him, a powerful beauty that **sets** Him apart; and I will worship Him in all His holy beauty; I will praise Him in all His power and His glory (Ps. 96:6-8); yes, I am reaching out for my Beloved, who has so wondrously reached out for me; and I have my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning me onward – to Jesus; I'm not turning back, but will keep focused on that goal, because I want everything God has for me (Phil. 3:12-15).

52. (*Yes, my goal, my heart's desire*), to delight in the Lord, and lift up my face to my God (Job 22:26); with all my heart I want to obey God because He has been so kind to me; His love for me so great; God **loves me** so much, He gave me back my life again when He raised Christ from the dead; you see, I was spiritually dead because of all I had done against God; but, my God is so rich in mercy, He gave me new life together with Christ; and by God's amazing gift of grace I have been saved, because I believe (Eph. 2:4,5&8); I believe everything good comes from God; I believe every good and perfect gift is from God; I believe these good gifts come down from the Father (James 1:17a), Who Himself is Light (1 John 1:5), and Who made all the lights in the sky; however, the shining of God never changes; there is no variation as the light of the celestial bodies vary with their rising and their setting; there is no shadow cast by His turning as the sun and moon cast a shadow during an eclipse; God is the same always; and He chose to give me, and all who believe, new life by His Word of Truth; God wants everyone to know how important they are to Him; however, those who believe the Son of God, Christ Jesus is Messiah, God has chosen us out of all those He created to be His most prized possessions (James 1:17-18).

53. We are the chosen of God to know the truth that shows us how to live godly lives (Titus 1:1); we ought to be the kind of people that are making every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in His sight while we are earnestly looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Pet. 3:11-12); by our actions we can show we belong to the way of truth; even when self-accusation stirs our heart making us feel guilty and condemned, we can still have peace and confidence before our heavenly Father because He knows and understands everything, nothing is hidden from His eyes; as a matter of fact, God knows more about us than we know about ourselves; He wants us to come to Him with perfect assurance and trust, bold and free; so we must keep in mind God is greater than our worried hearts, and He wants to shut down all debilitating self-criticism so we can stretch out our arms, and receive what we ask by obeying His commands, and doing what pleases Him (1 John 3:19-22); and **turning** away from foolish and vain things to the living God (Acts 14:15); and do as He says so we can live in Him, and He can live in us: and believe in His Son Jesus Christ, and practice loving others; God has blessed us by giving us His Holy Spirit so we can experience His deep and abiding presence in our lives (1 John 3:18-24).

54. God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification (1 Thess. 4:7); so we no longer spend the rest of our lives chasing after evil desires, but anxious to do the will of God (1 Pet. 4:1): Who doesn't want us to love merely in theory or in speech; He wants us to practice real love by showing it in the things we do (1 John 3:18), and by putting our trust in Jesus; taking refuge in the shadow of His wings, for it is here close to Him where we find protection; the One I love feeds us from the abundance of His own house, and allows us to drink from the rivers of His delight; from my Beloved flows the fountain of life, how precious His ever flowing loving-kindness to those who know Him; it is His righteousness that makes our heart upright, for He is the light by which we see (Ps. 36:7-9), yes, the Lord is our Fortress; our God is the mighty Rock where we hide; however, God will **turn** the sins of evil people back on them (Ps. 94:22); because they refuse to believe that Jesus was taken up to heaven (Acts 1:3a).
55. My Beloved, the **chief** Cornerstone causes stumbling; the One I love a Rock that gives people offense; they stumble because they disobey and disbelieve God's Word (1 Peter 2:8); so God has made their sins to boomerang upon them! He will destroy them by their own plans. Jehovah our God will cut them off (Ps. 94:23), and to this doom they were destined for rejecting my Beloved (1Pet. 2:8), Who showed Himself alive after His passion, after His suffering in the garden and on the cross; appearing to the ones He had chosen through Holy Spirit, and talking to them about the things of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3b); Yes, the One I love appeared to His disciples over a period of forty days; He gave many convincing proof that He was alive, and spoke about God's kingdom (Acts 1:3); asking, do you **believe** (John 16:31); for the kingdom of God does not come with careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21).

56. Praise God, for Holy Spirit has aroused my ears so these messages of God can penetrate to the depths of my soul; for the One I love assures me, everyone who overcomes, who are victorious, will be called to dine at the banquet in the Paradise of God; there they shall partake of fruit from the Tree of Life (Rev. 2:7); I have joined the ranks of those who are learning to know God by listening and heeding His word; for God wants me to know how to recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error and deception, for whom those who have nothing to do with God are listening; for their unkind and uncaring behavior reveal they are not acquainted with God, for God is love; and **everyone** who loves others, who show others respect and honor are born of God, and will come to know and understand Him (1 John 4:6-8);
57. God's gift of Holy Spirit has been poured out (Acts 10:45) so that by faith we might receive the promise of God's Spirit (Gal. 3:14), through the One I love, Christ Jesus, Who God has clothed with His robe, and placed in His hand the scepter of His authority, making Him to be like a father to the inhabitants of earth; God put the key of the house of David upon His shoulder, and whatever He says will be done; none will be able to stop Him, for God has fastened upon Him all the honor; the important and principal things of His Father's house hang on Him (Isa. 22:21-23a); and just as the Father conferred His kingdom on my Beloved, He too confers on me a kingdom, so that I may eat and drink at His table in His kingdom (Luke 22:29-30); for the One I love baptizes with Holy Spirit and with fire; being baptized with water symbolizes to the world that we repent of our sins, and are turning our old lives in for a kingdom life; when Jesus baptizes He **ignites this kingdom life within us**, sending Holy Spirit within us, sparking a fire within us, changing us from the inside out (Matt. 3:11).

58. Baptism is a symbol of our deliverance from inward questionings and fears, not by removing the outward body filth, but by providing us with the key, which is a good and clear conscience; with inward cleanness and peace before God, because we are demonstrating what we believe is truly ours through the resurrection of Christ Jesus, Who has entered into heaven and is at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:21-22); and with faith in Jesus, I now know I am a child of God; all who have been baptized into Christ, into a spiritual union and communion with the Lord; have put on and clothed themselves with my Beloved (Gal. 3:26-27); Who gave Himself up for us to make us holy, cleansing us by the washing with water through the word (Eph. 5:25-26); and because of God's great mercy, I have decided to offer my life as a living sacrifice to Him – **devoted** and consecrated and well pleasing to God; I won't change myself to be like the people of this world; instead, I will let God change me inside with a new way of thinking; then I will be able to decide and accept what God wants for me; I will be able to know what is good and pleasing to Him (Rom. 12:1a).
59. God has caused the Spirit and I to **dwell together** by placing Him in me; Holy Spirit watches over me with tender jealousy, giving me more and more grace, more and more power and strength to stand against the temptation that evil tendencies and longings produce (James 4:5-6); for this is my reasonable service and spiritual worship (Rom. 12:1b); for I have given myself to my Lord Jesus, and have now become united with the One I love as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17) because I am a child of God; and though I can't imagine what it is going to be like later on, this I do know – when my Beloved is openly revealed, I will see Him and be like He is (1 John 3:2); yes, my eyes will see the King in His beauty (Isa. 33:17); The One Who protects us by enclosing us with His love; He is our hiding place protecting us from trouble, while surrounding us with songs and joyful shouts of deliverance (Ps. 32:7).

60. However, there was a time when I missed seeing God's goodness because I was looking the other way, looking to people, envious of their prosperity; my heart was embittered, and I was **pierced** within – so foolish, senseless and ignorant; like a senseless animal I stood before You – but even so, You love me! I still belong to You; You hold my right hand, keeping me always with You, so to guide me all my life with Your wisdom and counsel, and afterward my Beloved will take me into glory. Earth has nothing I desire but the One I love. My flesh and heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Ps. 73:2-4&23-26); how awesome my God is, for He spoke to my dry bones and said, '**Listen to the Word of God, Who brings to you the Breath of Life, and makes you live again;**' the One I love put Breath into me, so I could live knowing He is Lord (Ezek. 36:4-5); and God, Who is immense in mercy and incredible love, embraced me and made me alive with Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-5); yes, by God's boundless mercy I have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of my Beloved from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3).
61. I wanted to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; so I heeded this warning to be on guard so that I would not be carried away by the error of unprincipled people and lose my own secure footing (2 Pet. 3:17-18), and to prize Wisdom highly and exalt her, because she exalts and **promotes**; she brings honor when she is embraced (Prov. 4:8); the One I love, Christ Jesus, has been invested with honor and glory from God, for God is well pleased and delights in His beloved Son (2 Pet. 1:17); in Whom He made me alive; yes, God gave me the very life of Christ Himself; I have received the same new life with which God raised Christ from the dead, for it is by God's free gift of grace that I am saved; my heavenly Father has delivered me from judgment, and made me to be a partaker of Christ's salvation; and since I am now a part of Christ Jesus, God has removed the death sentence, for which my transgressions against Him warranted, and raised me into glory along with Christ; Who made it possible for me to sit with God in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:5-6).

62. God has clothed me with a new nature, a new spiritual self, and Holy Spirit has joined in this process of renewing me, so I can grow in my understanding of my Creator, and become more and more like Him; Holy Spirit helps me as I'm living this brand new kind of life, to continually learn what is right, and to learn about my Beloved (Col. 3:10), Who made it possible for God to come and live in me, and for me to live in God; because anyone who confesses Jesus to be the Son of God, can rely on the love God has for us, because we put our trust in His love (1 John 4:15-16); for this is how God showed His love among us He sent His one and only Son into the world (1 John 4:9); knowing Jesus would be seized and arrested (Mark 14:46) by men who would take the law into their own hands; however, this was God's set purpose and foreknowledge to allow those wicked men to use the Roman government to put Jesus to death by nailing Him to the cross (Acts 2:23); however, the just Scriptures said: 'The Stone the **builders** rejected has become the Capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes,' (Matt. 21:42).

63. Yes, our King—the Life of our life, God’s Anointed—was captured in the snares (Lam. 4:20a) of the men who seized and arrested Him (Mark 14:46); the Jewish people still ponder how this could be, their mighty King, about Whom they had boasted that under His protection they could hold their own against any nation on earth (Lam. 4:20); but all this had taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets (Matt 26:56); so by God’s grace we could be justified and made upright, through the redemption which is provided in Christ Jesus; God put the One I love before the eyes of all as a mercy seat and propitiation by His blood; for the blood of Jesus is the cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation that we receive through faith; this was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over and ignored former sins without punishment; God did this to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the One Who justifies those who have faith in my Beloved (Rom. 3:24-26), the Son of Man, Whom death could not keep within its grip; for God raised the One I love from the dead, and gave life back to Him again (Acts 2:24); so that through Jesus everyone could know God, and **understand**, from the least to the greatest, that He will forgive our iniquity, and will remember our sin no more (Jer. 31:34).

64. When our **heart** has trust in the Lord Jesus, we know and believe God is not a terror to us, for He is our refuge and our hope in the day of evil (Jer. 17:17-18), for God’s unfailing love rests upon us (Ps. 33:22a); God showed His great love for all mankind by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners; the shed blood of Christ justifies, acquits and brings a sinner like me into right relationship with God; how amazing that while I was in sin and God’s enemy, my Beloved offered me His pierced hand so I could enjoy reconciliation with the Father (Rom. 5:8,9&11); therefore, I rejoice and give thanks to the One I have placed my hope and trust in (Ps. 33:22), Christ Jesus, Who brought me back to God, and has given me the certainty that He will save me from God’s indignation and wrath (Rom. 5:9).

65. With all my heart I keep the **understanding** that God has given me (Ps. 119:34); realizing it is because of Jesus that I know how much God loves me (1John 4:16a), and with my mouth I will give my Beloved great praise and thanks; in the **midst** of many I will praise the One I love (Ps. 109:30); Who works deeds of deliverance and salvation on the earth (Ps. 74:12); Yes, the Lord dearly **cherishes** me; and as I live and grow with Christ, my **love** is growing more **perfect and complete** so I can be without fear on the day when God judges the world (1 John 4:16-17); for I have heard the Lord's voice, and learned from Him the truths concerning Himself, as all Truth is in Christ Jesus; Who told me to strip off my old former nature, because it characterizes my previous manner of living, which was corrupted by the lusts and desires that spring from delusion; so now I work with Holy Spirit, Who is constantly renewing in the spirit of my **mind**, my attitudes and thoughts, and changing them for the better; Holy Spirit is helping me to put on this new nature; and be that new person created in God's image, in righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:21-23).

66. Through my Beloved, Christ Jesus, I have become a different person; through my faith in the One I love I am now a son of God; the Scriptures picture all mankind as sinners, shut up and imprisoned by sin, in need of God's inheritance blessing, which was promised through faith in the Messiah, and given to all those who choose to believe (Gal. 3:22&26) that the eyes of our **hearts** are flooded with light to see God's truth, as He grants the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the deep and intimate knowledge of Himself; which makes it possible for us to know the hope that God has chosen for us to have, so we can receive the blessings He has promised His holy people, for they are rich and glorious; we come to realize God has been made rich because those who are Christ's have been given to our heavenly Father; we will truly begin to **understand** how incredibly great God's power is to help each one who trusts and believes in Him; it is the same mighty power He used to raise the One I love from death, and set Him at His right side in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:15-20); so I pray the eyes of your heart will see and recognize God's great compassion; because of His mercy and grace He did not make an end of us or forsake us; He is a great and awesome God, Who keeps His promises of love and kindness, and will not let all the hardships we have gone through become as nothing to Him (Neh. 9:31-32a).

67. God is a gracious and merciful God (Neh. 9:32b), Who made a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse come forth, and a Branch out of its roots to grow and bear fruit; the life-giving Spirit rests upon the One I love, the Spirit Who brings wisdom and understanding; the Spirit Who gives direction and builds strength; the Spirit Who instills knowledge and Fear of God; the Spirit Who made my Beloved to be of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord, which is His joy and His delight (Isa. 11:1-3); for the reverent fear and worship of the Lord is the key to God's treasure - His rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge (Isa. 33:6); therefore, exalt the Lord God, Who dwells on high, acknowledging my Beloved is the sure foundation for our times (Isa. 33:5); being confident that Jesus is our Savior, our Redeemer, the Champion of Israel; the One Who gives His people **only** the best; for He will install Peace to run our cities; the One I love will make Righteousness to be our taskmaster; violence will disappear out of our land - all war will end; the walls of God's city shall be named Salvation, and its gates will open to give entrance to Praise Park; no longer will the sun or moon be needed to give light, for the Lord God will be our everlasting light, and our glory will be in **Him** (Isa. 60:16-19); Who wants our loyalty and obedience be known to all, so we can rejoice doing as my Beloved desires - being wise about what is good, and innocent of any wrong (Rom. 16:19).

68. I too am among those who exalt God, and praise the name of Jesus; for my Beloved has done a distinguished and wonderful thing, one He purposed and planned from long ago, and fulfilled in faithfulness and truth (Isa. 25:1); so you and I could dwell in Him, and He could dwell in us; for no one can bear fruit for God unless they abide in Christ Jesus (John 15:4); my God has given you and me a share in the very life of my Beloved, Who cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note with its legal decrees and demands, which was in force and stood against us; this note with all its regulations and demands was set aside and cleared completely out of our way by the One I love, Who nailed it to His cross (Col.2:14); and this is His plan, His purpose: When the time is right God will gather us all **together** from wherever we are—in heaven or on earth— under the authority of Christ (Eph. 1:10a); Who has fashioned us (preparing and making us **fit**) for this very thing (2 Cor. 5:5); furthermore, since we are united with Christ, Who gives us an inheritance from God, and makes us God's heritage, His portion; we have become gifts to **God**, gifts that He delights in, because as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be His, and all things happen just as He decided long ago; and God's purpose in this was that we praise Him, and give glory to Him for doing these great and mighty things for us (Eph. 1:10-12).

69. **When** the right time arrived, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject and under the conditions and regulations of the Law, to purchase the freedom of those who were bound by the Law; and now through Jesus, God can adopt us as His very own children (Gal. 4:4-5); yes, God paid our ransom with the sinless, spotless blood of the Lamb (1 Pet.1:18); so He could bring us out of the darkness of oppression, ignorance and unbelief no longer to be treated as subjects (Lev. 26:13a) kidnapped by the law; God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, so we can cry out, "Papa! Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6); and, so we could know God broke the bars of our yoke to make us walk erect as free men and women (Lev. 26:13b); holding fast the word of life (Phil. 2:16) so right living can stride out before us, and clear a path for our passage (Ps. 85:13), so we can attain God's wisdom and understanding to acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is just and **fair** (Prov. 1:2-3); so we can enjoy the peace that comes from doing what is right; because growth in grace and character requires discipline, and self-control can be downright painful; but, it's the well-trained who develop a mature relationship with God; so don't sit on your hands; instead, stand firm even if your legs are shaky (Heb. 12:11-12); and think of Jesus (Heb. 12:3a), Whose **love** for us was so great (Eph. 2:4), He endured from sinful men such grievous opposition and bitter hostility, then you won't grow weary or get discouraged and stop trying (Heb. 12:3).

70. Only remember, my Beloved will give the victorious fine linen, bright and clean to wear (Rev. 19:8); so begin to exercise in kindness, gentleness and compassion; get rid of all bitterness, anger, quarreling and contention; let slander and abusive language be banished from you; so you can grow strong forgiving readily and freely, just as God in Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:31-32); for the God of glory challenges us to love our enemies and let our best be shown, not our worst; to pray for those who are not holy, who persecute and cause us trouble (1 Peter 5:10a); we can do this as we gain personal knowledge of God, as we become acquainted with Him and understand Him, because we will learn to appreciate, heed, and **cherish** Him (1 Chron. 29:9a); for God **makes perfect** those who draw near to worship (Heb. 10:1), so we can serve Him with a blameless heart and a willing mind (1 Chron. 28:9).
71. The God of all grace (1 Pet. 5:10b) encourages us to show that we are His children; and God always gives His best – the sun to warm and the rain to nourish – to everyone, the wicked and the **good**, the just and the unjust; even scoundrels, who don't know God, are nice to those who **love** them; a child of God should be different showing love and kindness to everyone, not just friends (Matt. 5:44); and if this godly advice does not refresh you like water from a mountain spring (Prov. 13:14), then ask God to increase your faith (Luke 17:5); to help you overcome your unbelief (Mark 9:24); **because** everything God asks can be done through my Beloved, Who always gives us strength (Phil. 4:13); for those who believe and trust and rely on Jesus, from their innermost being shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38); for the One I love is sanctifying and cleansing us by the washing of water with the Word, making us radiant, without stain or wrinkle or any such things, making us holy and blameless (Eph. 5:26-27); and I pray that God, the source of hope, so fills you with all **joy** and peace because you trust and believe in Him; that by the power of Holy Spirit you will abound to overflowing with confident hope (Rom. 15:13).

72. The One I love takes away our sins because He loves us, and wants us to live a life filled with love; a life that can only be realized through our offering Jesus to the Father; there is no other acceptable offering than this One, since Christ's love for God and for His people will continue to be an eternal **aroma**, for its sweetness is very pleasing to God (Eph. 5:2); Who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrant aroma of the knowledge of God's love (2 Cor. 2:14); just as Mary made evident the knowledge of her love for Jesus, when she took a pound of **ointment** of pure liquid nard, which was a rare and very expensive perfume that she poured **over** the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the **whole** house was filled with its **fragrance** (John 12:3); oil and **perfume** rejoice the heart (Prov. 27:9a); and (how welcoming is the coming of those who preach the good news of God's good things); and reveal how beautiful the feet of those who bring glad tidings (Rom. 10:15).
73. How beautiful the Lord of Heaven's Armies, for Jesus made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, revealing Himself as the One by Whose direction the redemption of God's people is accomplished, and all the ends of the earth shall witness the salvation of our God; they shall know the name of God – CHRIST JESUS – they shall know the power of His name – DELIVERER – they shall know the meaning of His name – SAVIOR; they shall know it is Jesus Who **speaks** to them; they shall behold, I AM (Isa. 52:6-7&10); Who stretches forth His powerful hand against those who assault and distress, to bring His people out from their midst (Ex. 7:5); so they can cling to the Lord our God (Josh. 23:8), Who has been **made perfect** forever (Heb. 7:28); for those who turn things upside down with their perversity, who hide their plans from the Lord, what great sorrow awaits them; they think the One I love will not understand; they do their evil deeds in darkness, telling themselves, 'No one can see us; no one will know who we are;' how foolish, for God is the Potter, and greater than the clay with which He works (Isa. 29:15-16).

74. How amazing, for my Beloved is willing to forget all our former things; therefore, we need not dwell on the past (Isa. 43:18); instead remember, many are the wonderful works the Lord our God has done, and His thoughts toward us; the things He plans for us are too numerous to list; if I should try to speak and tell of all His wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them; no one can compare to my Beloved (Ps. 40:5); Who is going to do a brand new thing in many lives; actually, He has already begun; so do not earnestly dwell on and remember the former things; neither consider the things of old; for God has made a road through the oppression of this world (Isa. 43:18-19a), so people everywhere can experience for themselves the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge without experience (Eph. 3:19); for every Scripture in the entire Bible is God-breathed, given to us by **inspiration** from God, and it is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right; so we can live in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose and action (2 Tim. 3:16); as we come to understand we are the **fragrance** of Christ, **sweet** and soothing, and everywhere we go people breathe in this **exquisite** fragrance (2 Cor. 2:14a), for the name of Jesus is like perfume being poured out (SS 1:3); yes, because of the One I love we give off a sweet scent that rises to God, and is recognized by those on the way to salvation as an aroma exuding the essence of life; but for those on the way to destruction it is a noxious odor of fatality, for it exudes the smell of doom and death (2 Cor. 2:14b-16).

75. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, and everyone who sticks with God making Him their hope and confidence (Jer. 17:7-8); let the **humble** rejoice in the Lord, and the needy rejoice in the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 29:19), for in this hope and trust we are saved (Rom. 8:24) by the One Who sits at God's right hand (1 Peter 3:22), and is the Head of all rule and authority (Col. 2:10b); Who will cause the ruthless to vanish, and **mockers** to disappear; my Beloved will cut down everyone who has an eye for evil (Isa. 29:20); therefore, get rid of all that is wrong in your life, every kind of wrong you do; and be humble and accept God's teaching, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts (James 1:21); since the Good News about Christ is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16); and those who believe belong to Him, to Christ Jesus, the Son of God, in my Beloved we have been made complete (Col. 2:10a); we are as a sweet-smelling **perfume**, our lives a Christ-like fragrance, which exhales unto God (2 Cor. 2:14-15); Who has chosen us, and loves us deeply; God has given us this new kind of life; and because of His sincere concern for us, we should practice love; and **clothe** ourselves with behavior that makes compassion and mercy, humility, patience and kindness evident to all (Col. 3:12).

76. If we listen to counsel, receive instruction and **accept** correction, we too, will become wise (Prov. 19:20); for everyone who listens to the Word of God, and obeys the Lord's instructions will be given wisdom and good sense; yes, if you want better insight and discernment, and are searching for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasure, then wisdom will be given you and knowledge of God Himself; you will soon learn the importance of reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and of trusting Christ; for the Lord grants wisdom; His every word is a treasure of knowledge and **understanding**; the One I love grants good sense to His saints; He is our shield, **protecting** us and guarding our pathway; my Beloved shows us how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time; He will give us the sense to stay away from evil people who want us to be their partners in crime; people who turn from God's ways to walk down dark and evil paths to exult in doing wrong, for they thoroughly enjoy their sins; everything they do is crooked and wrong (Prov. 2:1-15).

77. However, for those who make every effort to heed the Word of God (1 Cor. 6:13a), the Lord will fill in every valley, and make low every mountain and hill; the crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth (Luke 3:5); so be alert and on your guard; stand in faith true to the Lord (1 Cor. 6:13b), faithful to His covenant (Heb. 8:9), rejoicing for it has given us a wonderful new relationship with God (2 Cor. 5:11); make every effort to do what my Beloved commands (Eccl. 8:2a); commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him (Ps. 37:5); give to Him your sacred oath of obedience; don't worry and second-guess God's Word, or try to back out when the task is unpleasant; remember, you're serving His pleasure, not your own; the King has the last word, for who would dare say to Him, 'What are you doing;' and carrying out His orders won't hurt you a bit; as a matter of fact, the wise person obeys promptly and accurately; for surely, there's a right time and way for everything, though we miss it for the most part; and it is true no one knows what's going to happen, or when; no one can control the wind or **lock** it in a box; no one has any say regarding the day of death; no one can stop a battle in its tracks; no one who does evil can be saved by evil (Eccl. 8:2b-8); so delight yourself in the Lord (Ps. 37:4a), and lift up your face to God; make your prayer to the One I love, and He will hear you, and you will fulfill your sacred vows (Job 22:26-27) to **love** the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to obey His commands, to hold fast to Him and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul (Jos. 22:5); and He will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4b).

78. Therefore, act like a child of God; be strong; and in whatever you do, do it with kindness and love (1 Cor. 16:13b); living by faith, relying on and having **complete trust** in the Son of God, Who loves us and gave Himself up for us (Gal. 2:20); Jesus rescued us to make us both a symbol and a source of blessing; so don't be afraid; be strong (Zech. 8:13); do these things, for God will shed His own glorious light upon you bright as the morning sun; He will restore you and give you Power of a new life, and your life will turn around; your right relationship with God shall go before you, leading you to peace and prosperity; because your righteousness will pave the way; Goodness will be a shield before you, and the God of glory shall be your rear guard to protect you from behind (Isa. 58:8-9); so make every effort to stay out of quarrels, and live peacefully with everyone; work with Holy Spirit to keep your life free from sin, clean and holy (Heb. 12:14a); for my Beloved has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and reign upon the earth (Rev. 5:10) wearing an engraved medallion as a seal with these words: Holy To The Lord (Ex. 39:30-31); therefore, make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; because those without holiness will never get so much as a glimpse of God (Heb. 12:14).

79. People think they can always “prove” that whatever they do is right, because they are satisfied with whatever looks good; however, God probes for what is good; so the Lord can’t be convinced, because He knows and judges the thoughts and intents of our hearts; so **roll** your works upon the Lord; commit and **trust** them wholly to the One I love, and He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will; turn to my Beloved for help in everything you do, and you will be successful, for what you plan will take place (Prov. 16:2-3); because the Lord breathes His wisdom upon us so we can understand Him (Ps. 119:73); the One I love gives us understanding so we may live (Ps. 119:144), and overcome the world; for only those who believe Jesus is the Son of God will overcome (1 John 5:4- 5), will be victorious; and the Lord will grant them to sit beside Him on His throne, just as He overcame and sat down beside His Father on His throne (Rev. 3:21); therefore, I beseech you to keep away from false gods; from anything and everything that would **occupy** and take God’s place in your heart (1 John 5:21).

80. God has made the One I love to be as a strong and steady peg to support His people; but in that day, the peg that is fastened into the sure place shall be removed, and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off (Isa. 22:21-25); and those who trust in people, who think they can make it on their own strength (Jer. 17:5a), will not see prosperity when it comes (Jer. 17:6a); for they are cursed because their hearts are turned from the Lord, and holds no trust in Jesus (Jer. 17:5b); they are like a bush in the wastelands (Jer. 17:6b); like land that is worthless, because it produces thorns and thistle, in danger of being eternally cursed, for in the end it will be burned up (Heb. 6:7-8); God will snatch these people up, and uproot them from the land of the living (Ps. 52:5b); the followers of God will **see** this happen; they will watch with fear and awe of God; Who will surely bring those who seek refuge for themselves in their wickedness down to everlasting ruin (Ps. 5a-6); God will **make an end** of those who **forsake** Him; He will bring disaster (Joshua 24:20) on these fools who thought their wealth and lies would protect them (Ps. 52:6-7).

81. When my Beloved, the Lord All-Powerful, comes with the clouds He **will remove** all the idols from the earth; people will forget they ever heard of them; Jesus will also remove the false prophets, who polluted the air with their lies about God, for they put everyone in danger; the One I love will also rid the earth of every unclean and impure spirit (Zech. 13:2); for the Lord's love for Zion is passionate and strong; He is jealous for His people with great wrath against their enemies (Zech. 8:2); yet many will be devoured by the sword because of their rebellion; even the faithful city has become a harlot; once uprightness and right standing with God lodged there, but now murderers (Isa. 1:20-21); soon my Beloved is going to return to His **land** to dwell in Jerusalem, and it will be known as "The Faithful City of Truth," and the mountain of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will be called "The Holy Mountain" (Zech. 8:3); therefore, I will heed my Beloved, and avoid any sort of idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14); I will remain safe right at the center of God's love, with open and outstretched arms, ready and waiting for my Beloved in His mercy to give me life eternal (Jude 21); for God has set me apart as holy, and chosen me as His cherished, personal treasure (Deut. 7:6).

82. God has wondrously shown the world His unfailing love and kindness; for by His righteous right hand He saves those who trust and take refuge in Him, from those who **rise up** against them (Ps. 17:7); and from those who scoff at things they do not understand; like unthinking animals, doing whatever their instincts and desires tell them; what sorrow awaits those who in jealousy and anger commit murder because their thoughts and opinions are more important; what sorrow awaits those who seek the destruction of other people for the sake of the gain it offers; what sorrow awaits those whose lives are perishing in rebellion because they give no thought to God; instead, they corrupt themselves, and bring about their own destruction (Jude 10-11); yet, the Lord will keep and protect them too if they seek His refuge; if they place their faith and trust and hide themselves in Him (Ps. 16:1); for without faith it is impossible to please God; those who come to Him must believe He exists (Heb. 11:6), and that He will supply all their needs from His riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us; every time we sacrifice our pride and self-reliance (Philp. 4:18b-19) to exalt and praise the name of Jesus (Isa. 25:1) it is a sweet and fragrant aroma, **well-pleasing** to God (Phil. 4:18a); Who does not want us to **grow** weary and give up, but to recognize and acknowledge Truth, for we have not yet struggled and fought agonizingly against sin, nor have we yet resisted and withstood it until sweating great drops of blood (Heb. 12:3-4).

83. Holy Spirit gives us understanding (Job 32:8); so we can know real love – not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the **atoning** sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10); Jesus, whose name is **sweeter** than the best **perfume** (SS 1:3); is Himself Messiah appointed and prepared for us by God, Whom heaven has received until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time: that His Christ should undergo ill treatment and be afflicted and suffer (Acts 3:18&20-21); my Beloved gave Himself as a slain offering and sacrifice to God for us, and so became a **sweet fragrance** (Eph. 5:2); and God in His wisdom took delight in using what the world considered foolishness – preaching, of all things! – salvation, **procured** by Christ and to be received through Him by those who believe and trust in and rely on the One I love (1 Cor. 1:21); yes, the Scripture foresaw that God would do this – justify all people by faith, and foretold the Good News to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you,’ (Gal. 3:8);

84. Let everyone come who is thirsty; let anyone come who is painfully aware of their need of those things that refresh and support and make the soul strong; come and take and appropriate, drink the water of Life without cost if you so desire (Rev. 22:17); make the Lord our God your refuge; the Most High your dwelling place and shelter, so no evil will conquer you, nor any plague or calamity come near your home; for God will give His angels charge over you (Ps. 91:9-11a); and the Lord's army, His host is very great, they are strong and powerful who execute God's word (Joel 2:11), they will accompany and defend and protect you in all your ways of obedience and service (Ps. 91:11b), while you are depending on God's grace, and not on your own human wisdom (2 Cor. 1:12); knowing God can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong; when we freely admit that we have sinned and confess our sins to Him; and this is a perfectly proper thing for God to do for us because the One I love died to wash away our sins (1 John 1:9-10); God's covenant was with my Beloved; a covenant of life and peace, which calls for us to honor God, and stand in reverent awe before Him; Who passes on to us all the truth and true instruction He got from God; nothing false was found on His lips; the One I love walked with God in peace and **uprightness**; living a good and righteous life, to turn many from their lives of sin (Mal. 2:5-6).

85. So Come! (Rev. 22:17a); and walk in the Light, as my Beloved is in the light, then we can have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, will purify us from **all** sin; however, if we claim to have fellowship with the Lord, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth; for God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5-7); for the promises God spoke to Abraham were to his seed; the Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning One Person, Who is Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:16); God, in His mighty power, is keeping careful watch over us and the future (1 Pet. 1:5a); for we are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that we belong to my Beloved, we are the true children of Abraham. We are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to us (Gal. 3:28); and the Day is coming when we'll have it all – life healed and whole; yes, there is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough and we are forced to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime; these trials come to test our faith, whether or not it is strong and pure; pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through fiery trials will come out proved genuine, if our faith remains strong; it's our faith not our gold that will bring us much praise and glory and honor on the day of Christ's return (1 Peter 1:5b-7).

86. Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith; therefore, know and understand that it is the people who live by faith who are (the true) children of Abraham (Gal 3:6-7); so I have set my face **like flint** determined to do His will, confident that I'll never regret this; for I know I will triumph and not be put to shame; because the Lord my God is for me; my Beloved shows that I am innocent; if someone wants to try and prove I am wrong, that person should come to me, for He Who gives me justice is near; the Sovereign Lord is on my side; I stand together with my Beloved against those who contend with me; yes, the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed; the bad things people say will not hurt me; I will be strong in the Lord; for the One I love is with me; (Isa. 50:7-9); He protects me, and makes me robust with life; I am blessed, for the Lord will not deliver me to the will of my enemies (Ps. 41:2); because I walk by faith, not by sight or by appearance (2 Cor. 5:7).

87. Yes, those whose faith has made them righteous in God's sight must live by faith, trusting Him in everything (Heb. 10:38); however, many remain proud and obstinate and disobey my Beloved's commands; they refuse to follow the Word of God, by which people find life when they obey; they continue to turn their backs on the One I love, and refuse to listen or heed His warning to return; yet, in His love, God has been patient with them for many years; He sent His Spirit to fill the body of Christ so His church could also warn them, but still they wouldn't listen (Neh. 9:29); their sins are piled up before God and testify against them; they know what sinners they are; they know how unfair and oppressive they have been, carefully planning their deceitful lies; they know they have rebelled and denied the Lord; they have turned their backs on our God (Isa. 59:12-13); Who sent His servants to invite them to the banquet He is preparing, the wedding feast for His Son; instead, they ignore and make light of God's summons, treating it with contempt (Matt. 22:3-5); praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son (Eph. 1:6); because a great multitude that no one can count will be found standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb; they will be wearing **white** robes and holding palm branches in their hands (Rev. 7:9a); for the Lord, Christ Jesus, has achieved for them righteousness, victory and strength (Isa. 45:24); and they shall cry out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb' (Rev. 7:9b).

88. Our God desires for the eyes of our heart to be enlightened so that we may know the hope to which He has called us; that we may know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints; and that we may know His incomparably great power for us who believe (Eph. 1:18); and that we would become one and perfectly united (John 17:23a), getting along with each other and with God, to ensure we are not left out of God's generosity; therefore, we must keep a sharp eye out for those whose hearts give evidence of weeds of **bitter discontent**; and assess for the signs of Esau syndrome, for this causes people to be willing to trade away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite; and the Word of God has made it well known that Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing; but, by then it was too late, even his tears made no difference (Heb. 12:14-17).
89. Let all those who are in distress or in debt or discontent gather around the Lord Jesus, and He will become their Leader (1 Sam. 2); and they too will come to know His prayer is for them to understand and definitely recognize that God sent Him, and that God has loved them even as He has loved the Lord (John 17:23); Who humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross (Philp. 2:8); Jesus was crucified in weakness (2 Cor. 13:4a), His body wrapped with spices, a mixture of myrrh and **aloes**, in strips of linen; the One I love was laid in a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid, at the place where He was crucified (John 19:39-42); yet He lives by God's power; and likewise, we are weak in the Lord, yet by God's power we will live **with** Him to serve at the pleasure of our God (2 Cor. 13:4); and with this knowledge the body of Christ can have **all** the abounding wealth and blessings of complete assurance and confidence, as we come to know and understand the mystery of God, which is Christ Himself; for in my Beloved lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:2b-3); which He gives to us so that we, with unveiled faces, can reflect His glory as we are being transformed into the likeness of the Lord with ever-increasing glory (2 Cor. 3:18).

90. The One I love is exalted, for He dwells **on high** in heaven; He will make Jerusalem His home of justice and goodness and righteousness; in that day my Beloved will be our sure foundation, providing an abundance of salvation along with wisdom and knowledge, which is stored up for Judah in a safe place; the reverence and fear of the Lord will be our treasure (Isa. 33:5); for the Lord our God, a famous King is enthroned forever, and the eminence of His name shall continue forever and ever (Ps. 102:12); and through Christ Jesus, we can offer a continual sacrifice of praise to our God, which is the fruit of lips that gratefully acknowledge and proclaim our allegiance and glorifies His name (Heb. 13:15); because now we abide in Him, enjoying a deep personal relationship with my Beloved, so that when He comes we can be sure all is well; for we will be full of courage and able to receive Him with open arms, without fear or guilt or shame causing us to shrink back from meeting Him (1 John 2:28); Why? Because we are called chosen, and dearly loved by our heavenly Father, separated and set apart for Jesus (Jude 1); to be counted among those gathered out of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Rev. 7:9a); Yes, I give praise to the Lord my God, for His love has taken over my life; all peoples and nations extol the One I love, for His faithfulness and truth shall endure forever (Ps. 117:1-2).

91. Like our heavenly Father, I too hurt for the hurt of my people; dismay and sorrow take hold on me; there is no **balm** (Jer. 8:21-22a) no healing for their wounds, no recovery for them; all their lovers, their allies, have forgotten them, and do not seek them out (Jer. 30:13-14); there is no physician to restore the health (Jer. 8:22) of those who reject this testimony: God gave us eternal life; and the life is in His Son (1 John 5:11); and everyone who believes in my Beloved may not perish; but instead, have eternal life and live forever (John 3:15); so whoever has the Son, has life; whoever rejects the Son, they reject life (1 John 5:12); they are not devoted to the God of peace Who makes us entirely pure (1:Thess. 5:23); these people are counterfeits disapproved on trial and rejected (2 Cor. 13:5b), because their deeds have no limit; they refuse to provide justice to the fatherless; they do not **defend** the rights of the poor; should they not be punished for this (Jer. 5:28-29); their adversaries have become their masters; their enemies prosper and are at ease; the Lord has **afflicted** them for the multitude of their transgressions (Lam. 1:5).

92. How difficult, it is **to explain** to those who are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen (Heb. 5:11), how God desires to keep our whole spirit, soul and body blameless until the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23b); that is why it is important for us to avoid godless chatter, discussions that lead people into the sin of anger with each other, for they are foolish; things will be said that injure the soul causing it to burn and hurt for a long time to come; and possibly even weaken the faith of some who believe the arguments and claims of those who wander away from the truth (2 Tim. 2:16), for they are not in touch with everything there is to know about God; if they were, their minds would be focused on Christ, confident and at rest with God's great mystery; for all the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and can be found nowhere else (Col. 2:2-3); they are priceless treasures that prepare God's people for works of service to build the body of Christ up until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ; so we will no longer be as infants, tossed back and forth (Eph. 4:12-14a) by emotions, such strong forces that come against us wave upon wave (Job 10:17); no longer will we be blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people with self-serving agendas filled to bursting with schemes to deceive and mislead (Eph. 4:12-14).

93. Truth speaks of a very special and unique language, one of love - of the One Who did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, though being One essentially with God; instead, my Beloved gave up His divine privileges, not thinking this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained; Jesus stripped Himself of all His rightful privileges to assume the guise of a servant, and was born a human being to become like us; the One I love humbled Himself, and carried His obedience to God to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross; and because the Lord so humbled Himself, God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him the name above all other names (Philp. 2:4-9); we too must exalt and praise and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right, and all His ways are just; He was able to humble us, though we walk in pride (Dan 4:37); clothing us with humility so we can accept the authority of our elders - and give them due respect and yield to their counsel; for God gives grace to the humble, but the proud He opposes, frustrates and defeats; His favor is not upon those (1 Peter 5:5) whose attitudes are not the same as Christ Jesus, for my Beloved is our example in humility; therefore, don't merely look out for your own interests; instead, take an interest in others too (Philp. 2:4); cultivating **life-nourishing** ways that won't hurt them (Ezek. 33:15).

94. God is strong, and He wants us to be strong too; but first we must recognize His Word is an indispensable weapon; Truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation are more than words; and we must learn how to apply them because we will most definitely need them throughout our lives; for we are in a **life**-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and his angels; we must accept God's help; we must accept everything the Lord offers, and put them to use, so we are prepared, and able to stand up to everything the enemy throws our way, and because this warfare is ongoing, we must also accept the fact that prayer is very important (Eph. 6:10-18); while understanding it is even more essential for us to heed and obey God with deep reverence and fear, by working hard to show the results of our salvation (Philp. 2:12); not in our own strength, but God's; for He is our source of satisfaction, because He works in us energizing and creating in us the power and desire to want to work for His good pleasure and delight (Philp. 2:13).

95. Ask God, and He will show you His ways; the Lord will teach you His paths; my Beloved will guide you in truth and teach you, for the One I love is the God Who saves us (Ps. 25:4); the One Who desires for truth to be in our inner beings; the One Who places godly Wisdom in our inmost heart (Ps. 51:6); there are many things that are known: such as, silver seams the rocks, gold must be refined to remove all its impurities; iron is dug out of the ground, and copper is smelted from rock; miners enter deep into the earth's darkness searching the mountain's foundations for ore, digging away in the suffocating darkness; far from civilization, far from the traffic, they cut a shaft and are lowered in it by ropes; while the earth's surface provides land to be farmed, its depths are a forge firing sapphires from stones and chiseling gold from rocks; vultures are blind to its riches, hawks never lay eyes on it; wild animals are oblivious to it, lions don't know it's there; miners, they hammer away at the rock, they uproot the mountains; they tunnel through rock, and find all kinds of beautiful gems; they discover the origins of **rivers**, and bring the earth's secrets to light; but where, oh where, will they find Wisdom; where does Insight hide; people don't have a clue; they haven't the slightest idea where to look; it is not found in the depths of the earth or the deeps of the sea; Wisdom can't be bought with the finest gold; no amount of silver can obtain godly Wisdom; none of these earthly riches - gold nor diamonds nor emeralds are comparable to it; no matter how deep a person digs, or how high they fly Wisdom cannot be found by merely looking; God alone knows the way to Wisdom; He knows the exact place where Wisdom will be found - in the Fear of the Lord (Job 28:1-28a).

96. Yes, Wisdom begins with the Fear of the Lord (Prov. 9:10a); so come and drink for the Fear of the Lord is a fountain, which gives life (Prov. 14:27a); all who are thirsty can come, for my Beloved will give you drink without cost from the spring of the water of life (Rev. 21:6); the One I love dwells on high, for God has exalted Him, and my Beloved will pour down His justice and righteousness so Zion can be filled; the Lord, Christ Jesus, is our sure foundation; for within the depths of His **heart** dwells a rich source of salvation and wisdom and knowledge (Isa. 33:5-6a), from which we can drink to our full and be satisfied with the blessings received from the abundance of His house; for my Beloved gives us drink from the river of His delights (Ps. 36:7); for His pleasure is to lead us to springs of living water so God can wipe away every tear from our eyes; the Lamb of God will do this, for He is our Shepherd, the One Who is in the midst of the throne (Rev. 7:17).
97. Yes, God has made a Horn grow for David, and His Anointed One will be a Light for His people; for the Lord has chosen Zion, and He desires it for His home; this is His resting place forever and ever; He will bless it with abundant provisions; and satisfy its poor with food (Ps. 132:13-15&17); food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give them (John 6:27); who discover God is after love that lasts, not more religion; many declare to Him a love that lasts no longer than the morning mist and predawn dew; and just like Adam, the covenant with God was broken; our faith with God was broken (Hosea 6:4, 6-7); so God made His Word to become flesh, and Jesus dwelt among us (John 1:14), to shake us to attention; for God's words cut to the quick (Hosea 6:5a); yes, the Word of God is living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword, it can penetrate to divide soul and spirit; the Word, Christ Jesus, judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12); God sent His Word **to wake** us up to His judgment blazing like light (Hosea 6:5b); so we would know and understand nothing in all creation is **hidden** from God's sight; everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give an account (Heb. 4:13).

98. For this reason I am determined to keep myself from every kind of evil, so the God of peace Himself can sanctify me, making me entirely pure and devoted to Him; for faithful is He Who is calling me to Himself, and utterly trustworthy; and He will also fulfill His **call**, and do all this for me as He has promised (1 Thess. 5:22), because I am His beloved; however, there are those who refuse to heed God, Who calls us to be holy; and to be holy in all manner of conversation (1 Peter 1:15); for many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world, and any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist (2 John 7); therefore, we must be on our guard; standing firm in the faith; we must be people of courage; strong and doing everything in love (1 Cor. 16:13-14); with our hearts braced and comforted as we are being knit together by strong ties of love; so our hearts can be encouraged for we are being woven into God's tapestry of love (Col. 2:2a), through the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14a); which has come to us not simply with words, but also with power, with Holy Spirit and with deep conviction (1 Thess. 1:5a); so that we can know Jesus better (Eph. 1:17), and become imitators of our Lord (1 Thess. 1:5), and share in the glory of the One I love (2 Thess. 2:14b); Whose prayer is God sanctifies us in the truth; making us pure and holy through teaching us His words of truth (John 17:17).

99. The Lord prays for those who do and will believe in Him through the message of God's Gospel; His prayer is for us to be one, as God is in Him, and He also is in the Father; that we too would be in Them so the world may believe that God sent His Son; Who has given us the glory God gave to Him – the glorious unity of being one, as the Father and Son are one (John 17:20-22); my desire is to give myself to God alone, and turn from everything that defiles and distracts me, both within and without; so my Beloved is helping me to be holy, so I can live in the wholesome fear of God; (2 Cor. 7:1); because I desire to show there is nothing more important to me than right living; because my Beloved stood at the door of my heart, knocking until I heard His call, and opened my heart to invite Him in so we could fellowship together, Him and I (Rev. 3:20); and this is what He spoke, 'Open your ears, for the mind of the prudent is always ready to learn, ever seeking knowledge (Prov. 18:15); Open your eyes, for you are cherished by the Father, chosen by Him to be set apart to see your true condition, so you can turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God' (Acts 17-18); and in so doing, my Beloved has set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps **firm** (Ps. 40:2).

100. My Beloved told me to take His yoke upon me and let Him teach me, because He is humble and gentle in heart; and I will find rest and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet for my soul; for His yoke is wholesome, useful and good – not harsh, sharp or pressing, but comfortable gracious and pleasant, and His burden is light (Matt. 11:29-30); and I will receive hope, which God has reserved for me in heaven, through the message of the truth of the Gospel; and I will grow in faith and love, by leaning my entire personality on Him, with absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness, as I look forward to the joys of heaven (Col. 1:3); knowing I can depend upon my Beloved alone to save me; my heart rejoices in the unfailing love of Jesus, which **surrounds** me; yes, I have put my hope in the One I love (Ps. 33:20a,21-22), because He **utters** the straight, sound truth (Acts 26:25), that God's Word is my help and my shield; (Ps. 33:22b).

101. God's friendship and His counsel grace my life and my home; the Mighty One of Israel is by my side (Job 29:4-5), for my Beloved has come to save me; and I have placed my trust in Jesus, and will not be afraid; for the Lord my God is my strength and my song; the One I love has given me victory; and with joy I drink deeply from the fountain of salvation, giving thanks to my God, and praising the name of Jesus (Isa. 12:2-4), for I am drunk with love for my precious One, because now I know He is mine, irrevocably mine (SS 5:1); so I boast in my Beloved, Who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these He does delight (Jer. 9:24); and wherever I walk His counsel leads me and saves me from harm; the Word of God guards me while I sleep; when I awaken the instructions of my Beloved advise me and guide me into the new day; His commands are a lamp, and His teachings a light to show me the right way; His moral discipline corrects me and trains me to follow the path of life (Prov. 6:22-23); and just as lotions and **fragrance** delight the senses, the sweet friendship I share with the One I love surely refreshes my soul (Prov. 27:9).

102. God's words are as a garden fountain, a well of **flowing** water streaming down upon me from His heart (SS 4:15); how I cherish God's Word, and praise the name of Jesus (Ps. 147:20); yes, my hope is in Christ alone, for I trust in His holy name (Ps. 33:22b); for a day is approaching when there will be great mourning in Jerusalem; and my Beloved will pour out on the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; they shall look upon the One Whom they have pierced; they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for their only child; they shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is grieving bitterly for their firstborn who has died (Zech. 12:10-11); for the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first; after that, those who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the One I love in the air; and so we will be with my Beloved forever (1 Thess. 4:15-17).

103. So I pray for the God of peace to sanctify us through and through (1 Thess. 5:23a); for my contentment is not in wealth, but in seeing my Beloved and knowing all is well between us; and when I awake in heaven, how fully satisfied I will be, to see Him face to face (Ps. 17:15); for my Beloved desires for me to behold how good and how pleasant it is for me to dwell together with Him in unity (Ps. 133:1); because harmony is as precious as the expensive perfume that was poured over the head of the One I love (Matt. 26: 7), and ran down on His beard, that came down upon the collar and skirts of His garments consecrating His whole body (Ps. 133:2); this fragrant perfume was poured on Jesus to prepare His body for burial (Matt. 26:11); my Beloved died so I could live, and see His joy fulfilled in my life by being likeminded, having the same **love**, being of one accord and of one mind (Phil. 2:2) together with other believers (Act 2:1); **bringing** a harmony into my life that is as refreshing as the dew of Mount Hermon, as dew that covers the hills of Zion; for there the Lord has promised His blessing of life eternal (Ps. 133:3).

104. So I can share in the holiness of my Beloved, and yield a peaceable fruit of righteousness as God disciplines and trains me, to be in conformity to His will in purpose, thought and deed (Eph. 1:11) through the power of Holy Spirit, Who lives within me; therefore, I guard with the greatest of care, this treasure that has been entrusted to me, the precious truth of my Beloved (2 Tim. 1:14); for He is the perfect imprint of God's nature, and the very image of God's character; the One I love is the sole expression of the glory of God, and He sustains and regulates everything by the mighty power of His command; Christ Jesus is the One Who died to cleanse me and clear my record of all sin and guilt; my Beloved now sits in the place of highest honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven (Heb. 1:3) **protecting** those of childlike faith (Ps. 116:6); Jesus is the Head of His body, the Church; the Beginning for me and everyone else, the Firstborn from the dead; He alone in everything and in every respect must occupy the chief place, and also be preeminent in my life (Col. 1:18); so I can always be filled with the fruit of my salvation (Phil. 1:11a).

105. How amazing our God, He is so rich in His mercy allowing us to experience His wonder and His grace; so He can work to turn things around for us now, today, because He loves us so very much; God revealed His incredible love when He embraced a people who were dead due to our own shortcomings and trespasses, and made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ Jesus; because of God's lavish love we have been given the very life of Christ Himself; because of God's amazing grace we have been saved and delivered from judgment because God Himself has made us **partakers** of Christ's salvation; the Holy One of Israel gave us new life when He raised my Beloved from the dead (Eph. 2:4-6).

106. Praise God, I am no longer spiritually dead because He has raised me up together with Jesus, and made me to sit with Him in the heavenly realms – all because of what Jesus did; now God can point to me and to all who sit together with Christ, and His **immeasurable riches** of grace and kindness and goodness can be clearly seen, because of all He has done for us through Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6-7); yes, God is very kind to us, but He is not soft; don't think because He is such a nice God He'll let us off the hook; we need to rethink this because we are just as bad as the people we condemn, when we pose as judge and pass sentence on another; we condemn ourselves, because we habitually do the very same things we accuse others of doing; how is it possible for anyone who criticizes and blames to avoid God's judgment; for it is well-known, judgmental criticism is a weak attempt at escaping attention for our own faults and transgressions; however, God is not so easily distracted; and we know that God, in His justice, will punish anyone who does such things; yes, God has been very patient, and in kindness He takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change; for God's kindness is intended to turn us from our sin (Rom. 2:1).

107. My Beloved is merciful to me; because of His steadfast love and great compassion, He has taken away the awful stain of my transgressions; though I am conscious of my sins, and I acknowledge them; the One I love has cleansed me of all guilt; my Beloved has washed me so I could be pure once again (Ps. 51:1), and stay pure; therefore, I will make every effort to obey God's Word and conform my life to His rules; with my whole heart I have sought my Beloved, inquiring for and of Him and yearning for Him; I pray the Lord does not let me wander or step aside either in ignorance or willfully from His instructions; for I have laid up God's Word in my heart, so I might not sin against Him; I rejoice in them more than in riches (Ps. 119:2-14); I have prepared my heart to serve only God by making this decision – I will refuse to entertain evil; for only then, without the spots of sin that defile me, can I rest in God's presence without fear or shame (Job 11:13-15); for the One I love has made my faith **increase** (Luke 17:5); my Beloved causes me to hear His loving-kindness each morning, and tells me where to walk, for I have given myself to the Lord to lean on and to trust (Ps. 143:8); because the Lord is faithful; the One I love makes me strong and guards me from satanic attacks of every kind (2 Thess. 3:3); yes, the Word of God lives in me, and my fellowship with my Beloved makes my heart strong and enables me to gain victory over the evil one (1 John 2:14); and I will ever sing for joy, because the Lord my God clothes His priests with salvation and godliness (Ps. 132:16).