

CHAPTER ONE

- 1.) I sing with my spirit by Holy Spirit, Who is within me (1 Cor. 14:15), to Him Who has put a new **song** in my mouth; a **song** of praise for the Lord my God, Who calls me friend (John 15:14); Who brings health and healing, and reveals the abundance of **peace**, security and truth to His people (Jer. 33:6); my Beloved is a faithful God, Who keeps His promises; He is the God of Truth, Who has rescued and redeemed us; how I pray for those who cling to worthless idols; for the One I love listens to my troubles, and has seen the crisis in my soul; He has had mercy on me, and did not hand me over to the enemy; so I trust the Lord my God and worship only Him, for His unfailing love fills me with radiant joy (Ps. 31:5-8); many shall see and fear and put their trust and confident reliance in my Beloved; and blessed shall they be for making the Lord, Christ Jesus, their refuge and trust; who turn not to the proud or to followers of false gods; for many are the wonderful works which He has done for us, and many are His thoughts toward us; no one can compare to our King in His Beauty (Isa. 33:17).

- 2.) My song is for the compassionate One; the One Who is slow to anger and abounds in love and faithfulness (Ps. 86:15); the One Who has **seized** my heart with the words of grace that come forth from His mouth (Luke 4:22); whose answers are to me like a **kiss** of friendship because they are honest (Prov. 24:26) and faithful and true (Rev. 21:5).

- 3.) The One I love has given me and all who believe access to the gateway of the **entry** room, so we may come and go and feast in the presence of our God (Ezek. 44:3); giving us understanding, so we may know Him Who is True (1 John 5:20), so we may know the abundance and the sweetness of His **love**; Christ Jesus, my Lord and Savior, has placed within my heart a **better** hope, so I can draw close to God (Heb. 7:19), making my confidence, firm and strong in Him (Prov. 3:26), Who anointed His Messenger of the Covenant (Mal. 3:1) with the oil of **joy** (Heb. 1:9); so whenever the name of Jesus is poured out, it is like the fragrance of pure **liquid nard** (John 12:3), a **pleasing** aroma to God (Eph. 5:2); a sweet **fragrance** that reminds our God of the mercy and grace He has blessed us with (Ps. 67:1), by giving to us every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3), Who sits enthroned forever; His **renown** endures through all generations; the One I love will arise and have compassion on Zion (Ps. 10:12-13).
- 4.) The Lord God of Hosts has a mighty **arm**, strong is His hand: His right hand is soaring high. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne; mercy and loving-kindness and truth go before His face. Blessed are the people who have learned to acclaim Him; they walk in the light and favor of His countenance (Ps. 89:13-15); God's perfection of beauty **shines forth** through His Son (Phil. 2:9a), bringing salvation to those who are waiting for Him (Heb. 9:28), Who stooped so low that God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:9b) saying to my Beloved, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The Lord has stretched forth His strong scepter from Zion, saying to the One I love, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies," (Ps. 110:1-2).

- 5.) Yes, God has freely bestowed on my Beloved the name that is **above** every name (Phil. 2:9), Jesus; Who came as a light to shine and pour forth the brilliance of God's loving-kindness in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in the One I love should no longer remain in darkness (John 12:46); for in Him lie **hidden** all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; and I want believers to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of **love** realizing and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance and complete confidence of understanding that results in a true knowledge of God's mysterious plan, which is Christ Jesus Himself (Col. 2:2-3).
- 6.) My Beloved is **drawing** all God's people into wide-open places – inviting us to feast at a table laden with blessings (Job 36:16), stirring a desire within us to **tarry** with Him so we can receive the full riches of complete understanding; a desire that will keep us **running** to Him so we can truly embrace this mystery of God (Col. 2:2b); which is the **King** of Eternity (1 Tim. 1:17), Christ Jesus living in us; **giving** us hope and the assurance of sharing His glory (Col. 1:27); how amazing, we belong to Him, to the Lord Jesus, and God's grace has been bestowed upon us so that in His Christ we can be enriched in every respect, in full power and readiness of speech, so we can speak of our faith and our love for our Lord and Savior (1 Co4. 1:4-5); the One who builds His upper **chambers** in the heavens, and has founded His vaulted dome over the earth; He who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth, the Lord is His name (Amos 9:6-7).

7.) Forever more I will be **glad** in my Lord, and **rejoice** in His love; I will shout in joy (Ps. 32:11a) with sincere love for the One Who laid His own life down, so I could come to know what real love is (1 John 3: 16); that I would come to recognize and acknowledge God is love (1 John 4:16); yes, the One I love reveals truth so I can know and understand the loving-kindness of my heavenly Father, which has drawn me and has given me this desire to come to Him, so I can be raised up by my Beloved at the last day (John 6:44); but until that time comes, my Beloved is teaching me to walk worthy of my calling, for I have been called by God (Eph. 4:1); so the Lord can take me by the arms (Hosea 11:3a) to humble me and to test me so He can know what is in my heart, whether or not I will keep His commands (Deut. 8:2); so I can realize that it is He who has healed me (Hosea 11:3b) of my waywardness and loves me freely, for He has turned God's anger far from me (Hosea 14:4); my Beloved leads me with ropes of kindness and love; my Savior has lifted the yoke from my neck and stoops to feed me (Hosea 11:4) knowledge and understanding and His judgments (Jer. 3:15) by Holy Spirit, Who expresses spiritual truths in spiritual words (1 Cor. 2:13), so I may know the way the Lord is going; for my Beloved will come to take me for Himself, so I can always be with Him where He is (John 14:3).

- 8.) The One I love diligently endeavors to see to it that I will be able at all times **to call to mind** how richly and abundantly my Beloved provided entry into His eternal kingdom for me and for all who believe; for we are not following cleverly devised stories, it has been made known to us the power and majesty and coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:11&15,16); Who assures He is preparing a place for us in His Father's house (John 14:3); and His desire is for us not to let our hearts be troubled; but instead, that we would rejoice in God's love (Ps. 31:7) as our understanding continually increases; so my Beloved shares knowledge of the Holy One (Prov. 9:10); to make us confident that God has better things in mind for us – things that come with salvation (Heb. 6:9); for the free gift of eternal salvation is being offered to everyone; and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn our backs on godless, indulgent living and sinful pleasures, so we can live good, God-filled, God-honoring lives day after day; as we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13).
- 9.) So I wait knowing my Beloved will come back and take me to be with Him (John 14:1&3); but for now, the Lord is my Teacher (Matt. 23:10); my Mentor Who works with me so I will be built solid, grounded in righteousness (Isa. 54:13-14), learning about the love and trust He has for the Father, and how He did exactly what He was commanded to do (John 14:31); for God so dearly loved and greatly prized this world that He gave up His only begotten Son, and whoever believes in His Christ shall not perish or come to destruction or be lost; instead, they may have life eternal (John 3:16) in Jesus; Who makes me remember God's great mercy and **love** (Ps. 25:6) and peace, which garrisons and mounts a guard **over** my heart and mind as I live in Him (Philp. 4:7); Who has marked my heart and taken it captive; for in His loving-kindness God leads me in triumph; and is spreading through me and making evident the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ everywhere; for my life has become the sweet fragrance of Christ, which exhales unto God (2 Cor. 2:14).

- 10.) I shout for **joy**, and sing praises to the One I love; for He has ransomed and redeemed me (Ps. 71:23); who once was in darkness; now, I'm light in the Lord (Eph. 5:8); whose glory has risen and appears on me, the one He calls Hephzibah, for He delights in me (Isa. 62:4); and keeps me as the apple of His eye (Ps. 17:8), guarding me in perfect peace as my thoughts stay fixed on Him; for I have committed myself to the One I love (Isa. 26:3a); to the Rock of my Salvation (2 Sam. 22:47), Who made me **upright**, and has given me right standing with the Father (Ps. 32:11b); I have set my hope confidently in Him (Isa. 26:3b), for He has placed a covering of everlasting joy and gladness upon my head to cause sorrow and sighing and shame to flee far from me (Isa. 51:11), so His glory can be seen resting eternally upon me (Hab. 2:16).
- 11.) My Beloved has marked me as His own for the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30); the One I love has become my safe refuge (Ps. 14:6) until His coming, which will be as brilliant as the sunrise; for His ways are eternal, and from His hands rays of light flash; the very place where His awesome power is hidden (Hab. 3:3-4&6); the very same place that was pierced so I could know the great power of His **love**, and be delivered from all my fears (Ps. 34:2); fears that made my mind intent on pleasing people instead of God (Mark 8:33); for my mind was set on earthly things; I was destined for destruction (Phil. 3:19); but my Beloved made known to me the path of life; granting me the joy of being in His presence and the pleasure of living with Him forever more (Ps. 16:11).

- 12.) My Beloved is preparing me to meet my God; to meet Him Who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to us; to meet Him Who turns **dawn** to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth – the Lord God Almighty is His name (Amos 4:12-13); my Beloved is preparing me so I can give God the glory due His name; so I can worship Elohim in the **beauty** of His holiness and in His holy array (Ps. 29:2); yes, my Beloved has promised to satisfy me with long life, and show me His salvation; for I have **set** my love upon Him; the One I love will deliver me; He will set me on high, because I know and understand His name; because I have personal knowledge of His mercy, love and kindness; because I trust and rely on Him, the Son of God, knowing He will never forsake me, no, not ever (Ps. 91:14-16).
- 13.) Yes, I will **be safe**, and live securely knowing I have made the Most High my dwelling – the Lord, my refuge – no harm will befall me, no disaster will come near my **home**; for the One I love commands His angels concerning me, to guard me in all my ways; they will steady me with their hands to keep me from stumbling (Ps. 91:9-12); for there is an evil which is under the sun, and it is common among all people; vanity – false gods, falsehood, emptiness and futility – an evil affliction, that lies **heavily** upon mankind (Eccl. 6:1-2).

14.) However, my Beloved tells me **to fear** nothing, for He is with me; therefore, I will not panic or be dismayed for the Lord is my God; He'll give me strength; He'll help me; He'll hold me steady, and keep a firm grip on me (Isa. 41:10); for God did not send His Son into the world to point an accusing finger, telling everyone how bad they are; instead, the One I love came to put the world right again; so people could find salvation, and be made **safe** and sound through Him; those who trust in Jesus will be acquitted; but, those who refuse to trust in Him have long since been condemned to the death sentence without knowing it; because they fail to believe in the Son of God, when they are introduced to Him (John 3:17); they have deserted my Beloved for love of this **present** world (2 Tim. 4:10); which has **darkened** their understanding and separated them from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts (Eph. 4:18); sadly, they will die in their sins because they do not believe that Jesus is Who He claims to be (John 8:23); but those who are wise—the people of God—shall shine as brightly as the sun's **brilliance**, and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever (Dan. 12:3).

- 15.) How grateful we should be for the Lord does not hold back His tender mercies from us; even when we are perishing, with problems piled higher than our heads, and far too big for us to solve; even when our sins have all caught up with us, and they are way too many to count; even when we are too ashamed to **look up**, and our heart is quivering within us; for this is when we'll discover our only hope is in God's love and faithfulness (Ps. 40:11-12); for God sent Jesus into this world for judgment, as a Separator, bringing **separation** between those who believe in Him and those who reject Him; for my Beloved gives sight to the blind and shows those who think they can see, that they are really blind (John 9:39); for this reason it is not wise for the people of God to be teamed up with those who do not love the Lord, for what do we have in **common**; how could righteousness be a partner with wickedness; how could light live with darkness; what harmony can there be between Christ and the devil; this is why the Lord tells us to separate ourselves from them (2 Cor. 6:14-17); for the Lord has His winnowing fork in His hand to thoroughly clear and cleanse His threshing floor; He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat; the One I love will gather the wheat into His granary, but the chaff He will **burn** with fire that cannot be extinguished (Luke 3:17).
- 16.) There should be no surprise to learn the Lord knows all the things we do; and there are many who say they are rich, and have everything they want; for they have prospered and have grown wealthy, and are in need of nothing; it would be better if they were hot or cold, loving the Lord or totally rejecting Him; instead, they are lukewarm; they don't realize they are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked; to be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord, for they nauseate Him; Whose counsel is for them to buy gold from Him – gold that has been purified by fire, so they can truly be rich; and white clothes, clean and pure, so they won't be shamed by their nakedness; and salve **to put** on their eyes, that they may see (Rev. 3:15-18).

- 17.) No one can get life from the many things they own; therefore, we must all be careful, for life is not defined by what a person has, even when they have a lot; it is necessary for us **to guard** ourselves against every kind of greed (Luke 12:15); for as **surely** as God would never uphold wrongdoers, He would never cast away a blameless person (Job 8:20), an heir of His glory, if we are God's children; fellow heirs with Christ (sharing in the inheritance of my Beloved); who also consider we must share His suffering, if we are to share the glory of the One I love (Rom. 8:12,17-18).
- 18.) So many things to consider, like seeking first God's kingdom and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33); so we become zealous to know the Lord, to appreciate and **cherish** Him (Hosea 6:3); for the Spirit we receive from God is not of slavery that **keeps** us in bondage to fear; we receive the Spirit of Adoption, the Spirit who produces son-ship so we can cry out, Abba, Father; therefore, since our lives are designed and **set up** to have obligations and responsibilities, know this - we do not have an obligation to do what our sinful nature urges us to do; a person whose life is ruled by the standards they have set by the dictates of their flesh will die; however, if through the power of Holy Spirit they put to death the deeds of their sinful nature, they will live; for God's Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm and assure we are children of God; who have determined what we suffer now, in this present life, is not worth comparing with the glory my Beloved is about to reveal and confer upon us (Rom. 8:12-18).

- 19.) As you ponder this, remember in this world everyone has troubles (John 16:33a) but, those who choose not to live the rest of their lives satisfying their own evil human desires to do the will of God, have also suffered heartache and possibly even physical pain with the same attitude as Christ because they are done with sin; they have had enough of the evil things that godless people enjoy doing (1 Pet. 4:1); they have discovered there is no need to be anxious about their future or suffer regret and shame over their past (Matt.12:8a); because like Abraham, who did not waver in unbelief with respect to the promise of God, they too have grown strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being **fully** assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform (Rom. 4:20-21); they can enjoy peace in the troubles each day holds knowing Jesus, God's Beloved (Matt. 12:8b), has defeated the world (John 16:33b); it is true, we may have to suffer many hardships before entering the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22), but again, everyone suffers hardships even those who are being defeated by the standards of this world (1 John 4:4).
- 20.) As you journey throughout each day, don't be shy about asking God questions; this one was asked a long time ago, but it continues to tug at hearts today - Tell me, O You Whom my soul loves, where You pasture Your flock (SS. 1:7); tell me to come to You (Matt. 14:28), for You tend to Your sheep as a loving Shepherd (Isa. 40:11a); **how** my **soul** thirsts for the Lord; as a deer longs for streams of water, I long to drink in deeply the presence of the living God; when can I go and meet with Him (Ps. 42:1-2), Who gathers lambs in His arms; hugging them close to His heart, while gently leading the nursing ewes beside Him (Isa. 40:11b).

- 21.) Our God wants us to know the Lord is with us, and that we are His people; we are His sheep, the sheep of His pasture are people whom He **loves**; and He is our God (Ezek. 34:31); Who cares for and guards His sheep as a Shepherd (Acts 20:28a); the One I love made Himself **nothing**, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness (Philp. 2:7) to become the **Shepherd** of God's church, which He bought with His own blood (Acts 20:29); my Beloved tends and feeds and guides the people of God (Acts. 20:28b); and everyone who is thirsty can come to Him; anyone who is conscious of their need of those things by **which** the soul is refreshed, supported and strengthened can come, and drink freely of the Water of Life (Rev. 22:17).
- 22.) The One I love sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers (Isa. 40:22); so how amazing it is to realize, because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need (Ps. 23:1), and the help the Spirit of Christ Jesus gives me, will turn out to be good for the spiritual health and welfare of my own soul (Phil. 1:19a); because I have set my focus on the One I love, Who makes my heart glad, and my body to **rest** and confidently dwell in safety, and this rejoices my inner self (Ps. 16:8); because everything my Beloved wants to do in and through me will be done (Phil. 1:19b) because I love God, Who has called me according to His purpose, and is working for my good in all things (Rom. 8:2); yes, the Lord has dealt so bountifully with me that my soul has returned to its **rest**; my Beloved has done this wonderful miracle for me; He has saved me from death; I shall live! Yes, in His presence here on earth (Ps. 116:7).

- 23.) From the very beginning God has chosen us; He called us to come to Him; and those who have come to Him, He has declared "Not Guilty," and filled us with Christ's goodness; God has given us right standing with Himself, and has promised us His glory; what can we ever say to such wonderful things as these; if God is on our side, who can ever be against us; for God did not even spare His own Son, but gave Him up for everyone; won't He also surely give us everything else (Rom. 8:29-32); how very precious God's love is; why isn't everyone eager to put their trust in Him, for there is protection under the shadow of His wings; why doesn't everyone want to eat from the fullness of His house, for they will be strengthened and abundantly satisfied; for God gives us drink from the river of His pleasures; the fountain of life flows from Him; His light allows us to see the (Ps. 36:7-9) **light** of life (John 8:12b) in the face of Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 4:6).
- 24.) **Why** do so many live as if they still belong to the world (Col. 2:20); what are they so puffed up about; what do they have that God hasn't given them; and if all they have is from God, why do they act as though they are so great; as though they have accomplished and gained something on their own; they seem to think they are rich enough, and already have all the spiritual food they need; sadly, we are living at a time when people are not tolerating sound and wholesome instruction; they have itchy ears that want to hear something pleasing and gratifying; they gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, choosing them to satisfy their own liking; this only fosters the errors that they hold; so they **turn aside** from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions (2 Tim. 4:3-4); they need to awake from this stupor they are suffering, and return to sober sense and their right minds, and sin no more; for some of them do not have knowledge of **God**; they are utterly and willfully ignorant, and they continue to be so, **lacking** the sense of God's presence and all the true knowledge of Him, for this they should be ashamed (1 Cor. 15:34); who or what has **fascinated** them; has someone hypnotized them or cast an evil spell upon them; for the meaning of Christ's death has been clearly set before us (Gal. 3:1).

- 25.) No one can come to the Father **except** through Christ Jesus (John 14:6a); the One they persecuted, for they did not know God, Who sent Him (John 15:20); they did not know my Beloved is the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6b); however, if Jesus had not come and spoken to the people, if He hadn't done such miraculous signs among them, that no one else could do, they would not have been guilty of sin; but they rejected the One Who sent Him; therefore, they had no excuse for their sin (John 15:20-22); today many also claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him (Titus 1:16); they change His grace into a license for immorality (Jude 4); I would remind them the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe (Jude 5).
- 26.) Sadly, some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan (1 Tim. 5:15); I pray they would give this much thought so they can receive godly instruction (Prov. 24:32); because Jesus blots out and cancels our transgressions for His own sake (Isa. 43:25a); He does this even when our minds and our **understanding** are being veiled and blinded to the truth; it is Jesus, and only Jesus, Who removes that veil of misunderstanding from our mind, when we place our faith and trust in Him (2 Cor. 3:14); yes, the One Who saw my willful ways; chose to heal me anyway (Isa. 57:18a), though I burdened Him with my sins and wearied Him with my offenses (Isa. 43:24), God sent out His Light and His Truth to lead me (Ps. 43:3a); this Power belongs to God and steadfast, unfailing love belongs to the Lord, Who rewards each one of us according to what our works deserve (Ps. 62:11); the One I love restores to us comfort and peace and confident assurance (Isa. 57:18-19), and remembers our sins no more (Isa. 43:25b); I pray others will come in their desperate need (Ps. 79:8a) to hear His instruction, and to stop straying from His words of knowledge (Prov. 7:4) as I decided to do, because God's mercy will come quickly to meet them (Ps. 79:8b).

- 27.) How I needed to hear God's Word speaking to my heart: You, most **beautiful** one, if you do not know or understand Me (Jer. 4:22) because you have gone astray like so many of My sheep; come and follow Me, the Shepherd and Guardian of your soul (1 Pet. 2:25); and you will grow in grace and recognition of Christ, your Lord and Savior (2 Pet. 3:18); you will learn God's will, which is good and pleasing and perfect, by letting Him transform you into a new person by changing the way you think (Rom. 12:2); for God has chosen you to make you holy, because He loves you (Col. 3:12a); and He has given you shepherds after His own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding and judgment (Jer. 3:15).
- 28.) Faith and trust and especially reliance upon God for our salvation comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News of the Gospel of Christ Jesus (Rom. 10:17); God wants you to dress in the wardrobe He has picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength and discipline; so you can be even-tempered, making allowances for the faults of **another**; this new life of love will help you to become gentle-hearted and ready to forgive, because grudges will not be held onto; instead, you hold strongly to Love, allowing God to guide your life; and give you the ever present peace of heart that comes from Jesus, peace that fills hearts with gratitude and thanksgiving and devotion for God (Col. 3:12b-17).
- 29.) How grateful I was to hear the Word of God say, My love, you will be as those who **go** about rejoicing, for they are glad and exult and leap for joy in all circumstances, knowing their reward is rich and great and strong and abundant in heaven (Luke 6:23); like them, you too will delight yourself in the Lord, and He will make you to ride on the high places of the earth (Isa. 58:14a), for it is the Word of God that must grow and spread and intensify in you, so Love can prevail mightily in your life (Acts 19:20).

- 30.) God sent Christ Jesus to uphold you with His mighty right hand, as you follow **after** Him with your whole heart, clinging closely to Him (Ps. 63:8); He will feed you with the inheritance of **Jacob** your father (Isa. 58:14b), and as you **travel** by day and by night He will go before you to give you light (Ex. 13:21); therefore, take delight in the Lord, for He will validate your life in the clear light of day; **keep company** with the Word of God (Ps. 37:4a,6,5a); for He shall bring you to a place of understanding just how sweet skillful and godly Wisdom can be for your life; and when you make this discovery, then you shall realize there is a future and a reward, and your hope and expectation shall not be **cut off** (Prov. 24:14).
- 31.) However, don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener if you are letting the Word go in one ear and out the other; instead, act on what you hear! (James 1:22). Be single-minded in your pursuit of God and His Word; **bank** His promises in the vault of your heart so you won't sin against Him; blessed is the Lord, God (Ps. 119:9-12a), for He will remove the way of falsehood and unfaithfulness from you (Ps. 119:29); and He will give you your heart's desires, as you trust in my Beloved and do good; you will **dwell** safely within His promises, and watch as your soul prospers; so consider it a basic life necessity to be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act; commit everything to the Lord; open up before God, keep nothing back from Him; you can trust Him, He will do whatever needs to be done, for He loves you and wants to help you (Ps. 37:4b,5,7), so you do not err and **wander** from the way of life (Prov. 14:22).

- 32.) How amazing it is to listen, as God shares His heart: 'My beautiful one, you shall be as a crown of glory and honor in My hand, as a royal diadem exceedingly beautiful in the hand of your God (Isa. 62:3); My unfailing **love** rests upon you (Ps. 33:22); to whom will you liken Me and make Me equal and **compare** Me, that we may be alike' (Isa. 46:5). We must separate ourselves from those who do wrong; and not fret or be envious of their ways (Ps. 37:1); for God has chosen us to be His treasured possession (Deut. 14:2); that we may sing **for joy** and be glad all our days; for He satisfies us with His mercy and lovingkindness (Ps. 90:14).
- 33.) God has **set** you apart, and will restore you and bestow His blessing upon you this day (Ex. 32:29), for the Lord has removed the judgments that were served against you; He will **disperse** the armies of your enemy (Zeph. 3:15a); for salvation and power have been established in your life; the Kingdom of God, and the authority of His Messiah are working in your behalf; for the Accuser has been hurled down, the one who has accused you day and night before your God (Rev. 12:10); for you have chosen to serve and obey the Father's order, to believe in and set your faith and trust firmly in His Christ (1 John 3:23); because you decided to stop being **soft** and lackadaisical, and invite the Son of God to come and be the center of your life; yes, you chose to stop dwelling in denial, doubt and disbelief to allow the King of Israel to take the seat of honor, so He can reign from the throne room of your heart; and when you truly begin to realize, God Himself sent His **beautiful**, beloved Son to be your Lord and Savior, you will discover there is nothing to fear from evil ever again (Zeph. 3:15b).

- 34.) How awe inspiring to hear God's counsel: because you turned about penitent, and your heart was set to know and to **search out** and to seek true wisdom, and the reason of things; to know that wickedness is folly and that foolishness is madness (Eccl. 7:25); I will teach you so you will trust in the Lord; pay attention and listen, apply your heart to God's instructions; for it is pleasing to Him when you keep them in your heart and have them ready on your lips (Prov. 22:17-19); for that which is far off, and that which is deep is very deep indeed; who can discover true wisdom without the fear of God (Eccl. 7:24); for the reverent fear and worship of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and skill; and all who do the will of God desire good understanding, wisdom and meaning (Ps. 111:10).
- 35.) Keep in mind everything I tell you, obey God's commands and don't neglect His instructions; **bind** them continually upon your heart, and when you go they shall lead you; when you sleep, they shall protect you; when you awake, they shall advise you; for God's commands are a lamp, and the whole of His teaching is light; surely, His corrective discipline is the way of life (Prov. 6:20-23); many will die without the fear of God; **pierced** with many wounds (Ezek. 28:8); yes, they have wandered from the faith and **pierced** themselves with many griefs (1 Tim. 6:10); they have imagined themselves to be as wise as a god; with their wisdom and understanding they have amassed great wealth, and think no secret is hidden from them; yet, they will go down to the pit, for they are merely flesh, made of earth; and not a god in the hand of Him Who will see their destruction **come to pass** (Ezek. 28:3-8).

- 36.) Consider these questions asked by God: **Should the created thing say to the One Who formed it, He did not make me; can the pot ever say of the Potter, He knows nothing, how could He understand** (Isa. 29:16); Who have they insulted and blasphemed; against Whom have they raised their voice and haughtily lifted their eyes; Whom have they been defying and ridiculing – the Most **Excellent** One, the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 37:23); they have no idea how great God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge truly are; they don’t realize how impossible it is for them to understand His decisions and His ways; for who can know the Lord’s thoughts; who knows enough to be His counselor or His guide; and who has given Him so much that He would need to pay them back; for everything comes from God alone; everything lives by His power, and is meant for His **glory** (Rom. 11:33).
- 37.) It is God Who formed the light and created darkness; He makes peace and creates evil; it is the Lord Who does all these things (Isa. 45:7), removing from His presence the sins of rebellion, for they forget and neglect His **orders** and ordinances and instructions; all this they have done, including the shedding of innocent blood (2 Kings 24:3); they are a far cry from fair dealing, and they’re not even close to right living (Isa. 59:9a); their sins are as Sodom’s were – pride and gluttony and laziness; they are haughty and do detestable things before the Lord (Ezek. 16:49); they **long for** light, but sink into darkness (Isa. 59:9b); because they have given themselves over to impurity and indulge in unnatural and sensual perversity – they are sentenced to suffer just as Sodom and Gomorrah, which was laid out in plain sight as an exhibit of **perpetual** punishment to warn of everlasting fire (Jude 7).

- 38.) It is through the Word of God that we receive revelation from Holy Spirit, so we can know and understand God and His ways; so we can recognize Truth, for when God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah turning them into heaps of ashes, they became an example for all the ungodly to look back upon and fear; but, at the same time, a glimmer of future Hope was seen; for God rescued Lot from the brimstone and fire giving us ample reason to trust He will also rescue you and me from the temptations that surround us (2 Peter 2:6-9); this is why it is so important for us **to take counsel** from the Word of God, for we need to know and acknowledge the Lord is a faithful God; we also must realize the wrong desires that come into our lives are not anything new or different; many others have faced the exact same problems, but we can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that we can't stand up against it; for He has promised this and will do what He says; He will also provide a way out so we can bear up patiently against it (1 Cor. 10:13); for the Lord blesses those who He has made upright by giving them right standing with God; and as with a shield, my Beloved **surrounds** them with goodwill, pleasure and favor (Ps. 5:12).
- 39.) Unfortunately, in this world we don't readily recognize God's goodness; many don't understand the importance of their own spiritual life; they don't know their body would be dead without their spiritual being (James 2:26); they don't realize even with Christ living in our hearts, our bodies are dead because of sin, but our spiritual beings have been made alive to God because of the Lord's righteousness (Rom. 8:10); when Jesus places a person in an upright position with God, it challenges us because this stance is an entirely unique one for a person to take in this dark and gloomy world; think about it, how many times have you encountered a situation and began to think something fishy was going on; there wasn't the actual odor of a stinky fish in the air, but you sure knew the smell of something bad was floating around; well, the only way to recognize the **fragrance** of Love around us is to start doing what God has called us to do; and God has called us to join in companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9b).

- 40.) By participating with the Word of God, that is by reading the Word of God we learn God is faithful; our hope and faith and trust in God is established upon our Lord and Savior; upon Jesus Christ, Who teaches us through the Word of God that His Father is reliable, trustworthy, ever true to His promises; so we can know beyond the shadow doubt casts that God can be totally depended on (1 Cor. 1:9); Jesus wants us to know, to truly understand how great the goodness God has stored up for you, and for everyone who learns to fear Him; God desires to lavish His goodness on us, but we must first come to Him and seek His protection; because this is when He will **bestow** His blessings upon us before the watching world, when we choose to lay down our self-reliance; God does this so we can enter into His presence hidden and sheltered, safe from those who want to conspire against us; when we seek God's protection we are sheltered in His presence, far away from any accusing tongue (Ps. 31:19).
- 41.) The Word of God gives us spiritual insight and understanding so we can **perceive** and discern the ways of God; so we can be humbled by revelations such as this one: our Lord and God, Christ Jesus, snatched us from the fire, because He had compassion for us, because our garment was so soiled; when I realized what Jesus had to endure to accomplish this for me I was awe struck; the fact that our Savior wants to keep us from stumbling or slipping or falling so He can present us unblemished before the presence of God's glory is truly awe inspiring (Jude 23).

- 42.) The Word of God fills me not only with understanding of God, but also with amazement as I learn such things as, the Angel of God's Presence, the Lord Jesus, saved us in His **love**; so we could know that in all our **distress**, Father God is also distressed; and in His mercy redeemed us; the One I love lifts us up and carries us through all our days; but those who rebel against my Beloved will discover God has become their enemy, and will fight against them; because they have **grieved** His Holy Spirit (Isa. 63:9); for they have refused to love the truth and be saved; therefore, they refuse to believe a day is coming when a man will rise to do the work of Satan; he will come with great power, and he will do all kinds of false miracles, signs and wonders; he will use every kind of evil to fool those who are lost; the Lord will send something powerful against them that will lead them away from the truth and cause them to believe a lie; they will all be condemned because they did not believe God's Word and because they enjoy doing evil (2 Thess. 2:9-12).
- 43.) Sadly, many are ruled and controlled by their sinful selves; but we must learn not to live our lives as debtors to our old sinful nature by satisfying the desires of our flesh; for those who continue to follow the sensual urges of their body are lost and will perish; but, those who accept Holy Spirit's help, and decide to utilize His power **to stop** doing the wrong things that a body craves, they will live; for all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Rom. 8:12-14); and Truth reveals anyone and everyone can come to be known as a son of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26a); however, for some this will never happen since so many are trusting their own reasoning instead of appropriating the Truth of God into their lives; they may acknowledge our own flesh and heart will fail us; but, they refuse to concede the One I love will always **remain** our Rock and the firm Strength of our hearts; they refuse to confess that through faith, God's Word becomes our vital portion forever (Ps. 73:26).

44.) If only they would come back to their senses as they ought, and stop sinning; to their shame, these same ones are ignorant of God; I too was once misled (1 Cor. 15:33-34); however, when I decided to make the Lord my first and only choice, I soon came to **understand** that I am His choice too (Ps. 16:5), because He delights in me (Isa. 62:4); so God gave to me His Word and His promise, because the Lord made me an heir to all of the promises of the Father (Ps. 16:6), when I was baptized into a spiritual union with Christ Jesus, and became enveloped by the One I love (Gal. 3:26b); that is, I became permanently clothed with God's promise and His oath, and these two are unchangeable things; God guarantees His promise of salvation by giving me His Word to put on, which means I am now wearing God's rock-solid guarantee (Heb. 17a), because God can't break His word; and because God's word cannot change, His promise is likewise unchangeable (Heb. 6:17-18a).

45.) *(Yes, the Word of God never ceases to amaze me because I know Truth is being revealed, and such revelations were at one time unimaginable to me; for instance, that God gave me His oath because He esteems me, He cherishes me, He values me);* God gives us His oath as a witness to this certainty: His Word is Truth; and those who flee to Him, to the One I love, for refuge - can receive mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to hold on to this hope God has set before us; for this hope of life eternal is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls because it leads us through the veil into God's presence, because of Jesus; our Lord and Savior entered in advance of us and opened the way (Heb. 18b-20); God has given us His Word to dwell in, so any and all obstacles in our lives can be overcome as we learn to do as Jesus did - act in full agreement with God's orders (John 14:31); it is the Word of God Who opens the way so we can inherit all things (Rev. 21:7); for Truth ascends at the end of the ages, when sin is at its height among the people, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power; he will become very strong, but not by his own power; he will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does; he will destroy powerful leaders and **devastate** God's people; he will be a master of deception and will become very arrogant; he will destroy many without warning; he will even take on the Prince of Princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power (Dan. 8:23).

46.) I don't want this to be my end, overthrown in a moment without a hand turned to help me (Lam. 4:6); so I have chosen to be very careful **to love** the Lord my God (Josh. 23:11); and I have found that like Mary, who broke open her alabaster box, the Word of God has broken the hardness of my heart so my love can be poured out to overflowing on my Beloved, along with all my worship and praise and thanksgiving (Luke 7:37-38).

47.) My Beloved has sent to me the Spirit of Truth, Who guides me into all the Truth; with Him there is no confusion, for He always gives honor to and glorifies the Lord; He won't draw attention to Himself; rather, He takes from my Beloved, drawing upon the Word of God, helping me to understand and make sense out of what is going to happen in the future (John 16:13-15), concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our being **gathered together** to Him (2 Thess. 2:1), Who paid the **redemption-price**; the One Who **set up** God's standard; the One who raised high God's signal banner to the nations (Isa. 49:22), so we could come to His light; for the day is approaching when the Lord will look about Him, and **see** all who have assembled and come to Him; His heart shall thrill and tremble with happiness at the glorious deliverance, and be enlarged with joy; the Lord shall **see** and be radiant for the abundant wealth, a sea of people shall be turned to Him; unto Him shall the nations come with the treasures God desires - people and kings will come to the **brightness** of Christ's rising (Isa. 60:3-5); singing the song of Moses and the son of the Lamb; Mighty and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God the Omnipotent! Righteous and true are Your ways, O Sovereign King of the nations; who shall not reverence and glorify Your name, O Lord; for You only are holy; all the nations shall come and pay homage and adoration to the One I love, for His just judgments have been made known and displayed (Rev. 15:3-4).

- 48.) Known also as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Lord protects His people with His staff; leading His flock, His special possessions; so they can **graze** in fertile pastures (Micah 7:14), for these are the ones who have found Wisdom, because they found life and obtained grace from the Lord (Ps. 8:35); from Christ Jesus, Who opened the sanctuary of the testimony in heaven (Rev. 15:5), so we could enter into the Most Holy Place without fear; we are sprinkled with the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19&22), for we not only lifted up our heads, we made the decision to keep our heads lifted up, for the King of Glory to come in; and Who is this King of Glory, the Lord mighty in battle (Ps. 24:7); Who split open the veil of the sanctuary so we could have fellowship with God and receive hope and healing and grace and revelation and power and truth and reward (Heb. 10:20); Who searches for hearts that are humbled, broken down with sorrow for their guilt and sin (Ps. 51:17); so He can remove the veil that covers our heart so we can see and reflect the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18).
- 49.) Yes, God can remove the veil that covers our heart (2 Cor. 3:18) so our eyes can **see** the King in His **beauty** (Isa. 33:17); this is why I pray those who truly want to know, Who this King of Glory is (Ps. 24:10a), will venture further and delve deeper into the Word of God (Ps. 70:4a); so discoveries about Truth can be made, and Revelation can become unveiled before their **eyes**; I pray they come to know and understand and love the Lord's salvation, and find themselves joining with the voices of those who are repeatedly shouting, "God is great" (Ps. 70:5); because they know the One I love has chosen them to be His own; to make them as princes who have power with God so they can prevail, because they are the Lord's treasured possessions (Ps. 135:3); I pray they are filled with **joy** and gladness in Him (Ps. 70:4b); praising my Beloved because He is so very good; singing praises to the name of Jesus, simply because it is so very pleasant (Ps. 135:4); for they have discovered what **eye** has seen or what ear has heard or what heart could possibly know or perceive what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:9); those who ask, Who is this King of glory, Who is the Lord of Hosts (Ps. 24:7)?

50.) Multitudes have searched the Word of God to find they have been traveling a path that leads directly to the heart of God; a path that reveals the true **beauty** of the One who covers us with saving faith (Eph. 6:16); the One Who through His physical death, brings us holy and blameless into God's presence (Col. 1:22), into His love, to be God's own in Him, Christ Jesus, Who was chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4); that we too may have dove's eyes (SS 1:15) and rejoice and glory in our God, in His love and perfection (Rom. 5:11); for this happens as our faulty thoughts and imaginings are replaced by Truth; and this is Truth, throughout the eras of time God has been working out His plan and purpose to bring us near (Isa. 48:15); God had Moses clasp that veil of blue and crimson and purple onto the Tent of Meeting so He could dwell among His people (Ex. 27:21); but, it was the King of Glory Who tore that curtain down so we could enter into the Holiest Ground, the heart of God (Heb. 6:19); Jesus took down that curtain of separation so we could receive forgiveness and grace and freedom; so we could receive Holy Spirit, and be in fellowship with our God (1 John 2:2).

51.) Though our sins of crimson prevented us from truly knowing the Fear of the Lord; and though our guilt appears as an ugly glaring scarlet, this does not deter the King in all His glory from coming into (Ps.24:9) any and all hearts bruised purple and blue by sorrow, so the fresh Anointing of God's Holy Spirit can be received; for God sends His Holy Spirit to live permanently within us, so His anointing can teach us concerning Truth; and what the Spirit teaches is true and is no falsehood, for He teaches everything we need to know about being and remaining in fellowship with Christ Jesus (1 John 2:27), Who with the Father blesses us with grace, mercy and peace as we are learning to live in truth and **love** (2John 3).

- 52.) Holy Spirit helps us to understand what it means to fear the Lord, as we gain knowledge of God; for it is the Lord Who grants us Wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He grants a treasure of common sense and godly Wisdom to those He sets upright by giving us right standing with God; and He will be to those who desire to walk with integrity as a Shield; for He guards the just and protects those who are faithful to Him; making it possible for you and for me to understand righteousness, justice and fairness and every good path that we should follow; a cascade of the miraculous occurs when Wisdom gains entrance into a heart; for the knowledge of God becomes quite **pleasant**, filling the soul with joy; while making a way for discretion to watch over us, and understanding to keep us safe because of the wise choices being made; giving Wisdom a way and means to save us from the way of evil and evil people, from those who speak perverse things with words twisted by lies (Prov. 2:5-12).
- 53.) My Beloved will **indeed** give to us what is good; because righteousness goes before Him, and prepares the way for His steps (Ps. 85:12-13); yet, the Lord **speaks** to us as His children, so our hearts should be open (2 Cor. 6:13) even though there are things in the Word of God that are difficult to understand; and unfortunately, irresponsible people twist and misconstrue the Lord's meaning to their own destruction; however, by knowing this beforehand, it becomes much more apparent for the need to arm ourselves with Truth; so we can be on guard and not lose our footing or be swept off our feet by the error of loose-talking people; rather, we should increase our recognition and knowledge and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we grow in grace (2 Peter 3:16-18).

- 54.) For a God-shaped life is as a **flourishing** tree (Prov. 11:28) planted by streams of water, yielding its fruit in season; its leaf does not wither; and whatever we do shall prosper (Ps. 1:3); because the Lord will **break down** every altar we have built in our hearts; He will destroy the need and desire for those idolatrous god-images we worshiped when our hearts were divided, deceitful and fickle; when we didn't bother with the King of Glory because we had no fear of the Lord; we were guilty of all this and should have been punished (Hosea 10:2-3); but unlike Esau who also sold his own birthright by becoming a profane godless person; we have been given the opportunity to **repair** what we have done by repentance; we have available to us what Esau did not, the opportunity to regain title to our inheritance of blessing (Heb. 12:16-17).
- 55.) The One I love, Christ Jesus, is faithful, and He will strengthen us and set us on a **firm** foundation of truth so He can guard us from the evil one (2 Thess. 3:3); who taught us to shoot lies from our tongues like poisoned arrows; to speak peaceably with others with our mouths, while in our heart we were laying snares and schemes to ambush them; so the Lord will melt us down by the process of affliction to **remove** all this dross, and so He tests us; for what else can He do with His people (Jer. 9:7-9).

56.) The One I love makes us as **hard** and as **fragrant** and as **durable** as a cypress **tree**; by bringing to us the Gospel of peace with God, so He can offer us up as a fragrant sacrifice to His Father; making us pure and pleasing to God by Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:15); for in these last days perilous times of great stress and trouble have set in, times that are hard to deal with and hard to bear (2 Tim. 3:1); but we can turn and follow hard after the One Who has been and continues to be our Help; we can cling closely to and rejoice in the shadow of the wings of Him, Who upholds us with His right hand (Ps. 63:7); making us flourish as palm trees, making us grow strong as cedar trees; for the Lord, Jesus Christ, has transplanted us into God's own garden, so we can dwell as sons in the house of God, under His personal care; and we will remain vital and green even in old age still producing fruit and declaring, "The Lord our God is just; He is our Rock and our Shelter; there is nothing but Goodness in Him;" while giving all honor and glory to my Beloved for exhibiting His faithful care for us (Ps. 92: 12-15).