

Unwrapping
the
Eternal Love
of God





*But from
everlasting to
everlasting
the Lord's love is with
those who fear him,
and his righteousness
with their children's
children.*

Psalm 103:17

Love That Endures



Suggested Reading: Psalm 103:8–18

As you read, notice how often God’s love is described as lasting “from everlasting to everlasting.” It’s a love that doesn’t fade with time, failure, or changing seasons—a love that stays constant when everything else shifts.

Optional Reading: Romans 8:35–39

As you reflect on these verses, remember that God’s love isn’t a passing emotion—it’s a permanent commitment. It endures, sustains, and holds you steady through every season.

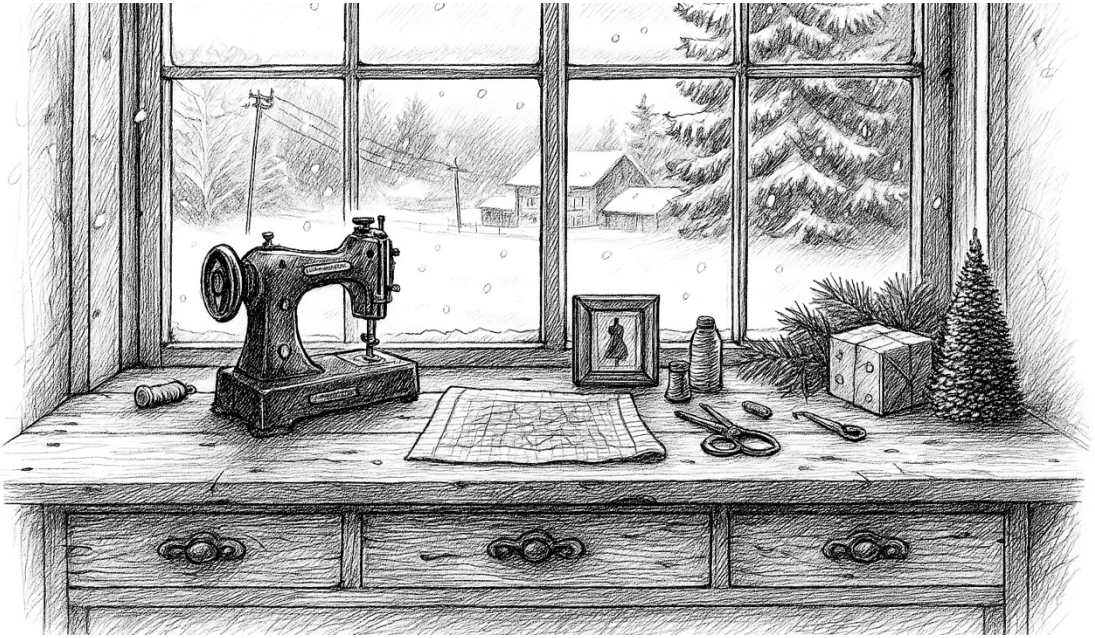


If you've ever lived through a Manitoba winter, you know how long and dreary it can feel. By February, the snowbanks are so high you can barely see over them, and the cold settles deep into your bones. You start to wonder if spring forgot to show up. The days feel long, the nights even longer, and hope gets buried somewhere under all that snow.

And yet—there's beauty in it. The frost sparkles like glitter on the windows. Icicles like crystal dripping from the roof. The snow falls so quietly some days it settles like a hush upon the world. The stars? They shine bright against the cold, dark sky. And in those still, frozen moments something stirs in the soul. You realize beauty doesn't always come with warmth.

And just like that, the quiet beauty in the middle of the chill reminds me of God's love.

It's not seasonal. It doesn't change with the weather or waver when life gets hard. It's not based on our good days or our failures. His love is steady. It's faithful. It's enduring. Psalm 103:17 says, "*But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him.*" Do you see those words there—everlasting to everlasting? That tells us that His love isn't just long-lasting—it's without end. No beginning, no expiration date. Just always.



We need that kind of love, don't we? In a world that's always shifting—where relationships strain, routines get interrupted, and expectations go unmet—God's love holds steady. It doesn't grow cold. It doesn't pull back when we mess up. It's not just enough for the moment—it's enough for the long haul.

Sometimes, in the middle of all the Christmas preparations—when we're trying to make everything perfect for everyone else—we forget to stop and receive what we need most. We fill our calendars, our kitchens, and our carts. But what about our hearts? What do we cling to when the house grows quiet and the sparkle wears off? What stays with us when the dinner's done and the tree is drying out?

His love. Everlasting love.

David walked through seasons of triumph and seasons of failure. He'd been a shepherd, a king, a warrior, and a broken man. And yet, through it all, he kept coming back to this one thing that he knew: God's enduring love. And friend, that same enduring love is there for you.

So if this Christmas finds you in a hard season, or maybe just a weary one, hold on to this: God's love for you hasn't budged. It's not going anywhere. Whether you're full of joy or holding it together with quiet tears, His love is enough. It doesn't just get you through—it holds you steady.

Take a moment this Christmas—by the tree, at the table, or in the stillness before everyone wakes—and rest in that truth. His love isn't fragile. It isn't fickle. It's everlasting. It's the kind of love that outlasts everything else. And when the lights are packed away and the calendar flips to another year, His love will still be here. Holding you. Carrying you. Enduring, forever.

Because that's who He is. And His love? It always lasts.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

God's unfailing love for us is an objective fact affirmed over and over in the Scriptures. It is true whether we believe it or not. Our doubts do not destroy God's love, nor does our faith create it. It originates in the very nature of God, who is love, and it flows to us through our union with His beloved Son.

—Jerry Bridges



As you read Psalm 103:8-18, write down three specific ways God's love has held you this year.

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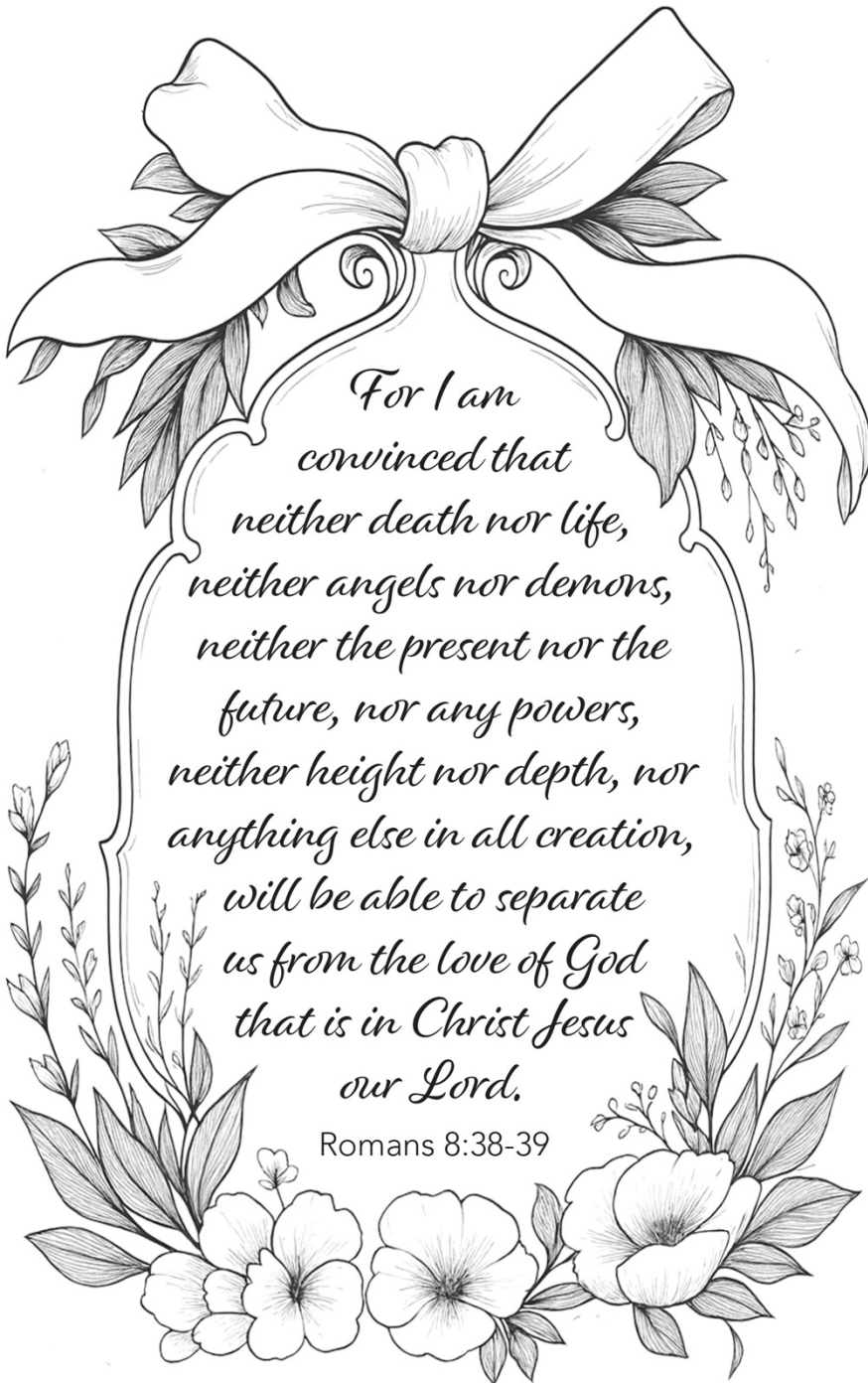
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Unwrapping the Gift

Look at the list you made of three specific ways God has held you this past year. Pause to give Him thanks for each one.





*For I am
convinced that
neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the
future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate
us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus
our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

Love That Will Never Let Go



Suggested Reading: Isaiah 41:8–13

God speaks tenderly to His people, saying, “For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.” As you read, picture the steadiness of His grip. His love is not conditional or fragile—it’s secure and unwavering. Even when our strength falters, His faithfulness doesn’t.

Optional Reading: John 10:27–30

Jesus promises that no one can snatch His children out of His hand. As you reflect on these verses, remember: your safety rests not in how tightly you hold on to Him, but in how firmly He holds on to you.



There's something comforting about holding on to someone who's holding you too. Whenever we're out with the grandkids—whether we're shopping or taking a walk in the park—we're holding hands. The moment Madison bends down to ask, “Do you want to hold my hand or Grandma’s?” something tugs on my heart. And quickly, a little hand slips into mine. Sometimes they're holding on tight; other times, they loosen their grip—like when they're chasing a wandering leaf. But my grip? It's not dependent on theirs. No matter how tightly or loosely they're holding on, I never let go. I'm protective. Steady. Making sure they're safe and secure.

That steady, sure, protective hold is merely a glimpse of God's love toward us. And, like children chasing the things of this world, our grip may loosen at times. When the road gets bumpy—when we're overwhelmed, when prayers go unanswered, or when life simply just doesn't make sense, we start to let go. But God's hold on us never slips. His love isn't fickle. It doesn't depend on what we've achieved or if we succeed. It's stable, unchanging, and firm.

Paul put it plainly in Romans 8:38–39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



Wise Men Still Seek Him

There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still.

—Corrie Ten Boom

❓ As you read Isaiah 41:13, write down one area of your life where you need to rest in God's steady grip instead of trying to hold everything together on your own.

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Remember, Paul was rejected, imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked. If anyone had a reason to question God's love, it was Paul. But he didn't waver. He was convinced—absolutely sure—that nothing could tear him away from God's love.

As for us? We can drift. We can tune Him out. We can chase distractions or lose our hunger for truth. And while His love is steadfast, we waver at times—not because He's loosened His grip, but because we have.



In the seasons we wander and roam, love keeps drawing us back. It doesn't shame us—it invites us. It doesn't just wait at a distance—it pursues us with kindness.

And when we respond? We're met with His unwavering love. A love that steps into the rubble with a transforming power—bringing beauty where nothing but ashes once lay, joy in seasons of mourning, and peace to the unsettled heart.

Love that reminds us, no matter how far we've wander, we're never out of His reach.

There's a comfort in that kind of love. A love that stays when others walk away. A love that remains when we're tired, when we've failed, or when we're simply not our best. A love that knew every ugly part of us—every fear, every flaw, every hidden place—and still left the comfort of Heaven to walk beside us in our mess.

A rescue that began in the stillness of a stable.

A King bending low so He could lift us high.

That kind of love changes everything. It reminds us that Christmas is more than just a feel-good story with an opportunity to feast. All of it—the

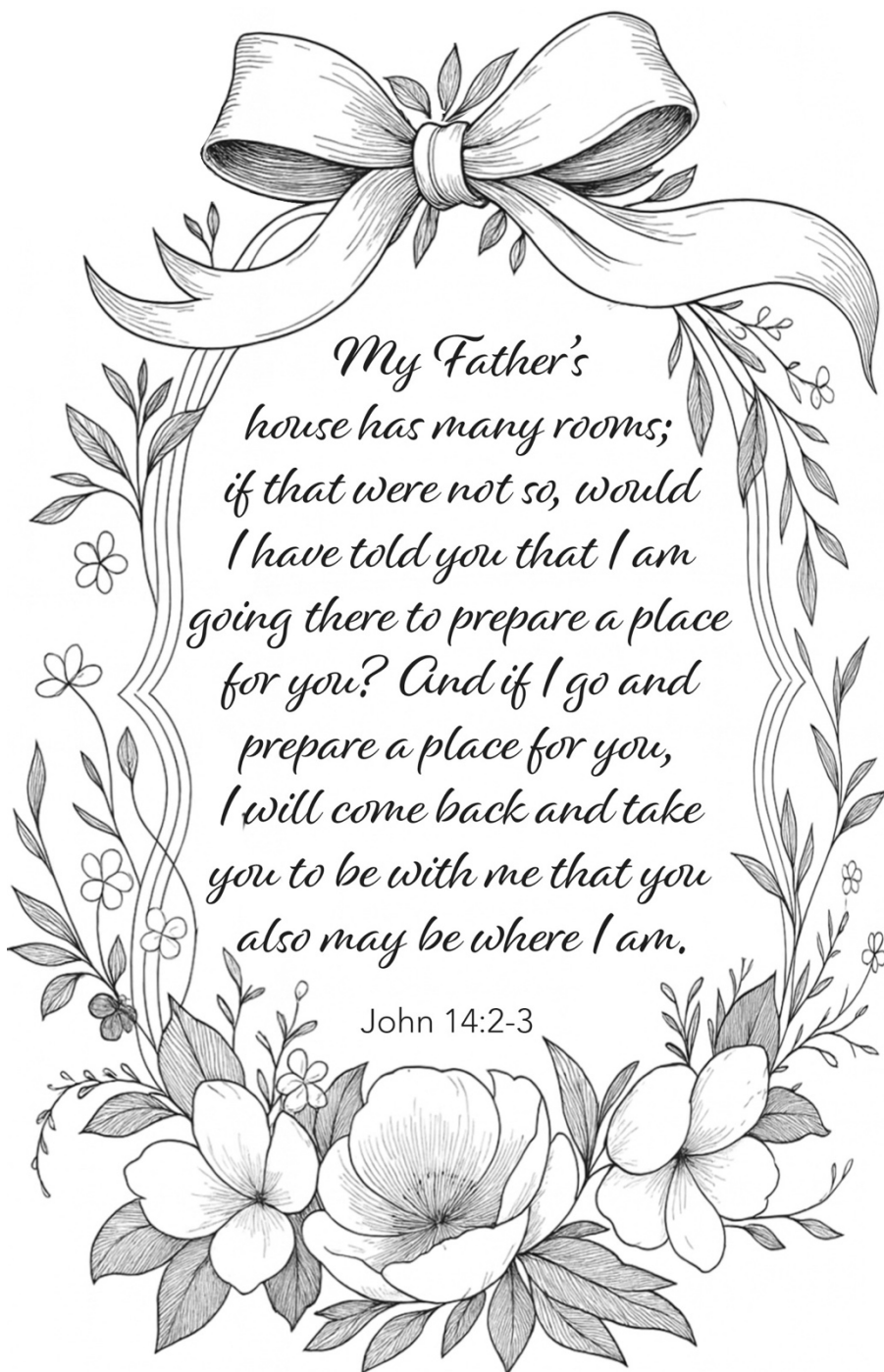
celebration, the joy, the gathering around the table—points us to His journey from the cradle to the cross.

Maybe this Christmas finds you in a difficult season—your heart stretched thin, your spirit running on empty, or your mind carrying more than it can hold. Life has a way of piling on, doesn't it? But here's the truth we need: even when our prayers are quiet and our faith feels small—even when our grip has loosened just a bit—we're held by a Savior refusing to let go.

This is the beauty of Christmas. This is the gift.

Unwrapping the Gift

Take a few quiet minutes today to thank God for His steady love. Write down one way He's held you through a difficult season, and let that reminder renew your trust in Him.



*My Father's
house has many rooms;
if that were not so, would
I have told you that I am
going there to prepare a place
for you? And if I go and
prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take
you to be with me that you
also may be where I am.*

John 14:2-3

Love That Prepares a Place



Suggested Reading: John 14:1–6

Jesus' words to His disciples were meant to calm their troubled hearts: "My Father's house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you." As you read, notice the personal nature of His promise. He wasn't speaking in general terms—He was speaking to people He loved. Every detail of heaven's home is an expression of that same personal, intentional love.

Optional Reading: Revelation 21:1–7

Revelation gives us a glimpse of our future home, where "He will wipe every tear from their eyes." This passage reminds us that our longing for home is no accident—it's the echo of eternity. Let these verses anchor your heart in hope, as you remember: the story that began in a manger ends with a home prepared by the Savior Himself.



There's something special about preparing a home for someone you love. Whether it's setting an extra place at the table, fluffing the pillows in the guest room, or hanging a fresh towel on the rack, every detail is a way of saying, *"You belong here."*

Growing up in a large family, Christmas was a crazy kind of chaos. Picture *Home Alone* without the pizza. The house was buzzing with activity. Turkey in the oven, stuffing on the stove, a plate of cookies on the cupboard. Dad would be downstairs setting up the chairs, while Mom was in the kitchen adding last-minute touches on the meal. My sisters and I? We'd be filling plates with candies, wiping down the stairs, cleaning up a bathroom sink or two.

All that hustle had a purpose. We weren't just tidying up—we were making space for the people we loved. That's the thing about love—it prepares. It plans. It looks ahead and says, "I want you here."

And that's what Jesus does for us.

The night before He was crucified Jesus spoke to His disciples. The One they trusted, the One they followed, the One they walked with for three years had just told them that He was going away. I can only imagine how confused they must have been. Fearful of the future, not knowing what it held. We'd be the same way, wouldn't we? If we didn't know what we know now?



Jesus met their fear with a promise:

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go
and prepare a place for you, I will come
back and take you to be with me”

-John 14:2-3

And that’s a promise for us too. For every woman who’s weary. For every heart that wonders if it really belongs. For every one of us who needs to know we’re not forgotten.

Because love doesn’t leave us wandering. Love makes room. It was love that led Jesus to the cross. Love that broke through the silence of death and rolled the stone away. And it’s that same love that’s preparing an eternal home for those who put their trust in Him. Think about that: the same Savior who was turned away from the inn, who was born in a borrowed stable, is now preparing rooms—real rooms—in His Father’s house.

And one of those rooms has your nameplate on the door.



As you read John 14:1-6, write down one phrase or promise that reminds you how personal Jesus' love is toward you.

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

My home is in heaven. I'm just passing through this world.

—Billy Graham





Some days this world just doesn't feel like home, does it? We pour ourselves out, we keep going, we do our best... and yet there's still a longing, a sense that we're not quite settled. That there's more. That we're made for something greater.

That ache in your soul? That homesickness? It's not a flaw. It's the echo of eternity. It's the evidence that you were made for more than just this world.

Jesus understood that longing. From the cradle to the cross, and from the empty tomb to heaven's throne, our Savior had a mission to bring God's children home.

Just imagine it—Jesus Himself is preparing your home. He's not assigning it to angels. He's doing it Himself. The One who spoke galaxies into existence is designing a home just for you. Not a temporary dwelling or a borrowed space—but a place that fits you perfectly. Crafted with grace. Marked by love. A place where you are fully known, fully loved, fully and finally at peace.

So as you open your doors this Christmas—whether it’s for family, a friend, or someone who just needs a place to belong—remember the heart behind it all. You’re doing what love does. You’re making room.

And in doing so, you’re echoing the Savior who is making room for you. This is the beauty of Christmas. This is the gift.



❓ As you read Revelation 21:1-7, write down four things these verses reveal about the home God is preparing for His people.

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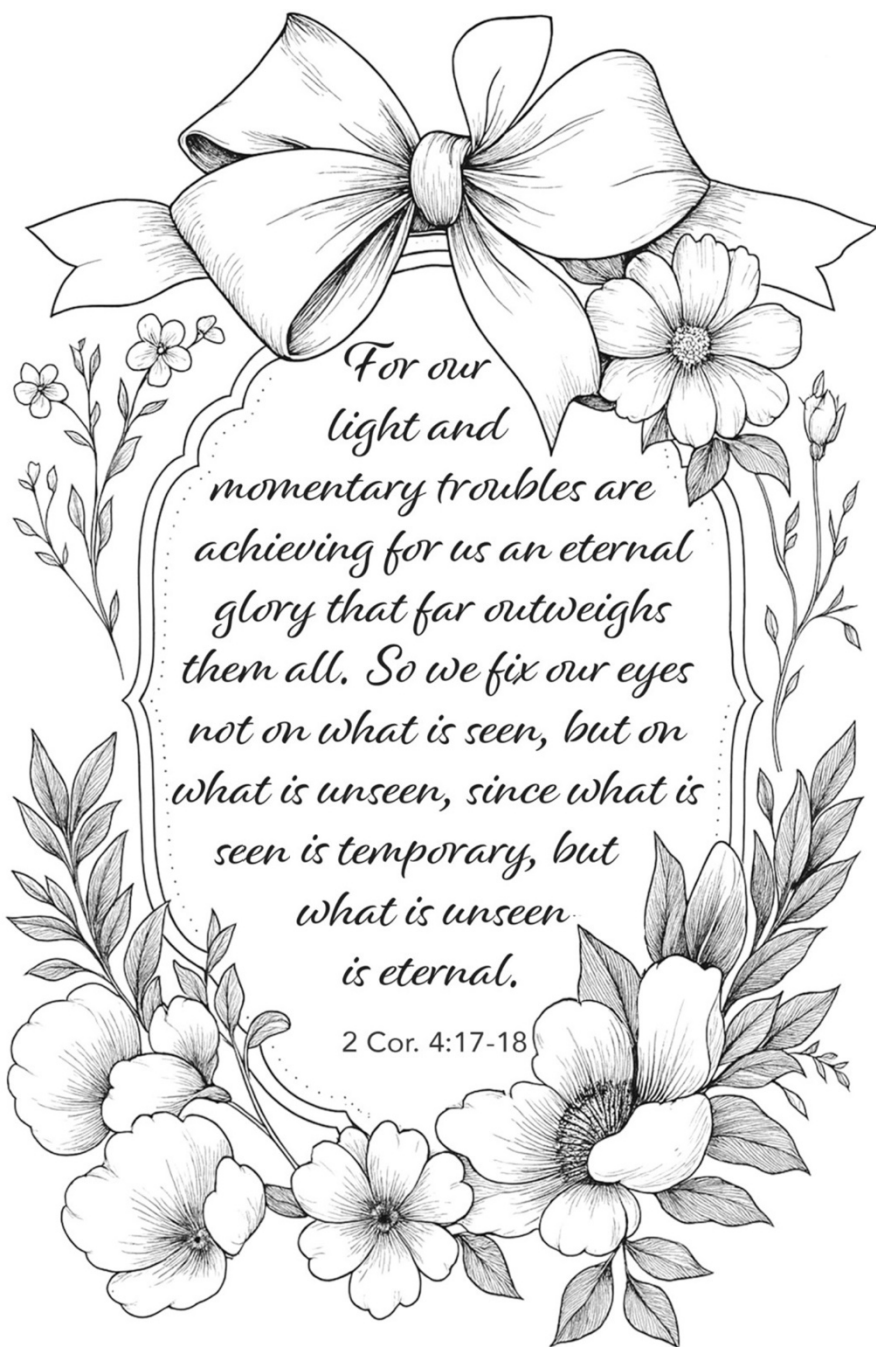
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Unwrapping the Gift

Prepare your home for someone this week—maybe it's a friend, a family member, or a neighbor who needs a little warmth. Do something that says, *"You belong here."* In doing so, you're reflecting the heart of Christ.



*For our
light and
momentary troubles are
achieving for us an eternal
glory that far outweighs
them all. So we fix our eyes
not on what is seen, but on
what is unseen, since what is
seen is temporary, but
what is unseen
is eternal.*

2 Cor. 4:17-18

Love That Sustains Us



Suggested Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

In this passage, Paul reminds us that we are “hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair.” He calls our trials “light and momentary” compared to the eternal glory they are producing in us. As you read, notice how Paul shifts the focus from what’s visible and temporary to what’s unseen and eternal. That’s how we endure—not by mustering strength of our own, but by trusting the God who sustains us through every turn, every storm, every sideways moment of life.

Optional Reading: Isaiah 46:3-4

God speaks tenderly to His people: “I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Let these words remind you that the same God who formed you is the One who holds you fast. He doesn’t step away when life gets hard—He carries you through it.



I'm not sure how many years it's been now—maybe fifteen?—but that Christmas Eve is still fresh in my memory. It was one of those clear, cold nights that made you want to stay home curled up under a blanket. The roads had finally been plowed after a heavy snowstorm the day before, and we were on our way to Michael's brother's house for a family gathering. The kids were piled in the back seat, laughing and squabbling like kids do, and in the trunk was our contribution to dinner: a giant roaster of stuffing—the good kind, the kind everyone looks forward to all year.

Everything was going just fine—until it wasn't.

At some point, Michael must've taken a wrong turn. Things didn't look familiar, and after a few more twists and turns that didn't lead anywhere, he pulled over to regroup and call his brother for directions. The only problem? There was no "shoulder" on that road. What looked like a flat pull-off was actually a ditch. The moment we stopped, the jeep tilted—and just like that, we were sideways in the snow.

Now you'd think that between six people in one vehicle, someone would have a cell phone we could use. But that night? Every phone was dead—except one. Brendan's. He was a teenager at the time and hadn't saved any numbers except a few friends. No family. No social media accounts. No idea how to reach anyone. And to make matters worse, we didn't even know where we were.



But God knew. Somehow, by His grace, we reached a tow truck. And the driver? He knew exactly where we were. Now, if that isn't God's intervention, I don't know what is.

That night, instead of gathering around a long family table, we ended up back home—safe and sound, wrapped in blankets, huddled on the couch. And, with plates of stuffing piled high, we watched a Christmas movie on TV. It wasn't the holiday we planned. But it was good. It was warm. It was real.

Looking back, days like that remind me of the nearness of our Lord. He doesn't love us from afar—He sustains us where we are. And yeah, maybe we need days like that to remind us that we're not as in control as we might think we are. That we need His wisdom to guide us. His strength to uphold us. His love to sustain us.

❓ As you read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18, write down one way you've seen God sustain you through a situation that felt uncertain or out of control.

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Paul called our troubles “light and momentary.” But in the thick of it, trouble doesn’t feel that way. Sometimes it feels heavy. Unrelenting. Raw. But when we zoom out—when we fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but what is unseen—we begin to see what’s holding us together. Not our plans. Not our preparation. But God’s unshakable love.

The world will keep on shifting. Batteries will fail. Roads will be missed. Life may leave us sideways in a snowbank now and then. But the love of God? It never quits. It doesn’t wear thin when the pressure’s high. It doesn’t grow faint when we’re weary. It’s the kind of love that holds steady in a storm.



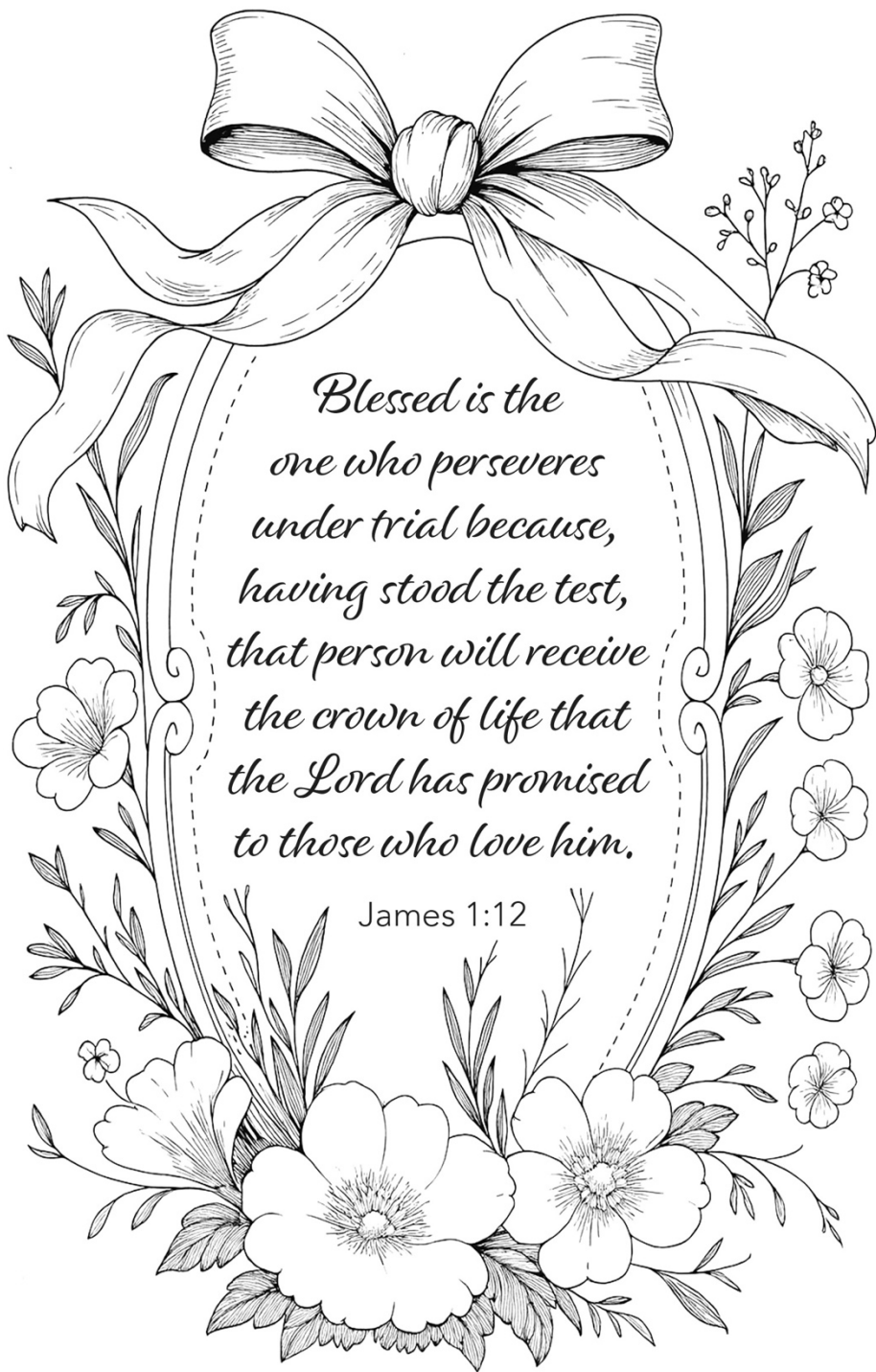
And maybe that's exactly what you need to hear this Christmas. Maybe you're walking through uncertainty or carrying a weight that's been hard to bear. If so, I want to remind you—He's still sustaining you. You might not know where you're going, but He does. You may not feel strong, but He is. You might not feel like things are working out, but He's at work. And if you feel like things are falling apart, rest assured that God is holding you together.

So even when plans go sideways and the road ahead is unclear, fix your eyes on the One who never changes, and on His sustaining love.

This is the beauty of Christmas. This is the gift.

Unwrapping the Gift

Think of an area in your life that feels uncertain right now—a plan that’s stalled, a relationship that’s strained, or a burden that feels heavy. Pause and give it to God in prayer, trusting Him to sustain you in it. Remind yourself: you don’t have to hold it all together. He already is.



*Blessed is the
one who perseveres
under trial because,
having stood the test,
that person will receive
the crown of life that
the Lord has promised
to those who love him.*

James 1:12

Love That Rewards the Faithful



Suggested Reading: James 1:2-12

As you read, notice how the Scripture connects steadfast faith with the “crown of life” promised to those who love the Lord. Reflect on what faithfulness looks like when life feels uncertain—and how every trial can become an opportunity to trust God more deeply.

Optional Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6–8; Galatians 6:9

Paul’s final words echo the same truth: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” He looked ahead to the crown of righteousness the Lord would give. Galatians adds this encouragement—don’t grow weary in doing good, for in due time you’ll reap a harvest if you don’t give up. Let these verses remind you that unseen obedience and steady devotion never go unnoticed by God.



Fanny Crosby. You might not recognize her name, but I'm sure you know her songs. She wrote over 8,000 hymns—including “Blessed Assurance.” But that’s not the most interesting thing about Fanny. The most remarkable thing was her faithfulness. She lost her sight as a baby, yet that never stopped her from praising God. In fact, she often said, “If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind... for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my Savior.”

There’s a quiet strength in faithfulness like hers—a strength God honors and rewards.

Faithfulness doesn’t mean we’ll never struggle or have doubt. It means that even in our questions, even in our weariness and worry, we’ll keep turning back to God. It means we’ll trust Him when the road feels uncertain, obey Him when it costs us something, and take Him at His word when our emotions don’t line up.

Fanny couldn’t see, yet she believed. She sang about a hope she couldn’t touch, yet she knew deep within her soul that it was real.

James 1:12 says, “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

In ancient times, athletes received a crown for finishing the race. In the same way, God promises a “crown of life” to those who faithfully endure—

the ones who don't give up when everything inside them wants to quit. They understand that every challenge is a chance to grow and to honor God.

But there's something else I want to talk about, and that's found in Hebrews chapter 11. It says,

Without faith, it is impossible to please
God, because anyone who comes
to him must believe that he exists and
that he rewards those who
earnestly seek him.

-Hebrews 11:6



Do you see those two words “He rewards.” Not your husband, not your children, not your friends, not your boss. Yes, you might get a thank you, a hug, or a raise, but let me ask—who are you working for again? Are we working for the affirmation of others, or are we working for the Lord? Temporary praise from a temporary world will never measure up to the rewards that come from God.

As long as we're in this world, we'll have effort met with ingratitude, work that's overlooked, kindness met with disregard. And so, it's important to remember Who we serve and why we're doing what we do.

Attitudes change when we work for the Lord. It leads us to grow in ways we never imagined. It develops selfless humility, kindness, and a deep-rooted joy that worldly applause could never provide. And most importantly, it reflects the faithfulness of God.



❓ As you read James 1:2-12, write down one area where God may be calling you to stay faithful and trust Him more deeply, even when life feels uncertain.

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Every prophecy fulfilled in Christ points us to that faithfulness. Every word reminding us that long before the virgin birth, before that starry night in Bethlehem, the Gift was on its way.

The Virgin Birth – Isaiah 7:14 foretold, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

The Town of Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 declared the Messiah would be born there.

The Line of David – God promised that a King would come from David’s line to reign forever (2 Samuel 7:12–13).

The Light to the Nations – Isaiah 9:2 said, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”

So this Christmas, may you be mindful of the faithfulness of God—and your faithfulness to Him. Let it stir your heart to keep going, to keep trusting, and to keep loving, even when it’s hard.

Because one day, every act of faithfulness will find its reward. Every unseen prayer, every quiet “yes,” every weary step of obedience will be gathered up in His grace. And with the words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant,” you’ll stand before Him to receive the crown of life.

This is the beauty of Christmas. This is the gift.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

The test of our faithfulness is our faithfulness in the unseen, the unrecognized, and the seemingly insignificant things.

—Oswald Chambers

Unwrapping the Gift

Stay faithful this week in one area that feels difficult—whether it’s prayer, patience, or obedience. Remember, every act of perseverance is seen and cherished by the One who loves you most.

❓ As you read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Galatians 6:9, write down two ways the faithfulness of God encourages you to keep persevering this Christmas season.

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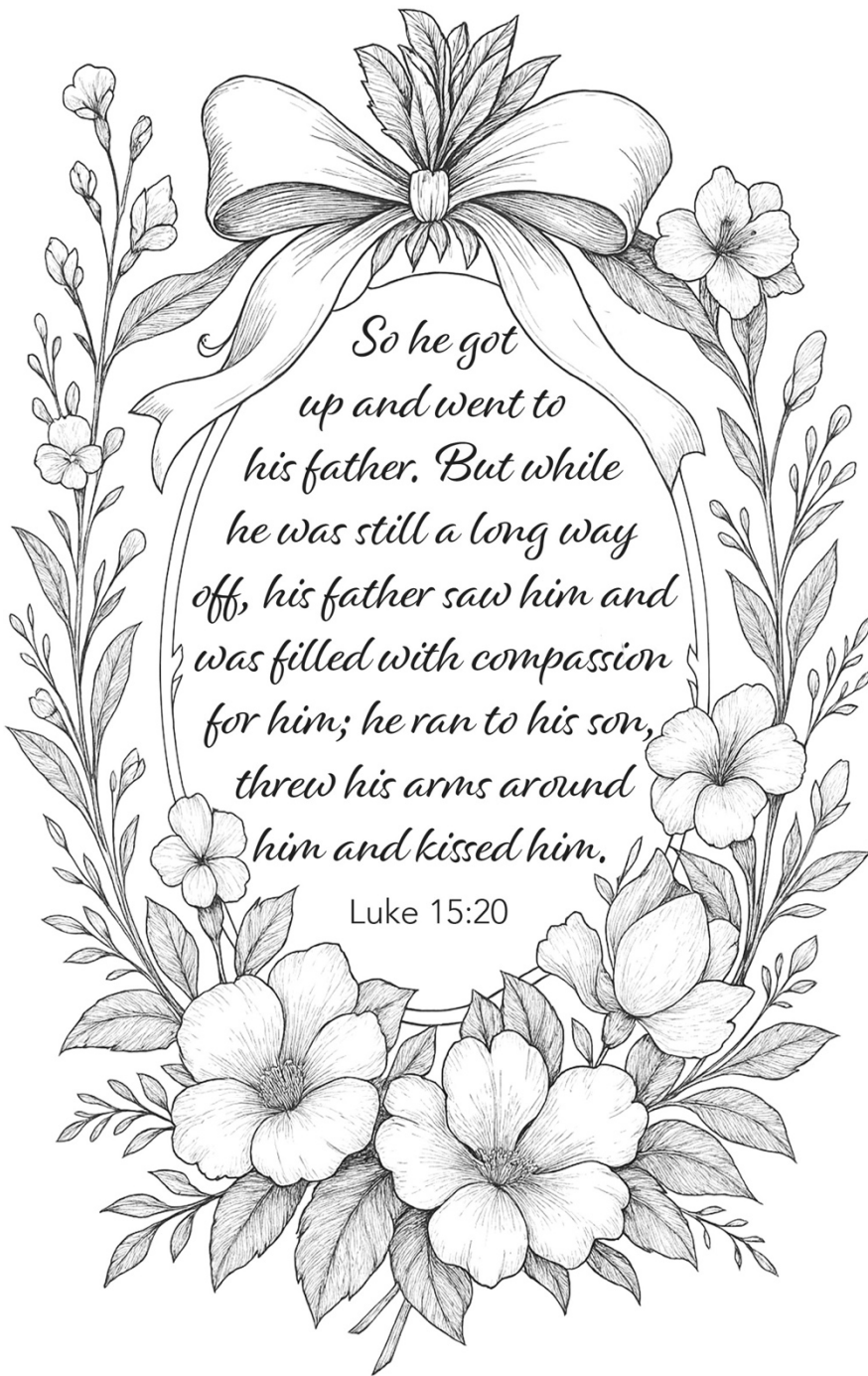
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*So he got
up and went to
his father. But while
he was still a long way
off, his father saw him and
was filled with compassion
for him; he ran to his son,
threw his arms around
him and kissed him.*

Luke 15:20

Love That Welcomes Us Home



Suggested Reading: Luke 15:11-24

This is the story Jesus told about a father and his wayward son—the parable of the prodigal son. As you read, notice how the father’s response reflects the heart of God. He doesn’t hesitate, question, or condemn. Instead, he runs to his son, embraces him, and restores his place in the family. Let this story remind you that no matter how far you’ve wandered, your Father is ready to welcome you home.

Optional Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Isaiah reminds us to “seek the Lord while He may be found” and to “call on Him while He is near.” These verses invite us to turn from our own way and run toward God, whose mercy knows no limits. As you read, notice how the passage highlights the vast difference between our ways and His. While we expect distance or disappointment, God offers compassion and forgiveness. His thoughts are higher, His grace greater, and His welcome sure for every heart that comes home.



I can still picture it today. Picking up the orange pencil and handing it to Dad. Opening the kitchen drawer, he chose a little carving knife and sat down next to me. Little by little, soft curls of wood gathered on the old familiar table—a thousand stories carved into its surface. And while he whittled down the pencil, he told a story from his past.

It's been nearly fifteen years since I said goodbye to Dad, but even now, when life's uncertain, I can feel his warm embrace. Somehow, that familiar warmth still leads me home—to that place beside him at the table, where life was safe and I was his.

Jesus told a story once about a young man who lost his way. I'm sure you know it well—the parable of the prodigal son. Luke 15:20–22 says, “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’”

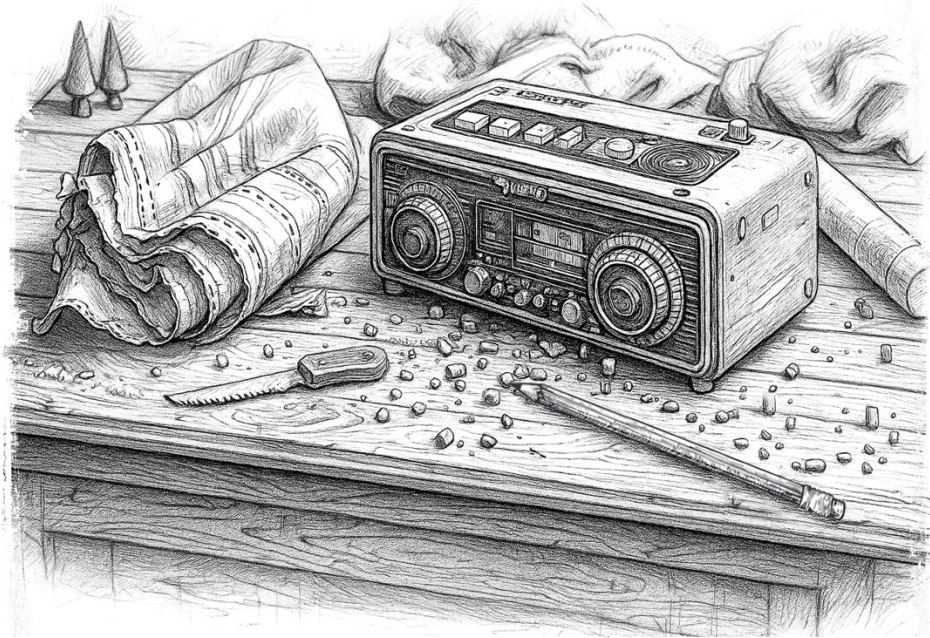
Those are some of the most beautiful words in all of Scripture. Because if you've ever wandered, doubted, or felt unworthy of God's love, there are two little “buts” in that story that shift everything for us:

“But while he was still a long way off...” (Luke 15:20)

“But the father said to his servants...” (Luke 15:22)

The son was expecting rejection—perhaps a cold shoulder, *but* while he was still a long way off, the father ran to him, wrapped him up in love, and welcomed him back home.

The son started to confess, *but* the father cut him off—not with scolding, *but* with celebration. He didn’t just forgive him; he restored him. The robe, the ring, the sandals—they weren’t about pity. They were about identity. He was still a son. He was home where he belonged.



And isn’t that what Christmas is about?

We were still a long way off, *but* He ran toward us.

We were clothed in rags, *but* He wrapped us in His righteousness.

We offered Him our brokenness, *but* He welcomed us with honor.

We squandered our inheritance, *but* He redeemed us by His grace.



As you read Luke 15:11-24, write down one way you see yourself in the story of the prodigal son—and one truth about God’s love that speaks directly to your heart.

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

No matter how far you have run, you haven’t outrun His grace.

—Sheila Walsh



If you've ever felt as though you're too far gone... if shame whispers that you're not worth the effort... if this season brings more weight than joy—remember the “buts.”

Our sin was great, but Christ paid it in full.

We turned away, but He turned toward us.

We carried the guilt, but He carried the cross.

Every “but” in the gospel reminds us that grace doesn't wait for us to clean up—it meets us right where we are. The story of the prodigal isn't just his story; it's ours too. The Father still runs, still restores, and still rejoices when His children come home. He takes what guilt and shame have stolen and gives you back your name, your place, your belonging.

So if you're carrying something this Christmas—a regret, a wound, or unrepented sin—don't let it keep you from turning back to God. He's ready to forgive. Ready to restore. Ready to welcome you back home—to that place beside Him at the table, where life is safe and we are His.

This is the beauty of Christmas. This is the gift.

❓ As you read Isaiah 55:6-9, write down two ways the Christmas story reminds you that God runs toward you with mercy and grace, no matter how far you've wandered.

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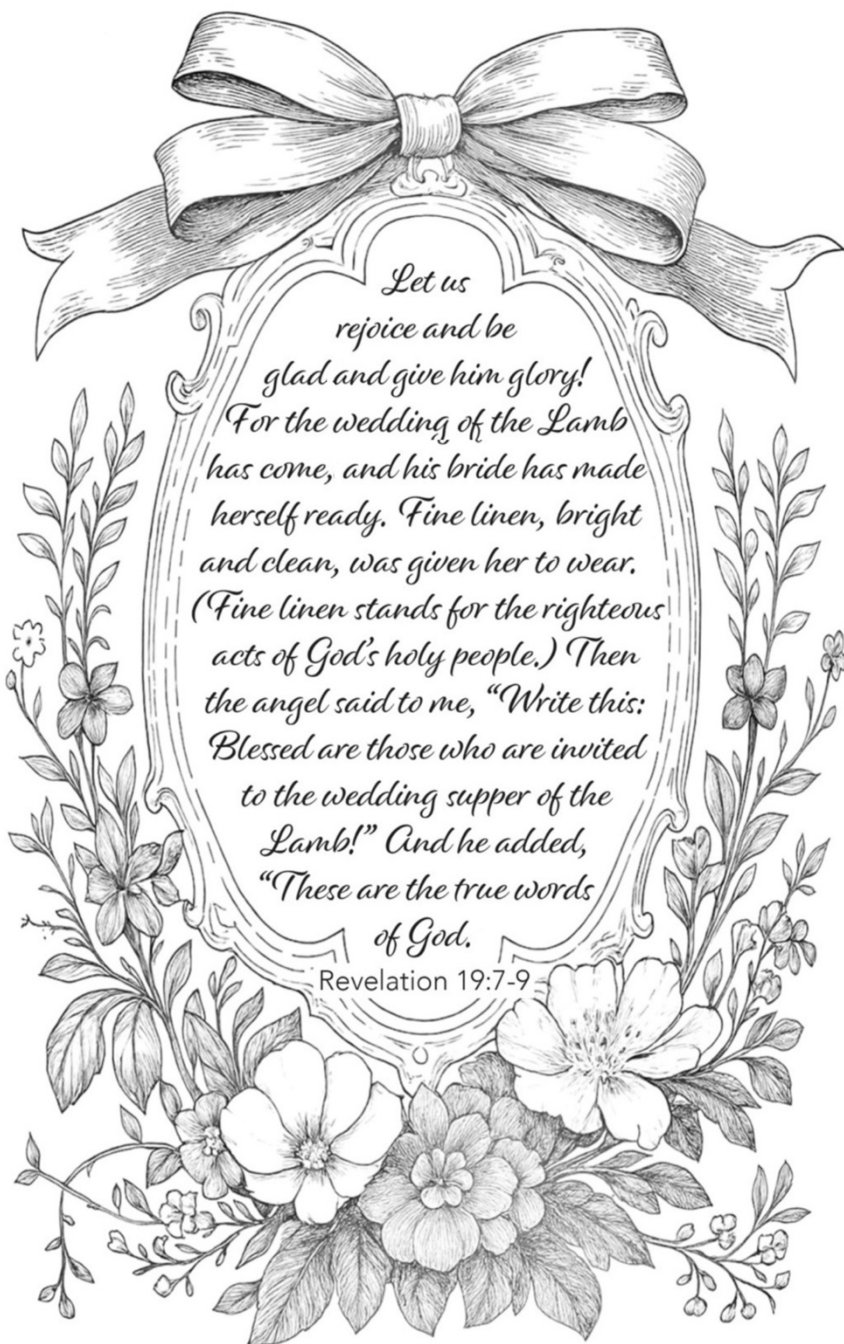
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Unwrapping the Gift

Take time this week to *reach out to someone who's drifted away*—a friend, a family member, or someone who's been on your heart. Offer grace instead of judgment. Let them see the Father's love through your welcome.



*Let us
rejoice and be
glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb
has come, and his bride has made
herself ready. Fine linen, bright
and clean, was given her to wear.
(Fine linen stands for the righteous
acts of God's holy people.) Then
the angel said to me, "Write this:
Blessed are those who are invited
to the wedding supper of the
Lamb!" And he added,
"These are the true words
of God.*

Revelation 19:7-9

Love That Celebrates Forever



Suggested Reading: Revelation 19:6–9; Ephesians 5:25–33

These passages paint a picture of Christ’s covenant love for His bride—the Church. Revelation invites us to rejoice at the marriage supper of the Lamb, while Ephesians calls husbands to love their wives “just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” As you read, reflect on how earthly marriage is meant to mirror this eternal promise: a love that is sacrificial, faithful, and everlasting.

Optional Reading: Isaiah 62:4–5

Isaiah paints a picture of restoration and joy, describing how God delights in His people like a bridegroom rejoicing over his bride. These verses remind us that we are not forgotten or forsaken—we are cherished and chosen. As you read, let this promise stir your heart: the same God who rejoiced over Israel rejoices over you. His covenant love is steadfast, His joy unchanging, and His desire is to call you His own forever.



There's a special kind of beauty in a wedding, and it's not about the flowers or the dress. It's not about the bridesmaids, the groomsmen, or the stained glass in the church. The real beauty is the covenant between a man and wife—a covenant, for better or for worse, that stands the test of time.

My sister and her husband had a marriage unlike anything I've seen. A husband whose sole purpose in this world was to love his wife as Christ loved the church. And hers? To serve him, to let him lead. That doesn't mean she didn't have her own career or opinions about life. Believe me, she's a redhead who's not afraid to speak her mind. But when you love God deeply and your husband passionately, you discover there's a beautiful balance taking place.

Sadly, after a long battle with dementia, Jerry passed away. The pastor called Bonnie the night before the service asking if there was any possibility she might find a copy of their vows.

"Oh, probably," she said. "But I don't need to look for them—we have them memorized."

I couldn't help but think of how powerful that is—two people who had lived their vows so faithfully, they didn't need to read them anymore. They were written on their hearts. That's what covenant love looks like. It remembers. It endures. It celebrates what's lasting.



In a world that treats promises like passing words, that kind of faithfulness stands out. It reminds us that real love isn't built on fleeting feelings, but on steady commitment—one that mirrors Christ's love for His Church. Marriage isn't just a partnership; it's a picture of the gospel. When a husband loves his wife with grace and a wife honors her husband with trust, they're painting a living portrait of redemption. That's why the vows matter—they reflect something eternal, something sacred. They echo the heart of a God whose love is relentless, steady, and strong.

I can only imagine the day we'll stand in His presence—the moment when faith becomes sight and our waiting gives way to wonder. Revelation 19:7 says, *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready."* That's a reality for those redeemed by His grace. The bride who keeps her eyes fixed on the Bridegroom. The Church, the beloved of God, will one day stand before Christ, clothed in righteousness, radiant with joy.

Every tear wiped away. Every wrong made right. Every longing fulfilled in the presence of the One we've waited for.



As you read Revelation 19:6-9 and Ephesians 5:25-33, write down one way you can reflect Christ's covenant love in your own relationships through faithfulness, humility, or grace.

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The love of Christ isn't just saving us from something; it's saving us *for* something. For a relationship that will never fade or falter. For a celebration that will never end. This is the transforming love of God—a love that began in a manger, was proven on the cross, and will be perfected at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Until that day comes, we get to live as people who are preparing for the wedding. Every act of obedience, every choice to love others, every moment we surrender our pride or forgive when it's hard—it's part of getting ready. Christ is shaping His bride, refining her heart, and preparing her for glory.

So as you celebrate this Christmas—surrounded by family, laughter, and the light of His presence—remember that all of this is just a glimpse of what's to come. One day, the feast will begin, and love will celebrate forever.

❓ As you read Isaiah 62:4-5, write down two ways the promise of being cherished and chosen by God deepens your joy and hope as you celebrate Christ's coming this Christmas.

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

Marriage is not a human invention—it is a divine revelation. It shows the world the faithfulness of God.

—Ray Ortlund

Unwrapping the Gift

Take a moment to reaffirm your devotion to Christ. Write down one way you can show faithfulness to Him today—through obedience, gratitude, or time spent in His presence. Ask God to help you love Him with a steady, enduring love that reflects the faithfulness He’s shown to you.

