

## CHAPTER TWO

1. I sing this song to Jesus, the **Rose of Sharon** (SS 2:1), Who died for the sins of all, and **rose** again **to make us right** with God, filling us with God's goodness (Rom. 4:25); Yes, as honey in a comb, the Word of God when extracted is sweet to the mind and healing to the body (Prov. 16:24); (*providing us with*) teachings that are faithful, accurate, incorruptible, trustworthy and true (Rev. 21:5); so I sing to the Lord a new song to bless His name; and proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day; for great is my Beloved and **greatly** to be praised; He is to be feared and worshiped above (so-called) gods. For all the gods of the nations are (lifeless) idols, but the One I love made the heavens; honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary (Ps. 96 2,4-6).
2. My Beloved is a High Priest, unlike others for He is holy, blameless, and pure; set apart from sinners and exalted above the heavens; because Christ Jesus sacrificed for our sins once for all, when He offered Himself (Heb. 7:26-27); and this is what God had in mind all along, to crush the Lord with pain, even though He'd never hurt a soul, or said one word that wasn't true; the plan was that Jesus would give Himself as an offering for sin so that He'd see life come from it – life, life and more life; and God's plan will **deeply** prosper through my Beloved; for out of that terrible travail of His soul, Jesus will see that it was worth it and be glad He did it; because, through what He experienced, God's Righteous One, His Servant, will make many "righteous ones," as He Himself carried the burden of our sins (Isa. 53:9-11); and from His lips the sweetness of Wisdom is exhaled; words I keep and treasure deep within, His teachings placed within my heart; for the One I love has laid them out before me to ensure the foundation of my faith is trust in God (Prov. 22:19).

3. God gave to us His Word, tried and well refined and very pure (Ps. 119:140a); Whose face **shines clear and bright**, like the sun in full power at midday (Rev. 1:16), wearing raiment as white as the brilliance of flashing lightning (Luke 9:29); His head and hair white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes flashing as flames of fire; His feet aglow like burnished bronze refined by fire, and His voice the sound of many waters; in His right hand are seven stars, each one a messenger for His churches; and from His mouth comes forth a sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 14-16); for the Word of God is alive and powerful enough to penetrate the deepest parts of our nature; to divide between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow; exposing and analyzing our innermost thoughts and feelings and desires; for nothing in all creation is hidden from our God; everything is laid naked and exposed before His eyes, and to Him alone are we to be accountable (Heb. 4:12-13).
  
4. As a lily among thorns (SS 2:2), the One I love, Christ Jesus, is pure, undefiled and guiltless (1 John 3:3b); yet, a company of evildoers encircled Him, like a pack of dogs they encompassed Him; they pierced His hands and His feet (Ps. 22:16); yes, God sent from heaven and saves us (Ps. 57:4a); sending Jesus to humble Himself in obedience, and die a criminal's death on that cross (Phil. 2:8); God sends His love and His faithfulness (Ps. 57:4); many saw what happened to the Lord, and came to believe He was the Son of God; but there are those who did not see all that occurred to Jesus, and yet they too believe He is God's Son; they are blessed by God (John 20:29), for God calls us His children; right now, we are already God's children; we can't even imagine what it is going to be like later on; but, we do know this – when Jesus comes we will be like Him, as a result of seeing him as He really is (1 John 3:1-2). so may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through (**separate** you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to Himself) (1 Thess. 5:23); because everyone who really believes this, and places their hope in my Beloved (will work with Holy Spirit) to cleanse themselves so they can be pure, just as Jesus is pure (1 John 3:3).

5. Yes, I sing a song to the One I love (Isa. 5:1), let all who seek Him rejoice and be glad in my Beloved; let those who love His salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" (Ps. 40:16); for it is He Who spread out the northern skies over emptiness, and hung the earth upon or over nothing; He holds the waters bound in His clouds, and the cloud is not rent under them; He covers the face of His throne and spreads over it His cloud; He has placed an enclosing limit (the horizon) upon the waters at the boundary between light and darkness; the pillars of the heavens tremble and are astonished at His rebuke; He stills or stirs up the sea by His power, and by His understanding and skill He tames the great sea monsters; by His breath the heavens are garnished; His hand **pierced** the fleeing serpent; yet these are but (a small part of His doings) the outskirts of His ways or the mere fringes of His force, the faintest whisper of His voice! Who dares contemplate or who can understand the thunders and full, magnificent power (Job 26:7-14) of the One Who maintains the cause of the afflicted, and (upholds) justice for the poor; **surely**, the righteous will give thanks to His name; the upright will dwell in His presence (Ps. 140:12-13).
  
6. Yes, I sing this song to Jesus, the Lily of the Valleys (SS 2:1), His **love**, the sweetest fragrance set before our God; for to Him Christ gave His life as a slain offering, a sacrifice so we could walk in Love; and through this fellowship **feel** as the Father, esteeming and delighting in what the Lord has done for us (Eph. 5:2); for my Beloved has made it possible for me and for you to be pure in heart and gracious in our speech, for purity is what God loves; and by the grace of His lips we now have the King for our friend (Prov. 22:11).

7. Yes, we believe Jesus has the power of God; and by His divine power, He gives us everything we need for life, and for living a life that is pleasing to God; we receive all this miraculously through a **personal and intimate relationship** with Jesus, Who calls us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence; the best invitation we will ever receive is from the One Who invites us to draw near to God; it is because of His love and power, His own glory and goodness, that we are given all the wonderful blessings and precious gifts promised us by God; for through them we receive the divine power of Holy Spirit, which we need to help us share in the Lord's divine nature and character; and to escape the world's corruption, which **has been caused** by evil human desires (2 Peter 1:3-4).
  
8. This hope we possess builds for us a stronger and deeper faith in Christ Jesus and love for all God's people; this faith and hope given to us by God, will continue to work its way down into the depths of our heart; inching down little by little as we come closer and closer to God; as our belief and trust in God grows, and in what He has laid up for us in heaven; this hope was given to us when we first heard the truth of God's love for us in the Gospel of Christ Jesus; the Good News of peace and grace and victory, which has been going out all over the world; this same Good News that brings blessings and bears **fruit** everywhere by changing lives (Col. 1:3-6).

9. Yes, once I was in darkness, but now I am light in the Lord; and Holy Spirit helps me to live as a child of Light, so I can cultivate the **fruit** of that Light, which consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth, and find out what really pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:8-10); through this hope that is justified and proven, when absolute trust and confidence is placed in God's love and power, His wisdom and goodness; life changing results are experienced in the here and now; from the day I first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace my life began to change (Col. 1:3-6); because the grace and goodness of God was revealed to bring salvation to all people and deliverance from sin, so life changing results can be experienced (Titus 2:11).
10. My Beloved says, 'Pay attention and remember these things, for you are My servants; I formed you, and you are not forgotten by Me; I have blotted out like a **thick** cloud your sins, and swept away your transgressions; return to Me, for I have redeemed you' (Isa. 44:21-22); this is why the One I love yielded Himself up for that company of evildoers **to fasten** Him on a tree - to atone for our sins, to save and sanctify us; He laid Himself down voluntarily on that cross (John 10:18) in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose, the plan and eternal design of our God and Father (Gal. 1:3-4).

11. Yes, the Word has become to me a Friend, and His heartfelt counsel is as sweet as oil and perfume rejoicing my heart (Prov. 27:9); and so is **My Beloved among the sons of men** (SS 2:3); He exudes the aroma of **love** and life, a vital fragrance, living and fresh (2 Cor. 2:16); for He rejoices **in** God's inhabited earth and delights in the **sons** of men (Prov. 8:31); the One I love came to dwell within our hearts (Eph. 3:17), yet there arose a division and dissension among the people concerning Him (John 7:43); for they jeered and heckled saying, 'You Who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the **Son** of God,' (Matt. 27:40); they did not know my Beloved was Himself a Highway in the wilderness, and a Way – the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for the redeemed; the wayfaring, yes, the simple ones and fools, shall not err in it and lose their way; but the redeemed shall walk on it; and the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing, and everlasting joy shall be upon our heads; we shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isa. 35:8-10).
12. Many do not know the One I love gives light to those who sit in darkness and in the **shadow** of death, and guides us to the path of peace (Luke 1:79); every good thing we have comes from the Lord, for all His **delight** is in His saints, His glorious ones who are in the land (Ps. 16:3); who live to honor and please Him in all things; bearing fruit in every good work, as we steadily grow in and by the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10); Who searches the mind, and tries the heart and gives to every person according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings (Jer. 17:10); my Beloved is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, at His side I greatly **delight** in knowing that I am His chosen, His elect (Rev. 17:14).

13. I will **continue** to believe God has reconciled me to Himself through the death of Christ, when my Beloved died in His physical body; and as a result, Jesus has brought me into God's own presence; so I hold firmly to this truth, that I am standing before my God without a single fault, holy and blameless (Col. 1:22-23); for God has set me apart for Himself to share in His heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1); and my Beloved turns to me with abundant tender mercies and steadfast love (69:16); for I have been chosen for heaven (Heb. 3:1a); and God's loving-kindness **continues** toward me, because I acknowledge it is the righteousness of Jesus that has **made** me upright and pleasing to my heavenly Father; oh how I **relish** and feast on the abundance of the Lord's goodness, and drink from the river of His pleasures and delights; for with the One I love is the fountain of life; in His light, I see light (Ps. 36:8-10); therefore, I will fix my thoughts on Jesus, for He is the centerpiece of everything I believe (Heb. 3:1b).
14. My Beloved helps me to remain in His love (John 15:10); so I can **taste** and see how great, how wonderful His goodness (Ps. 34:8); for His heart's desire is to see me blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3); Christ Jesus, the Root of Jesse, stands as a banner of hope over me (Isa. 11:10), and through His life I have been saved (Rom. 5:10) for my Beloved is faithful (2 Thess. 3:3a); His hand sustains me; His arm strengthens (Ps. 89:21) and helps me; I shall not fear nor be dismayed; my loving Savior has given me His shield of victory (Ps. 18:35); He has set me on a firm foundation and guards my life from evil (2 Thess. 3:3b); the One I love, Christ Jesus, the foundation upon which my works are built (1 Cor. 3:14); gives life and breath to everything, and satisfies my every need (Acts 17:25); for He is my Source of comfort (2 Cor. 1:3), the One Who refreshes and restores my soul (Lam. 1:16);

15. As I continue to depend only on the Lord, I will draw life and strength from Him, so I not only grow stronger in my understanding of the Truth (Col. 2:7), but in my faith and trust as I listen to the words He speaks, for the One I love takes great delight in me; my Beloved quiets me with His love and rejoices over me with singing (Zeph. 3:17); my inner self thirsts for the Lord Jesus, to behold His face (Ps. 42:1); for I have had a taste of His kindness; so I cried out to the Lover of my soul for nourishment, that I would grow mature and whole in God (1 Peter 2:2-3); and the One I love **brought me to the banqueting house, and placed His banner of love over me** (SS 2:4); how amazingly faithful the Lord my God, who **brought** my life up from the pit and corruption; when my soul was crushing me, the One I love snatched me from death's clutches; so I earnestly and seriously remember the Lord my God; and my prayers come to Him, into His holy sanctuary (Jonah 2:6-7).
16. How sad for those who worship false, useless and worthless idols, they are forsaking their own Source of grace and loving-kindness; for they have turned their backs on all God's mercies; but I offer my heart to the One I love with a voice of thanksgiving; I offer all of me with songs of **joy**-filled praise, and will do that which I have vowed to Him; to love and honor and obey God's Word, for my security, salvation and deliverance comes from the Lord alone (Jonah 2:8-9); I know this because my Beloved's divine presence is **within** me, and He carefully watches over and protects me against the evil one, so the wicked one does not lay hold of me or touch me; for I am born of God and refuse to deliberately and knowingly engage in sin (1 John 5:18); I have chosen to live and conduct my life by God's **standard** of love (Rom. 14:15), not by a human standard where envy and jealousy, anger and rebellion thrive; for conduct such as this is still unspiritual, for it has the nature of the flesh, and is fostered, nurtured and driven by self-centered emotions and desires (1 Cor. 3:3), that reveal a lack of knowledge of **God**; for those who are not loving and unkind do not know God – they don't realize love comes from God – for God is **love** (1 John 4:8).

17. When a person does not **take hold of and lean upon** the Lord (Isa. 27:5), Who is our sure **foundation** (Isa. 33:6), an everlasting **foundation** (Prov. 10:25); for His hand establishes and ever abides with us; His arm also strengthens us (Ps. 89:12); the presence of Holy Spirit will not be found within them, to **comfort** and refresh them with His **fruit**: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; however, those who belong to Christ Jesus nail the passions and desires of their sinful natures to His cross and crucify them there; and **since** we are now living by Holy Spirit's power, let us follow His leading in every part of our lives; so we will not become conceited or provoke one another or be jealous of one another (Gal. 5:22-25); for such people have not become **utterly weak, sick with love** (SS 2:5); they are not **grieved** by the hardness of their heart; a heart that refuses to take correction or instruction; instead, they have chosen to make their faces harder than a rock, refusing to repent and turn to God (Jer. 5:3).
18. If only the hard of heart would reach out to the Lord, for then they would come to know for themselves through experience, the **love** of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge without experience (Eph. 3:1); how grateful I am to my God, because I have become sick with love (SS 2:5); I have given my heart, my soul, my life to my Beloved, and to His grace, which has the power to build me up (Acts 20:32); for it is through the authority of God's holy Servant, Jesus, that I can live a peaceful and quiet life in godliness and dignity, a life that pleases my Beloved Savior, Whose desire is for everyone to be saved and to understand the truth (1 Tim. 2:2-3); and to delight in Him (Isa. 61:10a) as I do, for He has **put beautiful garments** on me (Isa. 52:1), **garments** of salvation (Isa. 61:10).

19. The One I love has clothed me **with** garments of salvation; He has arrayed me in a robe of righteousness (Isa. 61:10b); so I can be strong in the Lord my God, for this union we share empowers me to draw strength from His (Eph. 6:10) faithful love and mercy; in His embrace (Ps. 85:10a) I rest in safety; between His shoulders I make my dwelling (Deut. 33:12a), and His kiss of peace and righteousness (Ps. 85:10b) covers me all the day long (Deut. 33:12b); giving me right standing with God, so His grace and kindness can reign within my life (Rom. 5:21).

20. The One I love makes it possible for me to bear any trouble, because His strength and power is made perfect and is most effective in my weakness; the grace of my Lord, Jesus, gives me sufficient strength to come against any danger I may face (2 Cor. 12:9); for every detail of my body and soul – even the hairs on my **head** – are in His care (Luke 21:18); therefore, I will not perish, for I am standing **firm** (Luke 21:19) because my Beloved has set me apart for Himself, and blessed me with an inheritance (Eph. 1:11); He delights in my way, for it is the Lord who makes my steps **firm**; and though I stumble, I will not fall, for the One I love upholds me with His hand (Ps. 37:23-24); I am wholly **embraced** by the grace and righteousness of Christ Jesus, Who has invited me into life eternal (Rom. 5:21); this knowledge causes me to fall on my knees (Ezek. 9:5a), and delight greatly in the Lord my God (Isa. 61:10).

21. I stretch out my hands to the One (Ezek. 9:5b), Who is fully aware of the afflictions of my heart (1 King 8:38); and my soul rejoices in Him (Isa. 61:10); for my Beloved has made atonement for all that I have done (Ezek. 16:63); and the life I am now living is not "mine," for Christ Jesus lives within me; in this earthly body I now live by faith in the Son of God; and this life I have is a result of my **complete** trust in and reliance on and adherence to the Lord, Who gave Himself up for me because He loves me (Gal. 20-21); my Beloved calls me by name (2 Chron. 7:14a); how humbled I am, and thoroughly repentant; and my sacrifice to the One I love is a broken and contrite heart, a spirit broken down with sorrow; **afflicted** and distressed because of all my sins (Ps. 51:17); my heart is captivated by the Lord Jesus, for my Beloved turned to me and revoked His sentence from my life to bless me; the One I love is gracious and merciful to me, slow to anger, abounding in loving-kindness (Joel 2:13); He has sprinkled me with clean water; Jesus has cleansed me from all my impurities and from all my idols; the One I love has given me a new heart and put a new spirit within me (Ezek. 36:25-26a).

22. The One I love has given to me **peace** with God (Rom. 5:21); Who has forgotten my former troubles, they are hidden from His eyes (Isa. 65:16); because I am among the ransomed of the Lord, crowned with everlasting joy (Isa. 35:10a); that makes sighing and sorrow flee away, so gladness and joy can overtake me (Isa. 35:10b); and I can intercede for others to humble themselves and pray, to seek the face of my Beloved, and turn from their wicked ways (2 Chron. 7:14); so the news concerning the love and power and faithfulness of my Beloved would spread everywhere, and great crowds would come to Him and be healed by Him (Luke 5:15); for the Lord my God will remove from them their heart of stone and give to them a heart of flesh; and put His Spirit within them to move them (Ezek. 36:25-27) to respond to God's rebuke; my Beloved will pour out His heart, and make His thoughts known to them (Prov. 1:23); so they will know God's words and His promises, for my Beloved will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; the One I love will pour out His Spirit on our offspring, and His blessing on our descendants; they will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams; one will say, 'I belong to the Lord'; another will call themselves by the name of Jacob; still another will write on their hand, 'The Lord's,' and will take the name Israel (Isa. 44:3-6).
23. The Lord Himself is my chosen and assigned portion, my cup of blessing; the One I love is my wonderful inheritance, my highest joy, He is so very **beautiful**; I bless the Lord and praise Him for He is teaching me well; even at night He puts His wisdom and instructions deep inside my heart (Ps. 16:5-7); yes, my Beloved guides me with His counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny; I **desire** Him more than anything on earth; my health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but the Lord my God remains the strength of my heart; for Jesus is mine forever (Ps. 73:24-26).

24. How I rejoice in the **strength** of my Beloved, and joy in the victories He gives me; granting me my heart's desire, for the Lord has welcomed me with rich blessings of goodness that will **stretch on** forever; because I asked life from the Lord my God, and He gave it to me; **awakening** me to the greatness and the glory of His salvation; **opening my eyes** to see, that I have been clothed with the splendor and majesty of the One I love, which makes me exceedingly glad, for Jesus has given me the joy of His presence; and because I depend upon and trust His unfailing **love** and mercy I shall not be moved (Ps. 21:1-7), for I know and remember the One I love is with me always; He is here in my heart, teaching me the right way to live so nothing can defeat me, making my heart and soul so very happy; the One I love fills me with complete happiness just being with Him (Ps. 16:8-11).

25. **How long** will people wallow in ignorance, O Lord; how long will they feed their cynicism; how long **will** they refuse to learn; if only they would repent and give heed to Your reproof (Prov. 1:22-23a); for they too can find themselves as grateful as I am, when their love for Jesus has been aroused and awakened (SS 2:7), by **listening** to the truth of God's **love** and grace and peace (2 John 3); then they too can understand what God has freely given us (1 Cor. 2:12).

26. **Behold**, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the One I love is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation (Isa. 12:2-3); it wasn't until I inclined my ear, and made the decision to submit to God's divine will, that the Lord my God, to Whom I have **come**, revived my soul (Isa. 55:3); the One I love poured out His Spirit in me, and made His words known to me (Prov. 1:23b), all of which I pondered in my heart; so I welcomed and gave heed to the Word of God, and faith **sprang up** within me, as I heard the Good News of God's forgiveness and grace and salvation (Rom. 10:16)

27. The Word of God made it possible for me to see and understand the vast love my heavenly Father has for me; by **raising** my thoughts and my hopes with this discovery, God calls me His child; and Holy Spirit helps me to realize that is exactly what I am, a child of God (1 John 3:1); the Word of God gave me another reason to get right with God, for now I recognize what a critical hour this is; it is high time to wake up from a sleeping state, and be roused to reality, to Truth, to the Word of God; because the day of salvation will soon be here; it is nearer than I could ever imagine or believe; that is why I agreed to drop the works and deeds of darkness, and put on the full armor of Light; so I could learn to live and conduct myself honorably and becomingly for all to see; however, to do this I had to put a **stop** to thinking about and indulging any evil craving or desire or lust that my physical nature stirs; as a result, I became clothed with the presence of the One I love, the Lord Jesus Christ; this happened because I asked Him and continue to ask Him to help me live as I should, pleasing Him not myself or others (Rom. 13:11-13 &15).

28. How horrifying to discover the great harm one does to self by participating in sexual immorality and drunkenness, shamelessness and corruption, rebellion, discord and jealousy (Rom. 13:14); I too once thought, because all things are permissible and lawful, I could do anything I wanted; in actuality, I allowed myself to be victimized by this deception and duped, for such behaviors become an offering made to demons, to evil spiritual powers, and not to God at all; this occurs because it is impossible to drink the Lord's **cup** and the cup of demons, because all things are not good; it is impossible to be a partaker of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons, for there are some things that don't help anyone at all; in fact, they are very detrimental, like certain foods are to the body, such behaviors are poisonous not only to one's character, but more importantly to one's spiritual life (1 Cor. 10:20).

29. Behaviors puffed up with pride, cause people to become enslaved by physical and emotional and psychological cravings and compulsions; conceit causes a soul to be stupefied and woefully ignorant, because pride is inflated by a morbid fondness to engage in words that produce controversy, dispute and strife; as a result, a person will not only fall into temptation, they will be caught up in sin by the foolish and hurtful actions generated by selfish agendas; attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles are being fueled by needs, and driven by wants that plunge many into ruin and destruction; and a very identifiable culprit – the **love** OF money – which stirs injurious desires for fame and fortune and self-reliance; the reason being, the love OF money is a root of all evils; ungodly desires such as these are responsible for leading many astray, simply because time is wastefully spent and not wisely invested in acquiring trust in the One I love.

30. An ensuing natural occurrence is a wandering from faith, which produces a severe lack of awareness concerning what is crucial for well-being: godly contentment; sadly, this will happen because godly contentment can only be found within the realms of faith; when faith is established in Christ, godliness and contentment become united to offer us great and abundant gain; this union of godliness and contentment can lead a soul to realize a deep inner satisfaction through an active pursuit of righteousness; when a heart is pursuing righteousness, miraculous transformations will most definitely be experienced as a loving fear of God and a Christ-**like** image are being cultivated; certainly, a life-change of this magnitude can only occur when the glorious **array** of faith and love and patient, gentleness of attitude and behavior and lifestyle are truly recognized and acknowledged as treasured possessions (1 Tim. 6:6-11).

31. Once I treasured all the things money could buy, but now I count them worthless when compared to possessing the priceless privilege, the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord and Savior (Philp. 3:7-8a); actually, I **desire** to depart and be with my Beloved, for this is far, far better for me; however, the One I love deems it necessary for me to remain in this body (Philp. 1:23-24); therefore, for His sake I have let go or lost most everything, and consider it **rubbish**, for I have gained a deeper and more intimate friendship with my Beloved; and I am clutching tightly to the hope that one day I may be found and known as one with Him, not having any self-achieved righteousness that can be called my own; instead, that I would be in possession of genuine righteousness, which comes through faith in Jesus, the One I love; that I would be the recipient of truly right standing with God, which comes from His saving faith (Philp. 3:8-9).

32. All I want now is to know Christ Jesus; my determined purpose is to become more deeply and intimately acquainted with my Beloved; so I can be better able to perceive and recognize and understand the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly; and that I may in the same way come to know the **mighty** outflowing power that raised the One I love from death; that I can be continually transformed in spirit into the likeness of my Lord sharing His sufferings, even to death itself (Philp. 3:10); for my Beloved made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations (Isa. 52:10a); so all the ends of the earth could witness the salvation of my God (Isa. 52:10); so now, if possible, I pray that I may attain to the spiritual and moral resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead even while in the body (Philp. 3:11).

33. So I listen carefully to hear the words of the Lord my God (Isa. 28:23), Who calls me His beloved (Rom. 9:25), and though I am poor in the eyes of the world, my God has chosen me to be rich in faith, so I can inherit the kingdom He promised to those who love Him (James 2:5); **behold** my Beloved, Whose coming was to do the will of His Father, and to fulfill what was written of Him in the volume of God's Book (Heb. 7:8); for throughout the ages of the Bible, God has laid in Zion a Stone that would make many stumble, a Rock that would make them fall; but those who believe and put their trust in the Lord Jesus, shall not be put to shame or be disgraced (Rom. 9:33); for in a little while, the Coming One will come, and not delay (Heb. 10:37); and those who love, who are begotten of God, will come to know and understand the One I love, my Lord and Savior (1 John 4:7b), took a stand against the dark forces of legalism, tradition and religion and climbed to a place called Golgotha, where they crucified Him (Matt. 27:33-35); my Beloved died on this hill called The Skull among criminals; He laid down His life for me and for all (1 John 3:16) at Calvary, a place of great cruelty and astonishing love; a place where my Beloved prayed, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:33-34); on that cross the One I love released His last breath (Mark 15:37), so God could give to us the Breath of Life (Dan. 5:23); for the Lord is God, He made the world and everything in it; it is Jesus Himself Who gives life and breath to everything, and satisfies every need (Acts. 17:24-25).

34. The renown of my Beloved went forth among the nations (Ezek. 16:14a), though He had no beauty that we should desire Him; He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, acquainted with grief and sickness; like One from Whom people hid their faces, He was despised; His worth was not appreciated, nor was He esteemed; surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows and pains of punishment, yet He was considered stricken, smitten and afflicted by God; He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement needful to obtain our peace and well-being was upon Him, and with the stripes that wounded Him we are healed and made whole (Isa. 53:2-5); such love springs only from the Lord my God (1 John 4:7a); a Son Who was made perfect forever (Heb. 7:28); for my Beloved learned obedience from what He **endured** and suffered (Heb. 5:8), and once made perfect the Lord, Jesus, became the Source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him (Heb. 5:9); who honor and esteem Him as I do, knowing His mighty power to save is with me because He is in me; how awesome to know, the One I love takes great delight in me, and quiets me **with** His love (Zeph. 3:17).

35. Surely, the arm of my Beloved is not too short or too weak to save, nor is His ear too dull to hear the cries of the people; it is iniquity that separates us from our God (Isa. 59:1-2); like the rich who believe their wealth and self-reliance is their strong city; many put their faith and trust in themselves and their own thoughts and beliefs; for instance, many imagine like money, the foreign gods they worship will be for them a high **wall** of safety and protection (Prov. 18:11); they are people without sense; foolish for there is no discernment in them; if only they were wise and would understand this, so they would know what their end will be; for their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede; prayers to their gods are valueless; many act as those of Sodom and Gomorrah; their deeds are bitter with poison (Deut. 32:28-32).

36. Why are more people not **looking** to the Lord (Isa. 30:18); for surely, God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, **whether** it is good or evil (Eccl. 12:14); for this reason they do not know my Beloved is longing to be gracious to them (Isa. 30:18b); earnestly waiting for an **opening** of any kind, when a change of heart or mind or attitude should occur; the Lord, Christ Jesus, stands waiting for the door of our hearts to open to Him; can you sense His presence, or feel His gentle touch; do you desire to hear His voice, or listen to His counsel, to invite Him to come in (Rev. 3:20); so Holy Spirit can direct your heart into understanding and **showing** the love of God, and into the patient endurance that comes from Jesus (2 Thess. 3:5); for God closely watches over us, and carefully weighs everything we do and every path we take; those who choose to follow the dictates of this world, by their own sins they will be held captive; their own transgressions are like ropes that catch and hold them; they will die because they refuse to listen to the truth; yes, they will perish for lack of discipline, self-control and instruction; they go astray and become lost because their decisions are so very foolish (Prov. 5:21).
37. The voice of the Lord calls to everyone (Micah 6:9b), 'Whoever is thirsty, let them come to Me and drink;' and for those who come to the Lord Jesus, who trust in and rely on Him, they will be given Holy Spirit; and **from** their innermost being streams of living water shall flow (John 7:36-38); for it is sound wisdom they will hear, so the fear of the Lord will be learned; they will be told what is good (Micah 6:8a-9); for the One I love confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them; it is for the sake of His name, that Jesus forgives our iniquity, though it is great; therefore, my eyes will ever be on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the **snare** (Ps. 25:11,14-15); and reveal what He requires of me - to do what is right and just, **to love** mercy and kindness, and to humble myself so I can walk humbly with my God (Micah 6:8-9a).

38. If only the nations would come, and return to the Lord; yes, He allows us to be hurt, yet He will heal us; and though He has injured us, He will bind up our wounds; the Lord waits to restore us, so we can live in His presence; oh, that everyone would come to know the Lord, so they could live in His kindness; that they would press on to learn about the Lord, for He will **respond** as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring (Hosea 6:1-3); the Lord will respond to correct and discipline and admonish us (Deut. 4:36); the One I love will respond so we can be strengthened and encouraged and comforted by the God of love and the Author and Promoter of peace, for His desire is to be with us (2 Cor. 13:11).

39. My Beloved spoke, and said unto me (SS 2:10a), I tell you if you believe and rely on Me, you will see the glory of God (John 11:40); however, inheriting this **promise** depends entirely on faith; because God's blessings are given to us by faith, as a free gift; we are certain to receive them if we share the faith of Abraham (Rom. 4:16); because those who belong to Christ are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal.3:29); and this is what He promised us – eternal life (1 John 2:25); however, those who pay regard to false, useless and worthless idols forsake their own [Source of] mercy and loving-kindness; as for me, I will sacrifice to my Beloved with the voice of thanksgiving; I will make good that which I have promised; because salvation and deliverance belong to the Lord! (Jonah 2:8-9).

40. The One I love called to me, 'Rise up, My love (SS 2:10b), come out to be among those who practice doing good, for they shall partake in the resurrection of new life,' (John 5:29); do you consider it incredible that God **raises** the dead (Acts 26:8); well consider, if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile, for we would remain in our sins (1 Cor. 15:13-14); My Beloved died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous, the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty, to bring God's Word and His promise to me and to you; in His human body Jesus was put to death, but He was made alive in the Spirit (1 Pet. 3:18).
41. My eternal praise and thanksgiving shall be offered to the Lord my God, Who opens His hand to satisfy every living thing with favor; the One I love heard the truth and sincerity in my response, and He saved me; yes, my Beloved will preserve those who **love** Him, but the wicked He will destroy (Ps. 145:16, 19&20); for everyone who continues living according to the dictates of their flesh, will surely die; but, when God lives and breathes in us, we are delivered because He gives life to our bodies that die; therefore, we must stop doing the wrong things we do with our body, so we can have true life (Rom. 8:11-17); thankfully, I heard the plea of my Savior, and like a dead man I came to the Lord my God, my hands and feet bound in grave clothes; my face wrapped (John 11:43a) in the darkness that had blinded my eyes (1 John 2:11); for the god of this world had blinded my mind, preventing me from discerning Truth, preventing me from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ; preventing me from understanding, the One I love is the Image and Likeness of God (2 Cor. 4:4); my Beloved called me by name, and loosed me from death's burial wrappings (John 11:43b) so I could work with the Truth-giving Spirit of God (John 16:13a), and be freed from the foolishness that had my heart bound up (Prov. 22:15); for the Spirit of Truth guides me into all Truth; He tells me whatever He hears from the Father (John 16:13b); Holy Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10), so that no one may deceive me in any way (2 Thess. 2:3).

42. The deeds of my Beloved have been shown to His servants, His splendor to our children; the **beauty** and delightfulness of the Lord our God rests upon us, to establish and make our efforts successful (Ps. 90:16-17); the One I love has put a hedge around us and our households and everything we have (Job 1:10); my Beloved blesses the righteous, and surrounds us with favor as with a shield (Ps. 5:12); for it is through our faith that we are shielded by God's power until the coming of His salvation; and in His mighty power, God will make sure that you and I get there safely to receive it because we are trusting Him; It is ready to be revealed in these last days, and will be ours for all to see; so be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while (1 Peter 1:5-6).

43. If being a Christian is of value to us only now in this life, we are the most miserable creatures, and should be pitied more than anyone else (1 Cor. 15:19); however, for Zion's sake, like Isaiah, I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until her imputed righteousness and vindication go forth as **brightness**, and her salvation radiates as does a burning torch (Isa 62:1); because the fact is, Christ did actually rise from the dead, and has become the first of the multitudes who will come back to life again someday (1 Cor. 15:20); yes, God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, and caused Him to be seen (Act 10:40); He also commanded those witnesses, whom He had already chosen, to preach and to testify that Jesus is the One Whom God appointed as Judge of the living and the dead (Acts 10:40-42); God will raise us from the dead by His power, just as He raised my Beloved from the dead (1 Cor. 6:14).

44. I heard Holy Spirit call to me, 'Rise up, My love, My fair one, and come away (SS 2:10c); for once you were darkness, but now you are a child of Light (Eph. 5:8); arise from the depression and sorrow in which your circumstances have kept you – rise to new life; with eyes wide open so you can turn from darkness to light; turn from the power of Satan to God with your face lifted high; turn with your ears opened to know and understand so you may receive forgiveness and release from your sins; turn with an open heart ready to embrace Truth, so you may be among those who are consecrated and purified by faith in My Beloved, Christ Jesus,' (Acts 26:18); I turned to God, and the Sovereign Lord dealt well with me for His name's sake; it was out of the goodness of His love that He delivered me (Ps. 109:21); So **come**, join me let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker (Ps 95:6-7).

45. How amazing to hear the One I love say, 'Rise up, My beautiful one, for you too will shine, and be radiant with My glory (Isa. 60:a); because a Light for revelation has come for you **to see** My Salvation (Luke 2:30,32), and My glory shall rise upon you (Isa. 60:1b); and you will come to know and experience the tender mercy and loving-kindness of the Father (Luke 1:78a), Who sent Me as Light into the world, and all who put their trust in Me will no longer remain in darkness (John 12:46); so arise My darling; come out from among the unbelievers; separate yourself from them (2 Cor. 6:17a); for this Light from on high has dawned upon you, to direct and guide your feet in a straight line into the way of peace (Luke 1:78b-79); where you can learn to walk as a child of Light (Eph. 5:8), to please and gratify God more and more abundantly (1 Thess. 4:1); for the fruit of the Light will be present in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart and trueness of life,' (Eph. 5:9).

46. Though many do not acknowledge the One I love (Isa. 45:4), the time for being ignorant of the true God and having no knowledge of His will (1 Thess. 4:5) is past; for now God can be made known and fully disclosed and made real to us through the Lord, Christ Jesus, Who annulled death and made it of no effect; for my Beloved brought life and immortality to light through the Good News of the Gospel (2 Tim. 1:10); Jesus is the Light of the World; and those who follow Him will never walk in darkness (John 8:12a), where webs of deception serve as clothing, and people are covered by their works of iniquity (Isa. 59:6); we have been given the Light of Life (John 8:12b), so we can enter into the Rock of our salvation (Ps. 95:1), and **hide** ourselves from before the terror of the Lord (Isa. 2:10) Who is the true God; the living God, the eternal King (Jer. 10:10).

47. Be patient and bear with Me a little longer my darling, and I will give you many illustrations of the righteousness of our Creator; for I bring you nothing but the truth about my Maker, Who is mighty; and though He is very powerful, He despises no one nor regards anything as trivial; yes, God is mighty in power, but He is also perfect in His understanding; He watches over those who live right, and honors them by placing them upon eternal, kingly thrones, and they are exalted; however, He will not reward the wicked with His blessings; instead, He gives them their full share of punishment; and when troubles come upon them, and they are bound in fetters of adversity, and held by cords of affliction, He will show them the true character of their deeds and their transgressions, that they have acted arrogantly with presumption and self-sufficiency; yes, God will use their trouble to point out to them the reason, to reveal what they have done that is wrong, and how they behaved proudly; and after He has their attention, He will open their ears to His instruction and discipline, and command they turn from evil; if they obey and choose to serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasantness and joy; if they refuse, they shall **perish**, and they shall die as fools because of their lack of good sense (Job 36:2-12).

48. So hear and pay attention to the Word of God, do not be proud and arrogant (Jer. 13:15); for the teachings of the Lord will fall upon you like the gentle **rain** and dew; let His words settle upon you like a mist covering the ground; let His truth penetrate and cleanse you like showers upon the tender grass; let His wisdom nourish and **grow** you like the rainfalls on the garden; for God's Holy Spirit proclaims the greatness of the name of Jesus, how glorious our God is; He is the Rock; His deeds are perfect; everything He does is just and fair; my Beloved is a faithful God, without sin, for He can do no wrong; but many have acted corruptly toward Him, for they are smeared with sin; how can they be children of God when they act so perversely; refusing to **come** and worship the One Who created them and made them strong; and that is their blemish – stubbornness – these foolish and senseless people (Deut. 3:1-6).

49. Yes, foolish and senseless people (Deut. 3:6) protest and complain because of their hurt, which is a result of their own sins – sins that are so **glaring** and innumerable (Jer. 30:15); if only they would **consider** giving glory to the Lord their God before it is too late; if only they would acknowledge the Lord before He brings the unrelenting darkness upon governments and kingdoms; when they look for light; they will find only terribly thick darkness and gloom (Jer. 13:15-16); shouldn't they be filled with grief (1 Cor. 5:2) because of their pride; shouldn't their eyes overflow with tears at the thought of being taken captive, led into eternal exile away from God (Jer. 13:17) because they have sinned and not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and the shamelessness in which they have indulged (2 Cor. 12:21); they live as enemies of the cross of Christ (Philp. 3:18) glorying and boasting in their temporal satisfactions and **earthly** riches (Jer. 9:23).

50. I will glory and boast in the Lord, for the time of the singing of birds is come (SS 2:12); our God has made everything beautiful in its time; for He has set **eternity** in the hearts of all mankind; yet, we cannot fathom the entire scope of what God has done for us from beginning to end; and I know there is nothing better for us than to be happy and do good while we live (Eccl. 3:11); I also know our God **comes to** the help of those who gladly do right (Isa. 64:5); so the reign of darkness that blinded our eyes (1 John 2:11) can be taken away; for the veil is stripped off every person who turns in repentance to the Lord (2 Cor. 3:16).

51. I share with you this message of hope and promise – God is Light – there is no darkness in Him at all (1 John 1:5); therefore, you will do well to pay close attention to His Word (2 Peter 1:19); for the Lord is the only true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King; the whole earth trembles at His anger; the nations cannot **stand up** to His wrath (Jer. 10:10); in fact, human defiance only enhances His glory, for He uses it as a weapon; surely, the wrath of man shall praise the Lord; and the remainder of wrath shall He restrain and gird and arm Himself with it (Ps. 76:10); for God raises up those who set themselves against Him and His people for a purpose; that He might show us His power, and that His name would be proclaimed in all the earth (Ex. 9:16–17).

52. We would all do well to pay close attention, for God's Word is as a lamp shining in this dismal and dark place, until the Day breaks through the gloom, and the Morning Star rises in our hearts (2 Pet. 1:19); for the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Ps. 119:105); and everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes all things visible; so I say to you, Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you (Eph. 5:13); for God sent forth His Light and His Truth to guide you (Ps. 43:3) to His holy hill, to Zion, where He installed His King (Ps. 2:6); and our King, Who came, riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey, righteous and having salvation (Zech. 9:9); and though our iniquities and much varied guilt prevail against us, God will forgive and purge our transgressions away, when our glory and our boast is in the Lord; yes, the godly **sing praises** to our God, because of the fearful and glorious thing the Lord, Christ Jesus, has done, which should terrify the wicked; for my Beloved answered us in righteousness, He made atonement for our sins and covered them out of God's sight; how blessed are those whom God has chosen, for He causes us to come near, so we can dwell in His presence (Ps. 65:3-5).

53. I sing my praises to the One I love, for He has taken away my punishment; my Beloved has turned back my enemy; never again will I fear any harm, because the Lord, the King of Israel, is with me; (Zeph. 3:15); for my God, Who defends me has taken out of my hands the terrible cup; in fact, I will never have to drink from that cup, the goblet of God's wrath (Isa. 51:22); for the One I love drank the cup of God's wrath for me and for all, for this was the will of God (Luke 22:42); Jesus came down from heaven not do His own will, but to do the will of God, Who sent Him (John 6:38), as it was written about Him in the Scriptures; for God did not desire, nor was He pleased with sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings; Jesus came to set aside the first covenant God made with man, in order to establish and put into effect the second covenant; for God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Christ Jesus, once for all time (Heb. 10:7&9-10); therefore, anyone trying to **seek** favor with God by attempting to live by their own beliefs and doctrines, are cut off from Christ (Gal. 5:3).

54. The Lord is useless to those who are counting on clearing their debt to God by keeping the requirements and rituals, traditions and laws that establish religion, but not relationship with My Beloved; those who do comply to religion become lost from God's grace; but, those who seek relationship with Him by the help of Holy Spirit are counting on Jesus, because He died to clear away our sins, and make us right with our heavenly Father; and since the Lord has given us eternal life we don't need to worry about **obeying** religious ceremonies and traditions, for all we need is faith expressed in and working through love (Gal. 5:4-6) because God is Love (1 John 4:8).

55. Because of my faith in Jesus, I have received righteousness and right standing with God (Gal 15:5a); Who I depend on for my salvation and my glory (Ps. 62:7a); and because of this commitment to place my faith in Jesus, Holy Spirit can help me to live my life in compliance to God's will; and because of my deep conviction and confidence in Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15); Who is my Rock of unyielding strength and impenetrable hardness (Ps. 62:7b); I have received a hope, which causes my trust in and reliance on God to grow; and because of my allegiance to and confidence in Jesus, I anticipate and wait for the blessing and good, my hope in God produces (Gal. 5:5b); for this faith I now possess is the title deed, which gives me the confidence and assurance that what I am hoping for will actually happen; this faith I possess is the confirmation that assures me the things of God for which I hope are waiting for me, even though they cannot be seen (Heb. 11:1); I have this certainty because my faith rests in the Word of God, in Whom I received this hope and confident assurance – the One I trust, and in Whom I depend is a Spirit; God is a spiritual being (John 4:24); now I really live, standing **firm** in the Lord (1 Thess. 3:8).

56. Because of the Word of God I now know, without faith it is impossible to please God; and anyone who wants to approach God must believe He exists, and that He cares enough to respond to those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6); who seek Him with all their heart, for He will be found by those (Jer. 29:13-14) who place their faith in Jesus, and abide in His word; for those who believe in my Beloved will hold fast to His teachings and live in accordance with them; for those who place their trust and confidence and hope in the One I love truly are His disciples (John 8:31); because faith in the Word of God brings us to a place of acquiescence; a very special place where Holy Spirit is received by those who come to understand and acknowledge, these bodies in which we dwell are not our own; for we have been bought at a price (1 Cor. 6:20); for the One I love, Christ Jesus, gave Himself so everyone could be redeemed from all wickedness; the Lord Jesus, my Savior and my Redeemer, gave Himself to purify for Himself a people to be His very own (Titus 2:14a); a people, who like myself, recognize and acknowledge our body has become a temple for Holy Spirit to dwell (1 Cor. 6:19a), so God can guide and convict and discipline us; and we can yield a peaceable **fruit** of righteousness (Heb. 12:11),

57. Yes, God wants us to yield a peaceable fruit of righteousness (Heb. 12:11) so our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, and that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the **fruit** of righteousness that comes through my Beloved (Philp. 1:9-11); making it possible for us to honor our heavenly Father with our entire body (1 Cor. 6:19b), with every ounce of our being, with all our might, with all our heart, and with all our mind and understanding (Deut. 6:5).

58. So be not afraid of the people (of their faces), for the One I love is with you to deliver and protect you; my Beloved **puts forth** His hand to put His words in our mouths; so we too can know He is watching, and will certainly carry out all His plans (Jer.1:8,9&12); for it is faith found in the Word of God that empowers us with Wisdom and Understanding, so we can become full-grown and spiritually mature Christ-like individuals; it is through faith found in the Word of God that we come to know and recognize and believe God's will and plan and purpose; it is through faith received from the Word of God that we are brought into agreement with God's will and purpose and plan (Philp. 3:15); for the Word that God speaks is active and effective; God's Word is alive and filled with power (Heb. 4:12a) to enlighten everyone; and make plain to them what is the plan regarding all the nations, and God's provision for their salvation; this mystery was kept hidden through the ages and concealed in the mind of God, Who created all things by Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:9).

59. God creates new life within us through the true and faithful Word He sent for us; for God's Word penetrates to the deepest parts of our soul, resuscitating our immortal spirit with the Breath of Life (Heb. 4:12b); the Word of God is filled with Power from God, Who wants to fill us with Life and Power so we can become the most important of all that He created (James 1:18), and He accomplishes this through faith founded in the Word of God; our value, our worth, our prominence is extolled by God Himself, because faith in the Word of God empowers us to live a life that is **fruitful** and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:8); a life enriched and energized by a joyful excitement that makes us anxious to do the will of God; for we come to realize that Christ suffered in His body, so we too may arm ourselves with the same attitude, because those who suffer in their body are done with sin; and as a result, my Beloved will deliver us from living a life that is continually spent, drained and even depleted of energy because its source of empowerment had at one time been every evil human desire (1 Peter 4:2).

60. My Beloved not only hears those who cry because of their hurt; but He will also deliver them from this hurt that is the result of their own sins (Jer. 30:15a); the One I love has paid the price to set everyone free (Isa. 44:22) from the deadly pain, which **bends** and twists and obstructs because perversity and guilt are so very great; because their sins are glaring and innumerable (Jer. 30:15b); yet, like me they too can find compassion, mercy; and **joyful** contentment, for the One I love healed my faithlessness; so I could know and truly comprehend God's love for me has no bounds; because His anger has been turned far from me (Hosea 14:3-4); God blesses me because I come to Him in the name of the Lord, Jesus; Who has **shown** and given me light, for He has illuminated me with grace and freedom and joy; therefore, I confess and praise and give thanks to the Lord my God, for He is good; His mercy and loving-kindness will endure forever; I extol my Beloved (Ps. 118:26-29), for through Christ Jesus, God reconciled me to Himself, not counting my sins against me (2 Cor. 5:10).

61. My Beloved washes me clean (1 Cor. 6:11a); He has made me to be a sweet **fragrance** unto my God (Jer. 6:20); for the One I love became the atoning sacrifice for all my sins, and not for mine alone but also for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2); though the Lord saw my willful ways, He heals me (Isa. 57:18); He leads me in doing what is right, and teaches me His way (Ps. 25:9); the One I love has made an everlasting covenant with me, and faithfully gives me my recompense in truth (Isa. 61:8); the Lover of my soul restores comfort to me, helping me to mourn and to confess my sins (Isa. 57:18); He is my confidence, firm and strong (Prov. 3:26), **establishing** me in righteousness; and moving far from me even the thought of oppression or destruction; ensuring there is nothing for me to fear, for the One I love **keeps** me safe from terror, it shall not come near me (Isa. 54:14); because as with a shield the Lord surrounds me with favor (Ps. 5:12), which greatly enriches me; for the Lord my God has become like the dew and the night mist (Hosea 14:5) saturating me with the Water of Life (Ps. 65:9); filling me with confidence and hope to draw near to God (Heb. 7:19), through the Lord, the One Whom God sent; for my Beloved speaks the words of God and is greater than anyone else, because He comes from heaven; and everyone who believes in Jesus will surely discover that God is a fountain of Truth (John 3:31&34).

62. Since we are willing to accept and believe the testimony of people, we surely should be willing to accept and believe the testimony of God, which is of greater and stronger authority than human authority; and to this God has testified, Jesus is His Son; and everyone who believes in the Son of God has God's testimony within them, and in their hearts they know God's testimony is true (1 John 5:9-10); because we know and acknowledge that our understanding is limited to the things of earth; and God gave the One Whom He sent from heaven His Spirit without measure or limit; the Father loves His Son, and has put everything into His hands (John 3:34-35); so we could become thoroughly acquainted with divine things, and know and understand them accurately and **well** (1 Cor. 1:13).

63. How blessed are those who have learned God's testimony is a joyful call for us to come and worship (Ps. 89:13a); for our God approaches, and He is not silent; the Lord, the Mighty One, is God, He speaks and summons the earth, from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets; from Zion, perfect in **beauty**, God shines forth (Ps. 50:1-2); so we can **walk** in the light and favor of His Son's countenance; so we can know the arm of my Beloved is endued with power; and has revealed God's hand is strong; His right hand is soaring and highly exalted in glorious strength, and from Him comes our protection (Ps. 89:13,15,18).
64. How amazing the discovery that refuge and trust can be found in the shelter of the Lord's wings (Ps. 61:4); for God has given His Word to guard me as He would guard His own eyes, and to show me God's unfailing love in wonderful ways; by the mighty power of the One I love, God rescues those who seek refuge from their enemies (Ps. 17:7); for His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark (Ps. 91:4a); and though I had once lied down in stalls among animals, now I am like the wings of a **dove** covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold (Ps. 68:13); feathers that are excessively green with gold (Ps. 68:13a), for I am God's trophy and joy (1 Thess. 2:20), taken from the enemy (Ps. 68:13b); for my Beloved has redeemed me from the useless way of living that I inherited from my forefathers (1 Pet. 1:18); yes, I am God's glory and joy (1 Thess. 2:20).
65. Because I called upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised; He saved me from all my enemies; He is my **refuge**, my Savior; I was trapped and bound by hell and death; but the Lord became my Shield, the Power that saved me from the waves of death that surrounded me; the One I love became my place of safety from the floods of evil that burst upon me; the Lord my God is my **Rock**, in Whom I find **protection** (2 Sam. 22:3-6); I sing praises to the holy name of Jesus, Who is my Strength; the Lord my God is my Defense, my **Protector** and High Tower; in His unfailing love, God stands with me; so I can look down in triumph on all my enemies (Ps. 59:9-10).

66. Yes, the One I love called me by my name (John 10:3) to come to Him; and when I did, God declared me “**Not Guilty**,” and filled me with Christ’s goodness, giving me right standing with Himself, and gave to me His glory (Rom. 8:30); for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock, in Whom I will trust forever; my Beloved guards me and keeps me in perfect peace as I keep my thoughts fixed on Him; the One I trust (Isa. 26:3) hides me from the secret counsel and conspiracy of the ungodly, from the scheming of evildoers (Ps. 64:2); so I flee to Him to hide me, and deliver me (Ps. 143:9); yes, there I’ll be when trouble comes, for my Beloved places me out of reach, on a rock high above my enemies (Ps. 27:5-6); for the One I love raised me in His righteousness to His service, and victory meets me at every **step** (Isa. 41:2); for my Beloved establishes my steps, and directs them by means of His word (Ps. 119:133).

67. My Beloved shows me the **path** where I should go; He points out the right road for me to walk; He teaches me and guides me in His truth, for the Lord is God my Savior; I have no hope except in Him (Ps. 25:4-5); and this hope of mine will never disappoint or shame me, for I know how dearly God loves me; I can feel the warmth of His love everywhere within me, because God has given me His Holy Spirit to pour out His love in me; and no matter what happens, I can hold my head high knowing that all is well (Rom. 5:5); for grace and shalom, the perfect well-being, is multiplied to me as I grow in knowledge of my God and my Lord, Yeshua (2 Pet. 1:2); Who knows my frame, and earnestly remembers and imprints on His heart that I am dust (Ps. 103:14).

68. How well my Beloved understands me and knows at all times what is best for me (Eph. 1:8b) He makes my soul prosper (3 John 2b), for He is strengthening me, and making me into what I ought to be (Heb. 13:20b), making me to prosper in every way and keeping me well (3 John 2a); and the God of peace (Heb. 13:20a) is so overflowing in kindness, He took away all my sins with the blood of His precious Son (Eph. 1:7), so I could **see** salvation (Luke 3:6); God lavishes upon me the richness of His grace (Eph. 1:8a), while, my Beloved generously bestows His riches upon me, for I call upon Him in faith; believing He is the same Lord over all, there are no distinctions (Rom. 10:12); Jesus loves me, and gave Himself for me, which pleased God, for Christ's love for me is like a sweet fragrance of perfume to His Father (Eph. 5:1); as sweet as His words are to my taste (Ps. 119:103), they satisfy my soul as does the richest of foods (Ps. 63:5); for the Lord is the One Who sustains me (Ps. 54:4); the One I love left for us new wine, which rejoices God and His people (Judges 9:12b); the cup of blessing upon which I ask God's blessing; for I drink from this cup with a grateful heart, because it means I am participating in and sharing fellowship in the blood of Christ, the One I love (1 Cor. 10:16).

69. How very blessed I am to be in relationship with Christ Jesus (Ps. 4:6a), for the One I love has given me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught; that I should know how to speak a word in season to one who is weary; the Lord wakens me morning by morning; He wakens me as a disciple; He has opened my ear, for I have not been rebellious or turned backward (Isa. 50:4-5); my Beloved has lifted up the light of His **countenance** upon me (Ps. 4:6b); that I may behold His face in righteousness, and find myself fully satisfied in this sweet communion (Ps. 17:15), in which I partake with the Bread of Life (John 6:48), Christ Jesus; because there is one loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness – Christ doesn't become fragmented in us. Rather, we become unified in Him. We don't reduce Jesus to what we are; He raises us to what He is (1 Cor. 10:17-18); my Beloved has turned His face toward us, giving us peace (Num. 6:26); and even though we walk in darkness, a great and glorious Light has been seen by all; and though we live in the land of the shadow of death, heaven's Light shines upon us (Isa. 9:2), so we may know in the light of the King's countenance there is life (Prov. 16:15); the Lord my God, causes my faith and hope and confidence to be enlarged by His promise (Isa. 9:3a) of eternal life (John 1:4a), how this increases my joy (Isa. 9:3b) for this promised life is in my Beloved, life that gives light to all mankind; the Life of the One I love, Christ Jesus, emanates light that shines through the deepest darkness, for darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:4-5).

70. God sent heaven's Light so we could follow Truth (Ps. 43:3), and those who desire to do what is right, will come out into the Light to practice Truth (John 3:21), by not only hearing the words of God, so we can begin to **discern** daily that we belong to God, but by obeying the Word of God; so we can be encouraged in heart and united in love, and possess the full riches of complete understanding, so we may know the mystery of God, which is, Christ Jesus, for in Him are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge (Col. 2:2); for God's words of Truth bring the encouragement we need to continue looking within ourselves to determine, are we really doing what God wants us to do (1 John 2:3).

71. However, the world with all its earthly wisdom, fails to perceive and recognize the **voice** of Truth because of its own philosophies; so God in His wisdom (1 Cor. 1:21a) hid Truth from those who think themselves so wise (Luke 10:21a); and through the foolishness of **preaching**, He saves those who believe the Word of God (1 Cor. 1:21b); for my Beloved in His integrity and uprightness will protect those who place their hope in Him (Ps. 116:6 & Ps. 25:21): who choose, as I did, to trust in and have confidence in the Lord (Ps. 62:8); for such was Gods' gracious will and good **pleasure** to entrust all things to my Beloved, Who fully knows and understands the Father, and has chosen to reveal the Father (Luke 10:22), so I can be united with Him in love.

72. God sent the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the Truth; however, in order to recognize His voice it is necessary to familiarize ourselves with God's Word; for the Spirit of Truth goes out from the Father to testify about the Word of God; Holy Spirit honors and glorifies Christ Jesus, and takes what belongs to my Beloved, and reveals it to those who believe the words of God are Truth (John 16:13); yet, how are people to believe in the Lord if they have never heard about Him; how can they hear about the One I love unless someone tells them; and how will anyone go and tell them without being sent; that is why the Word of God says, 'How **beautiful** are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, and bring good news of God's good things,' (Rom. 10:14-15).

73. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant and praise is **becoming** (Ps 147:1); because the Spirit of Truth helps new believers become better acquainted with God's Word (1 John 2:3), so they too can enjoy peace with God, as they learn to **take hold** of the Lord's strength, and make a complete surrender to His protection (Isa. 27:5).

74. Holy Spirit helped me to enjoy peace with God (Isa. 27:5), and take hold of the life that is truly life, so I could begin to lay up treasure for myself as a firm foundation (1 Tim. 6:19); Holy Spirit continues to help me to avoid the opposition of **so-called knowledge** that causes people to **be cut off** and wander (1 Tim. 6:20) and not keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7), and be blessed as they hear the Word of God and obey it (Luke 11:28); for those who obey God's Word learn to love God more and more; for the love of God is perfected within them making it possible for them to truly show how completely they love God (1 John 2:5); and His Word, which is so near you, for it is in your mouth and in your heart; for it is with your mouth you confess, "Jesus is Lord," and with your heart you believe God raised the One I love from the dead (Rom. 10:8-9); for this is what God says we must do: believe on the name of His Son, Christ Jesus (1 John 3:21); the One clothed with garments dipped in blood, and wears the title "The Word of God" (Rev. 19:13); the One Who was present before anything else existed; for the Word was with God, and the Word was God; all things were made through Him, and nothing was made without Him; in the Word there is life, and that life is a light for the people of the world (John 1:1-4) to bring understanding that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15).

75. Through my faith and trust in God, my Beloved was able to make a dwelling place within my heart; granting me out of the rich treasury of His glory the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:16-17a); and because I heeded His warning to be careful and to pay close attention to what I was hearing; because the closer I listen, the more understanding I would be given; by the **measure** (of thought and study) I give (to the truth I hear) will be the measure (of virtue and knowledge) that comes back to me – and more (besides) will be given to me and to those who hear; but, for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them (Mark 4:24-26).

76. Yes, I have listened closely so I would never forget the things my Beloved has taught me; I have stored His commands in my heart. Because the One I love promised, "If you do this you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying; never let loyalty and kindness leave you! **Bind** them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation," (Prov. 3:1-4); God Himself has said, "I will not in any way fail you, nor give you up, nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let [you] down (or relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] (Heb. 13:5); I am with you and will keep you wherever you go (Gen. 28:15); (*because*) one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken (Eccl 4:12).

77. So I would not be defeated, my Beloved bound a rope with three parts around me (Eccl. 4:12); faith, hope and love - these three will abide forever; faith - trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly - but the **greatest** of these is love (1 Cor. 13:13), which is rooting the very depths of my being down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; that I may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp, as a child of God should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is; and to experience for myself the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge; and I could be filled through all my being, with **all the fullness of life** and the richest measure of God's divine Presence (Eph. 3:17b-19); so I can proclaim I am deeply loved by the Lord, and chosen by God to be given salvation through the sanctifying work of His Holy Spirit and through my belief in the Truth (2 Thess. 2:13); and His unfailing love, which is better than life itself; so I will bless the One I love as long as I live; lifting my hands to Him in prayer; while my mouth offers praises with **joyful** lips (Ps. 63:3-5).

78. My belief in Truth has given me the assurance that God called me to salvation through the Good News of the Gospel, so I could share in the glory of my Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14); for God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who **love** Him (James 2:5); God thought how wonderful it would be for me **to be among His children** (Jer. 3:19a); so I will exult in my Beloved; I will **rejoice** in the God of my salvation (Hab. 3:18); for He has given to me a priceless inheritance kept in heaven, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay (1 Pet. 1:4); God looked forward to my calling Him 'Father' (Jer. 3:19b); and by His boundless mercy I have been born again to an ever-living hope through the death and resurrection of the One Whom I love, Christ Jesus (1 Pet. 1:3); and I will not turn away from following Him (Jer. 3:19c); for God holds me in His hands for all to see as a royal diadem exceedingly beautiful, and a crown of glory and honor in the hand of my Beloved (Isa. 62:3); now my soul can be at rest, for my God has dealt so bountifully with me; He has delivered my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling and falling; so I can walk in the Presence of His precious Son, in the land of the living (Ps. 116:7-9).

79. Because of what Jesus has done for me, I shall **live forever** before my God; Who sends His loving-kindness and truth to guard and watch over me (Ps. 61:7-8); I have peace with God; for my Beloved has made me right in God's sight, when I placed my faith in Him; the One I love brought me into this place of highest and undeserved privilege in which I now stand; and because of Jesus I can confidently and joyfully look forward to becoming all that God has had in mind for me to be (Rom. 5:1-2); and do worthy deeds that prove my heart has changed; and show my God that I have turned from sin, and have become willing to bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance (Matt. 3:8); I have placed my hope in Jesus; therefore, no one, in any way can deceive or beguile me (2 Thess. 2:3); for what harmony can there be between Christ and Belial; between a Christian and an unbeliever; between God's temple and idols; and I am God's temple; my heart is a home for the living God, Who lives in me and walks with me; He is my God and I am His child (2 Cor. 6:14-18); yes, the One I love is faithful; He strengthens and supports me, by setting me on a firm foundation that guards me from the evil one (2 Thess. 3:1).

80. I will be glad and rejoice (Ps. 9:2a), though the Almighty has made me taste bitterness of soul, my lips will not speak wickedness; and as long as I have life within me, the **breath** of God in my nostrils, my tongue will utter no deceit (Job 27:2-5); because I know the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all (Titus 2:11); and that God knew His people in advance, and chose them to become like His Son Jesus, the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead (Rev. 1:50), Who made His dwelling among us (John 1:14), to deliver God's beloved ones (Ps. 60:4) from the hand of the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) a hard, cruel master, a vicious king whose desire is to rule over us (Isa. 19:4); But God, He paid my ransom and yours, and the ransom He paid for us was not mere gold or silver (1 Pet. 1:18); for not even the richest of kings, could redeem himself or his brother, nor give to God a ransom; for the ransom of a life is too costly, and the price one could pay would never suffice; for God's forgiveness does not come that way, because a soul is far too precious to be ransomed by mere earthly wealth; nor is there enough wealth in all the earth to buy eternal life for just one soul, to keep it from entering hell (Ps. 49:7-9).

81. Praise God, for heaven's **Dawn** breaks upon us every day, to give light to all who are sitting in darkness and death's **shadow** (Luke 1:78); the Sun of Righteousness rises with healing in His wings (Mal. 4:2), as a banner for those who fear and worshipfully revere God, **a Standard** lifted up and displayed because of Truth (Ps. 60:4a); so I will sing praise to the name of the Most High (Ps. 2:2b), for my Beloved is mine, and I am His (SS 2:16); Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid His life down (John 10:8) so I could be freed from every kind of sin; the Lord gave his life to cleanse every believer and make for Himself a people to be peculiarly His own; people eager and enthusiastic about living a life that is good and filled with beneficial deeds (Titus 2:14), for Jesus lived the truth of this command: Whoever loves God must also love others (1 John 4:21); and this truth is seen in me, because the darkness of moral depravity in my life is disappearing, and the true light of life in Christ is already shining (1 John 2:8), as the One I love is being completely and permanently formed within me (Gal. 4:19).

82. Therefore, **turn** your back on evil so the true light of life can shine from you; don't be impressed with your own wisdom (Prov. 3:7); or raise your fists in defiance at the heavens in disrespect and arrogance (Ps. 75:5); instead, seek God's will in all you do, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success (Prov. 3:6,8); and you too can gather and store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy; they are safe from thieves, and will never lose their value; for where your treasure is, there too the **love** of your heart will be (Matt. 6:20-21); so don't fix your eyes on what can be seen, but fix them on what is unseen; for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18); we are to live by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7); we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, God's own purchased, special people, that set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and character of Him Who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9); into the Kingdom of Heaven, which is **like** a hidden treasure that one would sell all their possessions to own (Matt. 13:44), so get truth; **amass** wisdom, endure discipline, get wisdom and understanding, and never sell them (Prov. 23:23); and never stop believing that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Heb. 11:1).

83. So I pray that our God will count us worthy of our calling, and fulfill every **desire** for goodness, and make us the kind of children He wants to have—will make us as good as we wish we could be!—rewarding our faith with His power; then everyone will be praising the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because of the results they see in us; and our greatest glory will be that we belong to Him; the tender mercy of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ has made all this possible for us (2 Thess. 1:11–12); however, we need to be on our guard and watch out for those who create dissensions and difficulties and cause divisions, upsetting people’s faith because they are in opposition to the teachings of the Word of God; we must stay away from them, for such people are not serving our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests, wanting gain for themselves; by smooth talk and flattering speech, they deceive innocent people; we must let our loyalty and obedience to the Lord be known to all; so we can remain very clear about what is right, and be innocent of doing any wrong; for the God of peace will soon **crush** Satan under our feet (Rom. 16:17–20).

84. And so I would say to you who are suffering, God will give you rest when the Lord Jesus appears suddenly from heaven in flaming fire with His **mighty** angels, bringing judgment on those who do not wish to know God, and who refuse to accept His plan to save them through our Lord Jesus Christ; they will be punished in everlasting hell, forever separated from the One I love, never to see the glory of His power, when He comes to receive praise and admiration because of all He has done for His people, His saints; however, we will be among those praising Him because we have believed what we were told about Him. (2 Thess. 1:7–9).

85. You should know and also ponder, not from the east nor from the west nor from the wilderness comes **promotion** and lifting up; it is God alone Who judges; He decides who will rise and who will fall; for in the hand of the Lord there is a cup of His wrath, and the wine foams and is red, mixed with spices; He pours out the wine in judgment, and all the wicked must drain it and drink its dregs; but those who love the Lord will proclaim what God has done, and to Him sing praises; for God will break the strength of the wicked, but He will increase the power of the godly (Ps. 75:6-10); for the army of the Lord is very great, they are strong and powerful who execute God's word; so turn and keep on coming to the Lord with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship with God is restored; rend your hearts and return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness; He revokes His sentence of evil, when His conditions are met; yes, God will turn, and revoke His sentence of evil, and leave a blessing that will give you the means with which to serve Him; consider this long and hard, for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can endure it (Joel 2:11-14).

86. So I pray the Word spreads rapidly and is honored and glorified and triumphs wherever it goes, even as it has done in my life (2 Thess. 3:3); because I am convinced that nothing can ever separate me from God's love (Rom. 8:38); indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to **separate** us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39); for from the Vine (John 15:5a), a peaceable fruit of righteousness is yielded (Heb. 12:11); my Beloved came from heaven not to have His own way, but to do the will of God, Who sent Him; and this is God's will, that Jesus lose not even one of those God has given Him; but, that He should raise them to eternal life at the Last Day (John 6:38-39); even now the crop is being harvested for eternal life (John 4:36); for it is the Father's will that all who see His Son, and believe in Him should have life eternal (John 6:40), and enjoy the effects of righteousness, which are quietness and peace forever (Isa. 3:17), as we come to rely on the abundance of love God has for us (1 John 4:16).