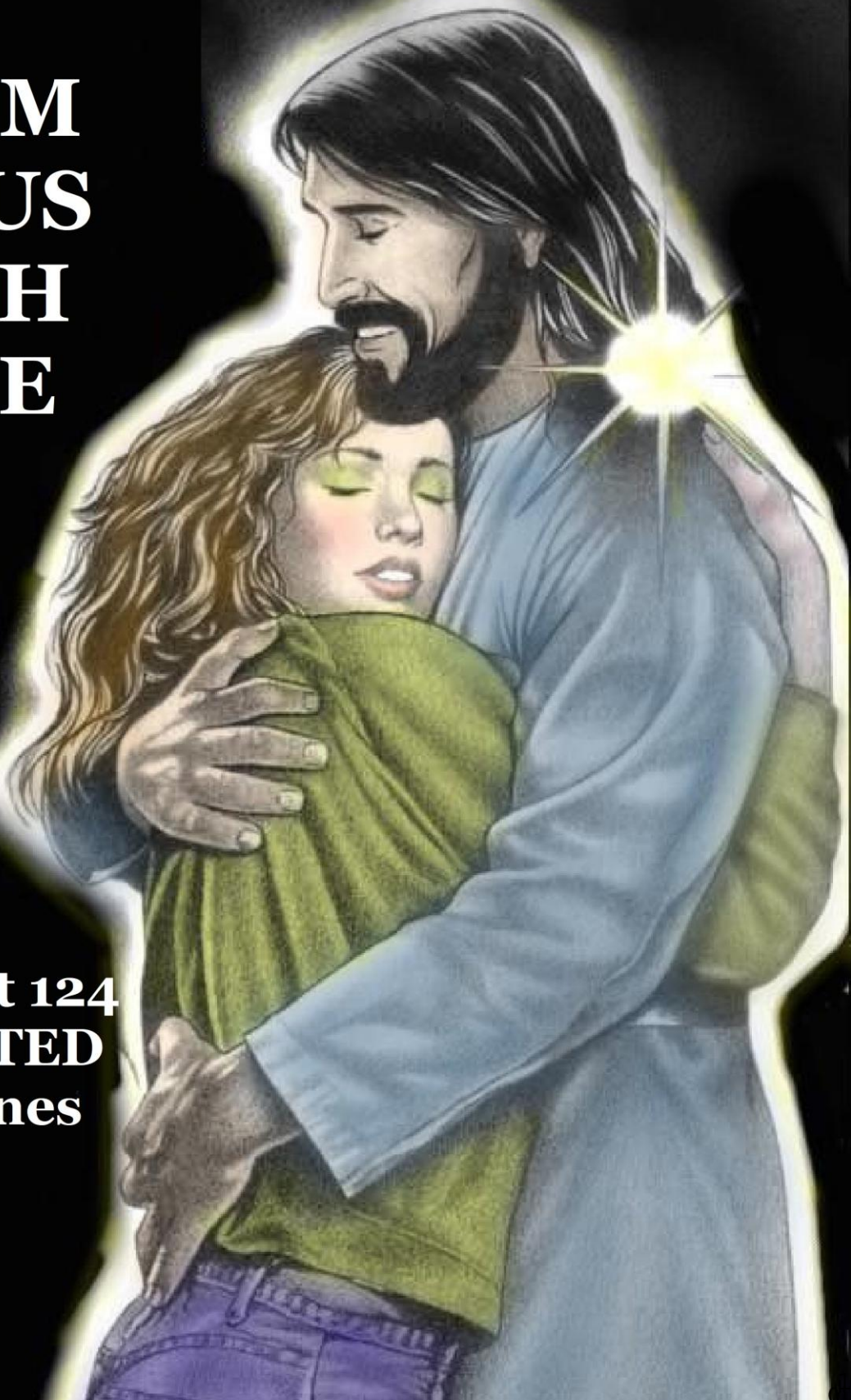


**FROM
JESUS
WITH
LOVE**

**In
The First 124
ACTIVATED
Magazines**



INDEX OF FROM JESUS WITH LOVE IN ACTIVATED

<i>ARTICLE</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
I Love You, Just You	09
How To Get the Most From Life	11
How Faith Works	13
Connect with Me	15
In The Secret Chamber	17
Spend Time with Me	19
Always and Forever	21
Reach Out and Receive Healing	23
Trust Me	25
Because I Love You	27
I`m Always Here For You	29
My Special Creation	31
Let Me Love Others Through You	33
Love, This is My Special Gift	35
There`s Never a Fraction of a Second	37
What is Love?	39
I Understand	41
Receive to Reflect	43
Stay in Contact with the Source	45
People of Praise	47
My Kind of Music	49
A Promise for You and Your Children	51
Touch Others with My Love	53
Think About This	55
Come Fly with Me	57
The Christmas Tree	59
Wheels of Progress	61
Each Step of the Way	63
Meet Me in the Morning	65
Positive Perks	67
Thank You, Dear Parents	69
I am Here to Help	71
The Science of Prayer	73
The Gift of Greater Love	75
Making Things Right	77
Stay Simple	79
Consider the Sparrow	81
Let Me Warm Your Christmas	83

Start Anew, Start Today	85
My Love	87
You don't Have to Be Perfect	89
Happiness as Constant as the Sun	91
Parenting Through Prayer	93
Taking Back Control	95
Be Wise, Let Me Decide!	97
The Tapestry	99
Loved by the Light	101
Humble People are My Friends	103
How Faith Works	105
Draw Near	107
Up Close and Personal	109
What is True and Right?	111
Live the Golden Rule	113
Prince of Peace	115
Include Me	117
How to Get the Most from Life	119
How to Take Pressure	121
Sweet Dreams Tonight	123
What is Truth?	125
Praise	127
Gift Exchange	129
Wheels of Progress	131
Where are You?	133
Make Time for People	135
I Love You for Who You Are	137
Thank You, Mothers	139
Ever Present Help	141
The God Factor	143
Your Billboard	145
Understanding, Answers, Faith	147
Let's Start Anew	149
A Gift that Kepps on Giving	151
You Can Change	153
My Presence	155
Try Me	157
Let's Live!	159
Parenting by Example	161
Quietness of Spirit	163
Rest in Me	165
Let Me Love Others Through You	167
A Spiritual Place	169

Staying in Touch	171
Multiplying Power	173
What will You Give Me?	175
Happy New You!	177
Love to the Core	179
Stay Simple	181
Home of Hearts	183
Abundant Health	185
The Real Thing	187
Build Bridges, Not Walls	189
Constant Companion	191
Forgiveness is Divine	193
Work with Me	195
The Essence of Christmas - Love	197
The Difference	199
Positive Perks	201
My Love for You is Complete	203
Let Me Touch You	205
My Miracle-working Power is Yours	207
Leading the Way	209
You're Special!	211
Talk to Me	213
Hideaway	215
The Eternal Chain of Love	217
My Gift to You	219
The Climb to Victory	221
Make Your Day	223
When "Reality" is Not Reality	225
The Sanctuary	227
My Riches are Yours	229
The Source of Joy	231
I am Here for You	233
Meet Me in the Morning	235
Forgive and Forget	237
Peace Progress	239
Let My Love Warm Your Christmas	241

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

<i>ARTICLE</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
A Gift that Kepps on Giving	151
A Promise for You and Your Children	51
A Spiritual Place	169
Abundant Health	185
Always and Forever	21
Be Wise, Let Me Decide!	97
Because I Love You	27
Build Bridges, Not Walls	189
Come Fly with Me	57
Connect with Me	15
Consider the Sparrow	81
Constant Companion	191
Draw Near	107
Each Step of the Way	63
Ever Present Help	141
Forgive and Forget	237
Forgiveness is Divine	193
Gift Exchange	129
Happiness as Constant as the Sun	91
Happy New You!	177
Hideaway	215
Home of Hearts	183
How Faith Works	105
How Faith Works	13
How to Get the Most from Life	119
How To Get the Most From Life	11
How to Take Pressure	121
Humble People are My Friends	103
I am Here for You	233
I am Here to Help	71
I Love You for Who You Are	137
I Love You, Just You	09
I Understand	41
I`m Always Here For You	29
In The Secret Chamber	17
Include Me	117
Leading the Way	209
Let Me Love Others Through You	33
Let Me Love Others Through You	167

Let Me Touch You	205
Let Me Warm Your Christmas	83
Let My Love Warm Your Christmas	241
Let's Live!	159
Let's Start Anew	149
Live the Golden Rule	113
Love to the Core	179
Love, This is My Special Gift	35
Loved by the Light	101
Make Time for People	135
Make Your Day	227
Making Things Right	77
Meet Me in the Morning	235
Meet Me in the Morning	65
Multiplying Power	173
My Gift to You	219
My Kind of Music	49
My Love	79
My Love for You is Complete	203
My Miracle-working Power is Yours	207
My Presence	155
My Riches are Yours	229
My Special Creation	31
Parenting by Example	161
Parenting Through Prayer	93
Peace Progress	239
People of Praise	47
Positive Perks	201
Positive Perks	67
Praise	127
Prince of Peace	115
Quietness of Spirit	163
Reach Out and Receive Healing	23
Receive to Reflect	43
Rest in Me	165
Spend Time with Me	19
Start Anew, Start Today	85
Stay in Contact with the Source	45
Stay Simple	79
Stay Simple	181
Staying in Touch	171
Sweet Dreams Tonight	123
Taking Back Control	95

Talk to Me	213
Thank You, Dear Parents	69
Thank You, Mothers	139
The Christmas Tree	59
The Climb to Victory	221
The Difference	199
The Essence of Christmas - Love	197
The Eternal Chain of Love	217
The Gift of Greater Love	75
The God Factor	143
The Real Thing	187
The Sanctuary	227
The Science of Prayer	73
The Source of Joy	231
The Tapestry	99
There's Never a Fraction of a Second	37
Think About This	55
Touch Others with My Love	53
Trust Me	25
Try Me	157
Understanding, Answers, Faith	147
Up Close and Personal	109
What is Love?	39
What is True and Right?	111
What is Truth?	125
What will You Give Me?	175
Wheels of Progress	61
Wheels of Progress	131
When "Reality" is Not Reality	225
Where are You?	133
Work with Me	195
You Can Change	153
You don't Have to Be Perfect	89
You're Special!	211
Your Billboard	145



I love you—
JUST YOU

I love you as if you were the only one. My love is reaching out to you right now. My love, My forgiveness, and My mercy are all right there, just for you, if you will only receive them.

I love you just the way you are. I am not stacking up all your faults and failures and mistakes to hold against you. I see only the good, and I see possibilities that others do not see.

I see your every tear. I hear your every cry. I feel your every frustration, your every worry, your every burden, your

every desire. I know everything about you—all your wants, all your lacks. I see straight through to your heart of hearts and all that is in it, and I deeply love you.

I long to hold you close, here on My gentle breast. I am right there by your side, and I will never, ever forsake you.

I love you, just you, and here I patiently wait—for you! Won't you please come running into My arms, where we can live and love and revel in this love forever, eternally, immortally, without end? I'm yours.

How to get the most from life

From Jesus with Love

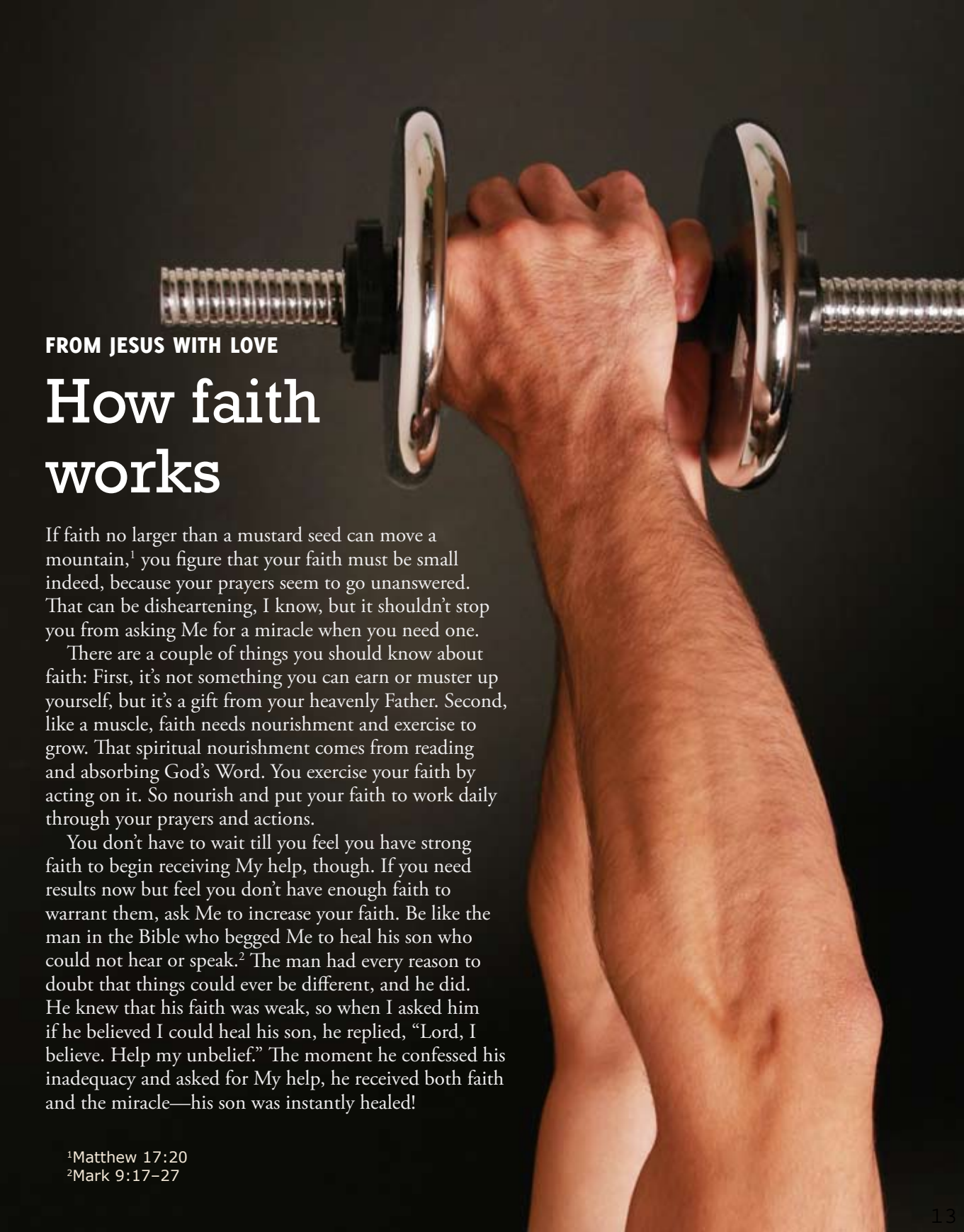


It's sad how so many people are content to just let life pass them by. Sure, they may be busy keeping up or trying to get ahead, and they may fill every spare moment with activities that they hope will be relaxing and enjoyable, but where is all that busy activity taking them? When do they really live?

The secret to getting the most out of life is in living close to Me and living in My Word. By that I don't mean that you should hide away and give yourself solely to quiet reflection and study; I mean that you should try to include Me in your daily activities and apply My Word to whatever you're doing. If you can learn to do that, your life will take on new meaning and depth. You will not only be much happier and feel more fulfilled, but you will brighten the lives of those around you as you reflect My love and the light of My Word in all you do.

It starts by making a habit of taking a few quiet minutes at the start of every day for prayer and reading My Word. Then take what I have taught you in the "classroom" and apply it throughout the day. If you don't know how, just shoot up a quick prayer and I will show you. On the job, running errands, or relaxing with family and friends, I can make you a greater blessing to others and bless you in the process.

Life will become richer and more meaningful as I help you make more time for the most interesting and rewarding thing I have going—people. You'll even get much more out of such everyday things as reading the newspaper or watching a movie or TV if you ask Me for My mind on each matter. I think you'll be surprised to find how much I know and how much I have to offer!



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

How faith works

If faith no larger than a mustard seed can move a mountain,¹ you figure that your faith must be small indeed, because your prayers seem to go unanswered. That can be disheartening, I know, but it shouldn't stop you from asking Me for a miracle when you need one.

There are a couple of things you should know about faith: First, it's not something you can earn or muster up yourself, but it's a gift from your heavenly Father. Second, like a muscle, faith needs nourishment and exercise to grow. That spiritual nourishment comes from reading and absorbing God's Word. You exercise your faith by acting on it. So nourish and put your faith to work daily through your prayers and actions.

You don't have to wait till you feel you have strong faith to begin receiving My help, though. If you need results now but feel you don't have enough faith to warrant them, ask Me to increase your faith. Be like the man in the Bible who begged Me to heal his son who could not hear or speak.² The man had every reason to doubt that things could ever be different, and he did. He knew that his faith was weak, so when I asked him if he believed I could heal his son, he replied, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." The moment he confessed his inadequacy and asked for My help, he received both faith and the miracle—his son was instantly healed!

¹Matthew 17:20

²Mark 9:17-27

CONNECT >> WITH ME

■ No matter what your circumstances or how you have handled them up till now, no matter what you have done or not done, I love you. I see your every tear. I hear your every cry for help. I feel your every heartache, your every sorrow, your every frustration, your every worry. I know your every desire. I see straight through to your heart of hearts and all that is in it, and I love you more deeply than you can possibly comprehend.

I see your struggles and I want to help. Life often *is* a struggle, but it is made so much easier when you spiritually connect with Me. I have all the love and comfort and peace and solutions you seek. I can transform turmoil, emptiness, and disappointment into peace, plenty, and love.

I am right here at your side, waiting patiently for you to reach out to Me so I can relieve your troubled mind, dry your tears, and show you how much I love you. You just need to connect with Me. You can do it anytime, anywhere, and I will supply the needs of your spirit, whatever you need most at that moment.

FROM JESUS—WITH LOVE



In the Secret Chambers

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE


In the quiet chambers, as you take time with Me, I will speak to you. At first it won't even be in words. I'll just give you the peace that you need.

But as you take more time with Me—always coming in faith, believing that I'm there, waiting for you, and that I enter with you into the secret, quiet chambers of your heart—as you do this more and more, you will begin to hear Me more clearly. It's something that you need to make a habit of, something that you have to practice. You have to attune your spiritual ears so that you can hear My voice. It's like learning anything new. At first you have to concentrate, to really make an effort.

It's like someone learning to tune a stringed instrument. At first it's very difficult. Musicians have to really concentrate to be able to tell which notes are off key, which strings need to be tightened and which need to be loosened. But after a while, it becomes second nature to them and they can do it almost without thinking.

So it is with learning to listen to Me and hear from Me. Come regularly, step into the quiet chambers of your heart, and tune in to hear My voice. Little by little you will begin to hear Me clearer and clearer, until pretty soon it won't require such a big effort. You'll be able to hear Me loud and clear. You won't even wonder if it's Me. You won't even have to strain to hear it, but My still, small voice will just be there, clearly instructing you in your heart.





Spend time
with Me, and
I will teach
you to love

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Be a Vessel
of My Love

Do you think you can pour love out of yourself? If you try, you will soon find that your own love falls short. True, unfailing, self-sacrificial love does not come from yourself, by your own power, or through your own efforts or habits or your own knowing how to love. But as you fill up on Me and My love, you will have this kind of love—and more than enough. This love will then pour out on everyone you meet.

First, you must let Me fill you up. A vessel that is moving or stopped up cannot be filled. You must be an empty vessel with an open mouth, and you must hold still and wait for Me to fill you up.

Spend time with Me, and I will teach you to love. Then My face will shine on your face, and those who see you will know that this love does not come from you, but from Me.

Always and forever...

I pour forth My love constantly, without end. The flow is always rich and free and abundant, but how much you see and feel this love in your life depends on your faith—how much you look for it and recognize it in the innumerable ways that I manifest My love each day. Whether or not you see it or feel it or recognize it does not change the fact that My love is constant and abundant and unconditional.

You cannot deserve it or work for it or be worthy of it in yourself, for My love is a free gift. I love you because I love you.—It's as simple as that! I love you, I will never stop loving you, and I will never love you any less than I do today. I will always love you with a perfect, unending, and abundant love.

I long for you to partake of this love of Mine in all its richness, beauty, power, and glory. My love for you is forever love.

From Jesus with Love

Reach Out and Receive Healing

I have My arms outstretched, and in My hands are precious gifts for you—gifts of love, forgiveness, mercy and healing. All of these things are in My hands, and I will freely give them to you if you will only reach out and receive them by faith.

These gifts are not earned by your goodness. You could never be good enough to receive these precious gifts in My hands, but I give them to you freely.

Don't look on your afflictions as punishment for your sins, for they accomplish a great purpose. These light afflictions are but steppingstones, all working together for good to accomplish My will and My purpose. They lead to the higher ground of fuller faith and trust in Me.

As you pray and trust in Me for your light affliction, it will encourage and increase not only your faith, but the faith of others as they see your example of faith, trust, and dependence on Me in your affliction.

Ask for My healing, for I am the Great Physician and I long to make you whole.

Do not look at what you do not have, but keep your eyes upon Me and have faith in My promises. Have faith in My Words to you. Have faith in My voice speaking to your heart. Have faith in the love that you feel surrounding you.

When you are tempted to fear or doubt or worry, fix your eyes on Me and trust. When you are tempted to tremble, just trust in Me. When you are overwhelmed and the tears fall, keep trusting in Me. Trust Me through everything.

Trust that I know best. Trust in My wisdom. Trust in My ability to lead you and guide you and use you to the fullest. Trust in Me for the future. Trust that I will not fail you, and that I will fulfill all of My Words to you. Trust that I will not leave you comfortless. Trust that you will indeed feel My love and know My love in a greater way than before.

Trust that I will comfort you in the night when you feel that you have no one else. Trust that I am there by your side. Trust that I am able and will help you through this time of testing. Trust that I will not fail you, no matter what your mind tells you. Keep your eyes on Me and trust Me wholly.

Because I Love You ...

I see your every tear. I hear your every cry.

I feel your every frustration, your every worry, your every burden, your every desire. I know everything about you—all your wants, all your lacks. I see your heart and all that is in it, and I deeply love you.

I long to hold you and kiss away the hurts and heartaches, if you will but allow Me to. I long to comfort, to soothe, and to pour My balm of love upon your aching heart. I long to take away every worry, every fear, every tear, every frustration. I long to blow away every cloud of confusion and to soothe your frazzled nerves. I long to melt away the bitterness and turn every deep longing into marvelous fulfillment and true satisfaction.

I long to give you the sun and the moon, the stars in the sky, the ecstasies of Heaven and a love that will never end. I long to pull you through whatever deep, dark experience, whatever dense fog you find yourself in. Whatever confusion or frustration you have bottled up inside, I long to melt it all away—because I love you.

I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU

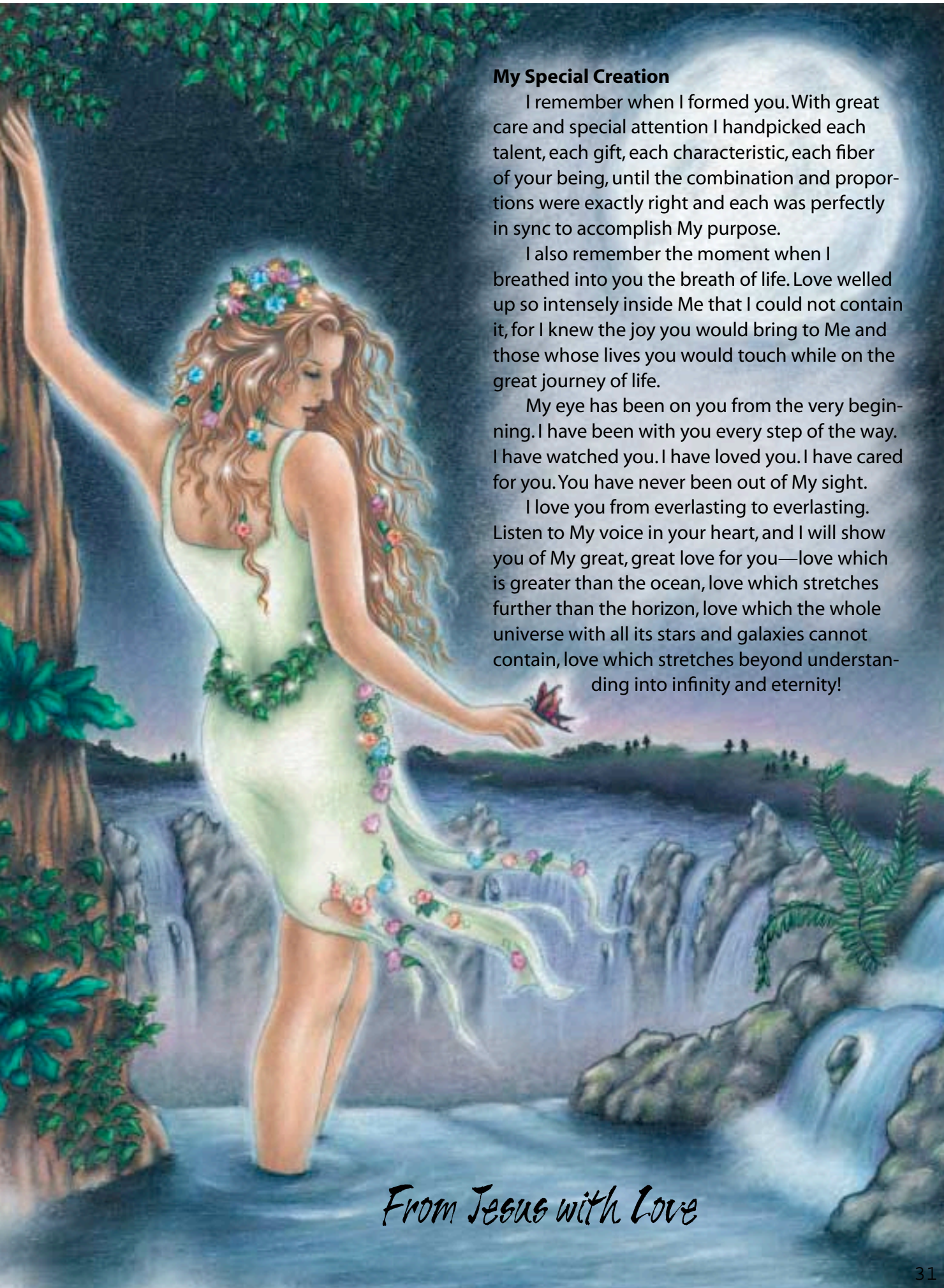
Turn to Me in your loneliness. I love you dearly, and I am there for you anytime, all the time. I am your constant companion, your best friend.

When you feel like no one cares and there is no love to be found, that is the time to lie back in My arms and find peace. When you are discouraged and feel like a mess, look into My face and see Me smile upon you, for I love you just the way you are. When you feel worried or frustrated, run to Me. I will be your perfect companion. When you feel that no one can possibly understand the difficulties you are passing through, that is the time to run to Me. I always understand. Set your affections on Me, and I will fill your every need.

In those special times together, our love will grow stronger and our relationship deeper than any earthly love or relationship could ever be. From this oneness with Me will grow your greatest and most lasting happiness, fulfillment and contentment.

Love, Jesus

From Jesus with Love



My Special Creation

I remember when I formed you. With great care and special attention I handpicked each talent, each gift, each characteristic, each fiber of your being, until the combination and proportions were exactly right and each was perfectly in sync to accomplish My purpose.

I also remember the moment when I breathed into you the breath of life. Love welled up so intensely inside Me that I could not contain it, for I knew the joy you would bring to Me and those whose lives you would touch while on the great journey of life.

My eye has been on you from the very beginning. I have been with you every step of the way. I have watched you. I have loved you. I have cared for you. You have never been out of My sight.

I love you from everlasting to everlasting. Listen to My voice in your heart, and I will show you of My great, great love for you—love which is greater than the ocean, love which stretches further than the horizon, love which the whole universe with all its stars and galaxies cannot contain, love which stretches beyond understanding into infinity and eternity!

From Jesus with Love

Let Me love others through you

Let Me use your eyes to see the needs of others. Let Me use your ears to hear the heartcries of the lost. Let Me use your tongue to pour forth My Words of love and encouragement to one who is downcast. Let Me break your heart for the multitudes of people who have not yet heard of My love. Let Me use your hands to dry the tears of those who cry, to give a pat on the back to those who are discouraged, to be a helping hand to someone who is falling by the way.

Let My Word fill you to overflowing, so that you exude its warmth, its cheerfulness, its love, and its positiveness. As you let it fill your heart and mind and spirit, it will provide an aura of love around you that others will want to partake of.

Give and it shall be given to you. I will pour My love upon you as you go forth to preach My Gospel, My Word, My love. Thus you will heal their hearts.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



From Jesus with Love

Love—this is My special gift for you. Love that knows no boundaries. Love that does not judge you by the color of your skin, the way you look, or how you speak. Love that gives. Love that shares. Love that cares.

Love that is alive, vibrant, warm, and kind. Love that is unconditional and forever.

Love that is patient in a world of intolerance. Love that is understanding when others fail to see into your heart. Love that is kind and tender when all else around you seems cold and hard. Love that comforts you in your sorrow, that consoles you when you're lonely, that gives you a helping hand when you're down. Love that is full of happiness and laughter. Love that brings peace in the midst of stormy weather. Love that always finds a way.

My love is always there for you—any place, any time, day or night. My love will descend to any depth to save, go any length to rescue. It knows no stopping place; it knows no limit in giving. I give you My love, infinite and true.

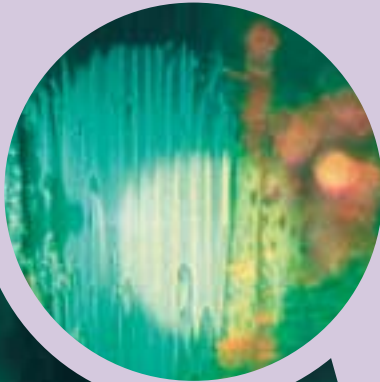
My love brings peace of mind when you are confused, rest when you are weary, and strength when you feel you cannot go on. My love will calm your fears and give you courage in the face of despair. My love can heal when your body is broken; it can soothe your heartaches and pain. My love will ease your mind when it is troubled and weary; it will melt away tension, worry, and strain.

My love is My Christmas gift for you.
It's always been there for you. Will
you take it now?

—Jesus

Is it possible that Jesus could love you and care about you this much? Would you like to find out? All you have to do is give Jesus a chance. Just try Him and see. Hold open your heart and let Him place His gift of love there. Just say, "I receive You, Jesus. I want Your gift of love and a life that is full and free." It's just that simple. He'll do the rest. He loves you! Merry Christmas!

From Jesus With Love



**THERE'S NEVER A
FRACTION OF A
SECOND...**
... that I'm not caring for you.

In times of darkness I will be your light. In times of sadness I will be your joy. In times of struggle I will be your deliverance. In times of weakness I will be your strength. In times of question I will be your answer. And more important than any of this, I am love to you. You can never be lost to My love.

So never be discouraged or disheartened, and don't look back. Don't be remorseful about the mistakes and sins of the past, for the past is the past. In the very moment that you sought My forgiveness and called out to Me, I granted forgiveness, so there is no need to worry or fear or carry the burden yourself.

Never agonize over the past, and never fear for the future. Look up into My loving face. Come to Me, and you will find perfect forgiveness, perfect comfort, perfect strength, perfect love, from now until the day that I return for you.



From Jesus With Love
WHAT IS LOVE?

Is love a “pitty-patty” emotional feeling? Or is it something deeper, something steadier, something stronger and surer? Love comes in many forms. Love has many faces. Love brings with it many feelings—and many responsibilities. Love can’t be put in a box. Love is a gift that I place in the hearts of people the world over, yet love is manifested differently in each person’s life.

Love can be emotional or love can be stable. Emotional love can come and go, like the waves of the sea, but true love, My love, is more unmovable, unchanging, and eternal than the mountains.

The basis of all true love, of all marriages or any kind of deep personal relationship that is destined to succeed, must be in Me, the Source of love, the Creator of love, the Embodiment of love. If you make Me the foundation of your relationship, I will hold you together.

If you always look to Me, hold on to Me and love Me, then you can be assured that your love will grow and succeed because you have this sure promise: My love never fails.

—*Jesus*

“I UNDERSTAND” —FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I understand the trying of men’s hearts—the despair, the discouragement, the desperation.

I understand the pain of leaving loved ones, for first I had to leave My Father to go to Earth, and then I had to leave those that I loved so dearly on Earth to return to My Father.

I understand what it’s like to feel betrayed, for one whom I had befriended [Judas] betrayed Me with a kiss.

I understand fear of what lies ahead, and so I prayed, “Father, let this cup pass from Me!”

I understand what it’s like to feel ridiculed and abused, for I was ridiculed and abused.

I understand pain, for I felt excruciating pain as the nails pierced My hands and My feet.

I understand what it’s like to feel abandoned, for I felt abandoned by those I loved, who also loved Me. For a moment I thought that even My Father had abandoned Me.

Though My Father did not let that cup pass from Me, though one who I had loved betrayed Me, though I saw My loved ones flee from Me in time of trouble, though I was beaten and spat upon, though the nails pierced My hands and feet, though I felt My Father had abandoned Me, though I had to die an agonizing death, though it looked like a great defeat, it all brought about a great victory and great salvation—a great resurrection that changed the course of history and all eternity!

I died to save you, but I went through all the rest to understand you better.



From Jesus with Love

Receive to Reflect

You are as a crystal that not only reflects light, but warmth—warmth of spirit, warmth of understanding, warmth of comfort, warmth of love. But you must remember that crystals have no light or warmth of their own; they only reflect what they receive. Likewise, it is not possible for you to pour forth the love, understanding, and comfort of God without first being filled with Me. The warmth and comfort and understanding and the love of God come only from abiding in Me and My Words, and letting them and Me abide in you.

You must become full to overflowing, so My Spirit may pour through you. How can you do this? By loving Me, by seeking Me, by drinking in My Words and My Spirit and My love, by believing, by yielding, and by doing what I tell you to do.

So come to Me and learn to rest in My arms, to fellowship with Me, to receive of Me, that you may be able to pour forth to others, to fill their needs. Come, My precious crystal, and absorb My light and warmth, so My light and warmth may flow upon others, through you.

—Jesus

Stay in contact with the Source!



Spiritual strength comes from Me—from abiding in Me, abiding in My Spirit. It is Mine to give, and I give it to those who feed heartily from My Word, who cherish it, who draw their nourishment from it. It takes faith to put other things aside in order to come to Me. This step in itself causes strength of spirit, because it is trusting Me.

It's easy to get busy with a little here and a little there, for there's always so much to do. But remember to take that time to make contact with Me and to keep that contact with Me, for when you do, My Spirit is able to flow. When it's needed, it will be available; it will be there to help you with solutions to your problems or whatever else you need.

Stay in contact with the Source! Let Me constantly replenish your reservoirs of spiritual strength. Take time to come to the fountain, to open your vessel and let it be filled. Abide in the flow of My Spirit and let it lead you, guide you, strengthen you, refresh you, and keep you happy and fulfilled.

From Jesus with Love

people of praise

From Jesus with Love

Oh that My people would be people of praise! Oh that they would constantly have a word or song of praise in their hearts and on their lips!

Praise is the way of My Kingdom. Praise is the opposite of the way of the world. The Devil brings his people into bondage through fear, worry, contention, bitterness, and murmuring. But I long to bring My people into freedom through praise and thanksgiving.

When you are praising, then I can envelop you in My Spirit. Praise helps to ward off the attacks of doubts, fears, and worries put in your mind by the Evil One. Praise brings great strength, because praise helps you to keep your mind on Me.

The words of praise that come from your heart and lips are the joy of My life. Speak them any time to Me. Never be ashamed or embarrassed or afraid to express how thankful you are for Me and My love.

I love each and every one of your words. No matter what you say, I understand. Even when you feel your words are inadequate, I understand. Every expression of praise and thanks thrills Me and satisfies Me.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

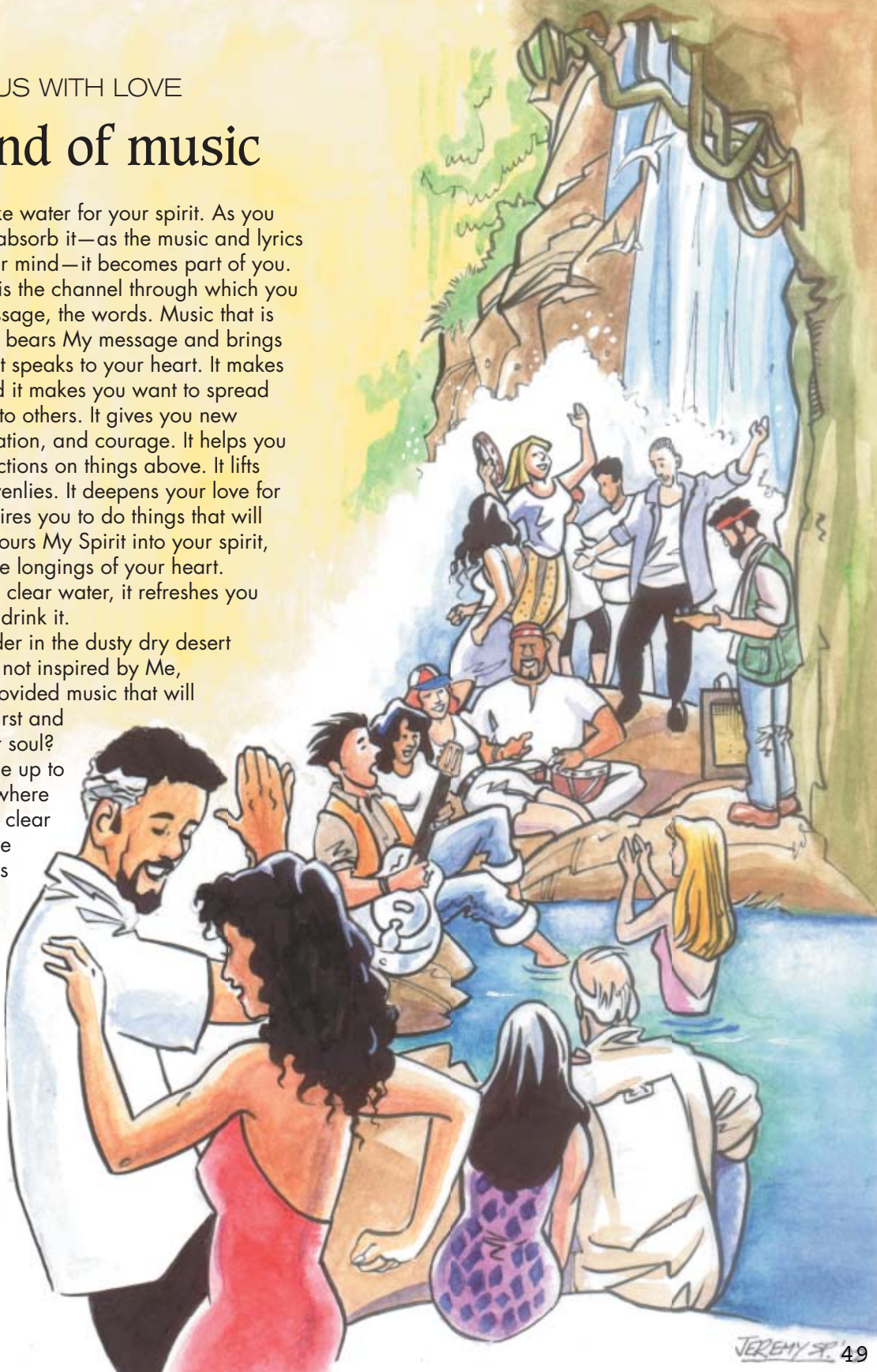
My kind of music

Music is like water for your spirit. As you drink it in and absorb it—as the music and lyrics resonate in your mind—it becomes part of you.

The music is the channel through which you receive the message, the words. Music that is inspired by Me bears My message and brings life and hope. It speaks to your heart. It makes you happy, and it makes you want to spread that happiness to others. It gives you new strength, inspiration, and courage. It helps you to set your affections on things above. It lifts you to the heavenlies. It deepens your love for Me, and it inspires you to do things that will please Me. It pours My Spirit into your spirit, and answers the longings of your heart. Like cool, pure, clear water, it refreshes you every time you drink it.

Why wander in the dusty dry desert of music that is not inspired by Me, when I have provided music that will quench your thirst and rejuvenate your soul? Come up! Come up to the mountains where the streams are clear and fresh! Leave the things of this world behind you, and find thrills of the spirit that you never knew existed!

—Jesus



A Promise for You and Your Children

All parents feel inadequate in some way or another, at some time or another. It is part of parental love to want the best for your children even if it means giving of yourself beyond your natural limits.

But don't make the mistake many parents do in thinking they have to carry the whole load themselves. If you do that, you'll soon wear out. You need to learn to share the load with Me. If you can't give your children everything you would like to every day, give them what you can and then trust Me for the rest.

The most important thing you can give your children is love—your love and My love. Do that, and you will have happy, well-adjusted children; you will have succeeded as a parent. But to have that love, you must take time with Me and My Word, in prayer and reflection. I have all the strength and peace and faith and love and answers you need. I love your children and know exactly what they need day by day. I want to fill your every need so together we can fill theirs, but to get those things you must spend time with Me.

When it seems impossible to make time for Me, that's when you need it most. Come into My arms and find rest. Cast your burdens upon Me. My shoulders are broad enough and My arms strong enough to carry any load. Make time to be with Me each day and I will answer your prayers for your children. I will make you the parent you want to be. I will do what you can't. And last but not least, your children will see a new light upon your face, for they will see Me there.

FROM
Touch
JESUS
others
WITH
with My
LOVE
love

Before you go to sleep at night, think about My love for you. If you'll count your blessings, you will see how I have blessed you in so many ways, through so many things and so many people. Each of these is a token of My great love for you, personally.

I ask that you also think about how much love you have given. What did you do today to show love to others, so they too could be touched by My love? If you followed the leading of your heart, that little nudge I gave you each time I put an opportunity to show love in your path, you were also touched by My love. You can't give love without receiving a touch of My love in return. That's why it can be truly said that it is more blessed to give than to receive, that more love is found in giving love than in receiving love. If others don't return your love, I repay; and if they do, you receive doubly, from them and from Me.

How much love do you give? Remember that I have no mouth but yours and no hands but yours to touch others' hearts and draw them to Me. Give and it shall be given to you. As much as you have done it to others, you have done it to Me.



THINK ABOUT THIS ...

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

How would you feel if you never received a love letter or any other communication from the person you loved most—not even a quick note? Wouldn't you feel hurt? Or if you are married, how would you feel if your spouse went days on end without saying a word to you?

Well, *you* are the one I love, and when I don't receive any word from you, it breaks My heart. It makes Me wonder if you care for Me as deeply as I care for you. Please don't forget Me—and please don't forget to communicate with Me. I know it can seem like a sacrifice to pray sometimes, with everything else you have to do and think about, but it's a sacrifice I'm well pleased with.

Prayer is your link with the divine. It's tapping into the Source. It's a direct link to Me and My love. Prayer melts us together and makes us one, so you can have My mind on whatever's on your mind. It brings down My peace. It lifts your spirits and puts things in perspective. Prayer also moves My hand and spurs Me to action. It heals, it revives, it restores, it builds. It can change the course of your day, and can even change the course of history. Prayer can be your saving grace, so don't pass it up. Think about it.



A hummingbird is shown in profile, hovering and facing right towards a large white flower. The bird has iridescent feathers on its wings and back. The background is a soft, warm gradient of light green and yellow. To the right, there are dark red leaves and the petals of the white flower.

come fly with Me!

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Connect with Me by praising Me, and I will carry you to heights in the spirit that you never dreamed existed. It's so simple, and it doesn't need to take long. Start praising Me and see how easy it is. Fill your heart and mind and mouth with something you're thankful for, and the chain reaction will begin. Praise Me for the wonderful life I have given you. Praise Me for the wonderful people I have surrounded you with, to love and be loved by. Praising Me for even the simplest things puts you on My positive channel and in a position to receive more of My positive input.

Open your heart to Me by praising Me, and I will flood you with My love and My Spirit—enough to carry you through the day if you will keep your heart open and turned to Me. Haven't you read that I am light, and in Me is no darkness at all? That's the way it is. Connect with Me and I will flood your heart and mind and life with light, so there will be no room for darkness—the worries and negative thoughts that can so easily spoil your day by keeping you earthbound. Praise is your ticket to ride.



The Christmas tree

By Amanda White

A Christmas tree! What a beautiful sight! But what does it mean to me? I wondered as I gazed at the Yuletide display before me.

The evergreen tree—it symbolizes Jesus, who lives in my heart for good. He never dies away in the winter of my difficulties, but is always with me.

The star on the tiptop of the tree is like that unforgettable star that lit the way to the first humble home of my Savior two thousand years ago. It also reminds me to always look up, that there's always a shining star of hope, even in my darkest nights.

The baubles and pretty decorations are the good, happy things that fill my life with spice and delight. I don't take time as often as I should to thank God for all my blessings, or even for the sad things and the hard times that have made me the person that I am today. Life wouldn't be life without both joy and sadness, the good and the bad.

The colorful string of lights reminds me of the things God does to light my way through life. "His Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). I never need feel alone.

And last but not least, the presents under the Christmas tree symbolize my gifts to Jesus. It is His birthday, after all. The most meaningful gifts are gifts of love—time, friendship, company, giving, forgiveness, and understanding. I give Him gifts each time I give from my heart to others.

The heart of Christmas is not in the presents we give, but the love that we share. This is what makes Christmas.

Wheels of progress

There are cycles in life—times in which everything seems to go well, and times when things seem to go badly. I want you to learn to hold on to Me through each phase of the cycle.

When you are faced with a new obstacle or problem, don't let it discourage you and don't worry that you and I together won't be able to overcome it. We will, but you must pass through this low phase of the cycle in the process. Problems cause you to exercise your faith as you rise up to meet them, and that brings the next phase of the cycle: You call on Me for help, and you fight and you win and you make progress. It's like a wheel as it turns: As the top goes down, the bottom comes around to the top and the wheel carries you forward.

Each time you face a new test, you must fight once again. You take up the challenge, call on Me for help, and once again overcome and make more progress. More tests bring more victories. But if at any time you don't seek Me for the solution, if you don't take up the challenge or don't fight through to victory, you stop the cycle. You remain at the low point and there is no forward motion; you go nowhere.

So don't look at the low points in your life as defeats, but as opportunities to make forward progress. I know it's often difficult to go through these cycles, but you must in order to keep moving forward, so keep at it!



EACH STEP OF THE WAY

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



The road I have for you two to walk together is a road of love. It's a road I want you to embark on with thanksgiving and joy, but also with the understanding that it can only be safely traveled with Me.

I must be your focal point, that tie that binds, that living link, the channel through which My life and My love can freely flow between you.

I love you and delight to travel this road with you, but you also need to remember to hold on to Me. This road will not always be smooth. It will have its costs, its tests, its difficulties, its sacrifices, but these are designed by Me to help you mature and grow in love, in depth, in giving, and in learning what real love is. They are designed to draw you closer to My heart.

Sometimes you won't be able to see the road ahead, but I want you to trust Me anyway. Always give Me first place in your lives, and I will greatly bless, protect, and keep you. The road will take some turns you're not expecting or prepared for, but I will be with you each step of the way.

Meet Me in the morning

You do well to take time with Me first thing in the morning, for you are powerless without the strength you draw from Me, you are foolish without the wisdom you learn from Me, and you have no love to share with others unless you first get it from Me. Without Me, you would continue on in your own little world and be limited to your own meager resources. Your human strength would run out before the day had scarcely started, your own thoughts would get in the way, and you wouldn't go far on yesterday's store of love. But when you come to Me, I open the boundless world of My Spirit to you. I am wisdom, I am strength, and I am love.

Haven't I said in My Word that you must labor in order to enter into My rest? It seems easier to carry on in your own energy than to labor to enter into the realm of My Spirit where I would carry you along, but that's not so; you really make it harder for yourself, because you make it harder for Me to help you. So take a little time each morning to hear from Me and enter into My rest. Remind yourself that until you have heard from Me, you don't have the strength or wisdom or love you need to face another day.

Practice makes perfect. As you practice reaching out to Me, it will become easier. Keep taking this time with Me each morning, and I will always be here for you.

POSITIVE PERKS

When life gets to be too much, when everything around you seems to be falling apart, when you feel that nothing you do helps, what should you do?— Think about Me. Think about how much I love you. Think about My power. Think about all your blessings, and thank Me.

You can praise your way right out of a bad mood! If you thank Me for all the good things in your life, the negative feelings will dissipate.

You may sometimes find yourself in situations where there doesn't seem to be anything at all good to thank Me for. Well, then thank Me for the good that will eventually come out of the bad, because if you love Me, sooner or later it will. That's explained in the Bible, in Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God." For My children who love Me, I can bring good out of anything.

Let Me change your difficult day into a happy one. You can always find something to thank Me for. Praise Me for one thing, and you'll usually be reminded of another, and another. Happiness will find you as you focus on Me and on the positive.

Thank you, dear parents...

for being part of the miracle of bringing new lives into the world;
for loving the children I have entrusted to your care;
for opening your hearts and lives to these gifts of joy;
for teaching them that I am love by your own loving examples;
for giving them a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on;
for comforting them when they hurt and need extra tender loving care;
for giving of yourselves for them, asking nothing in return, which teaches them unselfishness and self-sacrifice;
for showing mercy, even when they least deserve it, that they might understand My mercy and forgiveness;
for praying for them in all things big and small, that they might learn the power of prayer;
for leaning on Me when your own strength runs out, which teaches them that My grace and strength are always enough;
for never losing faith, which teaches them the rewards of faith;
for holding on to the promises of My Word, that they too might learn to put their trust in Me;
for giving them back to Me, knowing that I always care for My own;
for loving them unconditionally, no matter where their choices may take them;
for helping them grow into men and women we can all be proud of.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



From Jesus with love

I am here to help

I know all about you—your gifts, your talents, your strengths. I also know your weaknesses, your idiosyncrasies, and all the funny things about you that make you an individual. I know about the nagging problems that you can't seem to overcome and all the things about yourself that bother you. I know your heart's desires and secret longings. There is nothing hidden from Me.

I care about each of your disappointments and heartbreaks. I care about how you feel. I care about what you think. I care about the difficulties and hardships that you face. I care about your health. I care about your material needs. I care about your spiritual struggles. There is not one detail of your life that does not concern Me, and I am here to help.

Every time you look up to Me, I am there. I hear your prayers and My heart is moved with compassion. I never get tired of listening to you. I am never distant. I am never too tired or too busy for you. I never turn away. I never sleep. I never hang a "Do Not Disturb" sign on My door. I always hear and answer your prayers. Sometimes I don't answer in the way you ask Me to or think I should, and sometimes you don't see the answer immediately, but I always hear and I always answer.

The science of prayer

It's a law of My Spirit that your prayers have an effect; they move My hand and they go to work in the lives of those you pray for.

Prayer shows your faith in Me—faith that I will bring the solutions, show you the way, work in people's lives, or even do the impossible when necessary. It also shows that you realize you need Me and are depending on Me, and this pleases Me greatly.

Prayer is the means by which I give you My blessings. I work through both your spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of your heart, but when you put your prayer into words, this is an even greater manifestation of your faith. This glorifies Me and acknowledges that I am the One who performs miracles, supplies, protects, and guides you.

When you pray, you are operating in the realm of faith, where miracles are born. Just little old you praying and asking Me to do something is very powerful. You don't have to *feel* that power. It's not the feeling that matters, it's the *spirit* of prayer that is powerful, supernatural.

Prayers always have an effect. When you pray, things happen in the spirit world, and because of that, things happen on earth. The minute you pray, we connect in the spirit and I begin to do the work that only I can, whether you see the answer right away or not. I may not always give you the answer that you ask for or expect, but I promise to answer according to what I know is best. I respect your prayers and have committed Myself to answer every one.

This is a law of the spirit: When you pray, you begin the spiritual process and set off a chain reaction of events. But if you don't pray, those things can't happen. The more you pray about things, the more I can work for you.

The gift of greater love

Love for others is a gift from Me. How do you receive it?—Just as you would receive any gift from Me. You simply ask, believe, and accept. How do you enact it?—One step at a time, with one loving deed, followed by another, followed by another.

You can show My love to others in many ways—through forgiveness, mercy, kindness, thoughtfulness, concern, understanding, words of love, words of encouragement, words of praise, taking time to talk, taking time to listen, sympathizing, sharing the load, and giving of yourself even when it is least expected or least deserved.

Receive My gift of love and enact it day by day, step by step, deed by deed, word by word, action by action. Every time you are concerned for others and translate that concern into loving action, you also become a little more like Me, so people will see more of Me and less of you. Every time you share My love, love will come back to you. As you put forth the effort to give more love, I will more than match you; I will pour My love into you in greater measure so you will have more to enjoy and more to share. “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” That’s My rule of giving—the more you give, the more you will receive.



From Jesus with love

Making things right

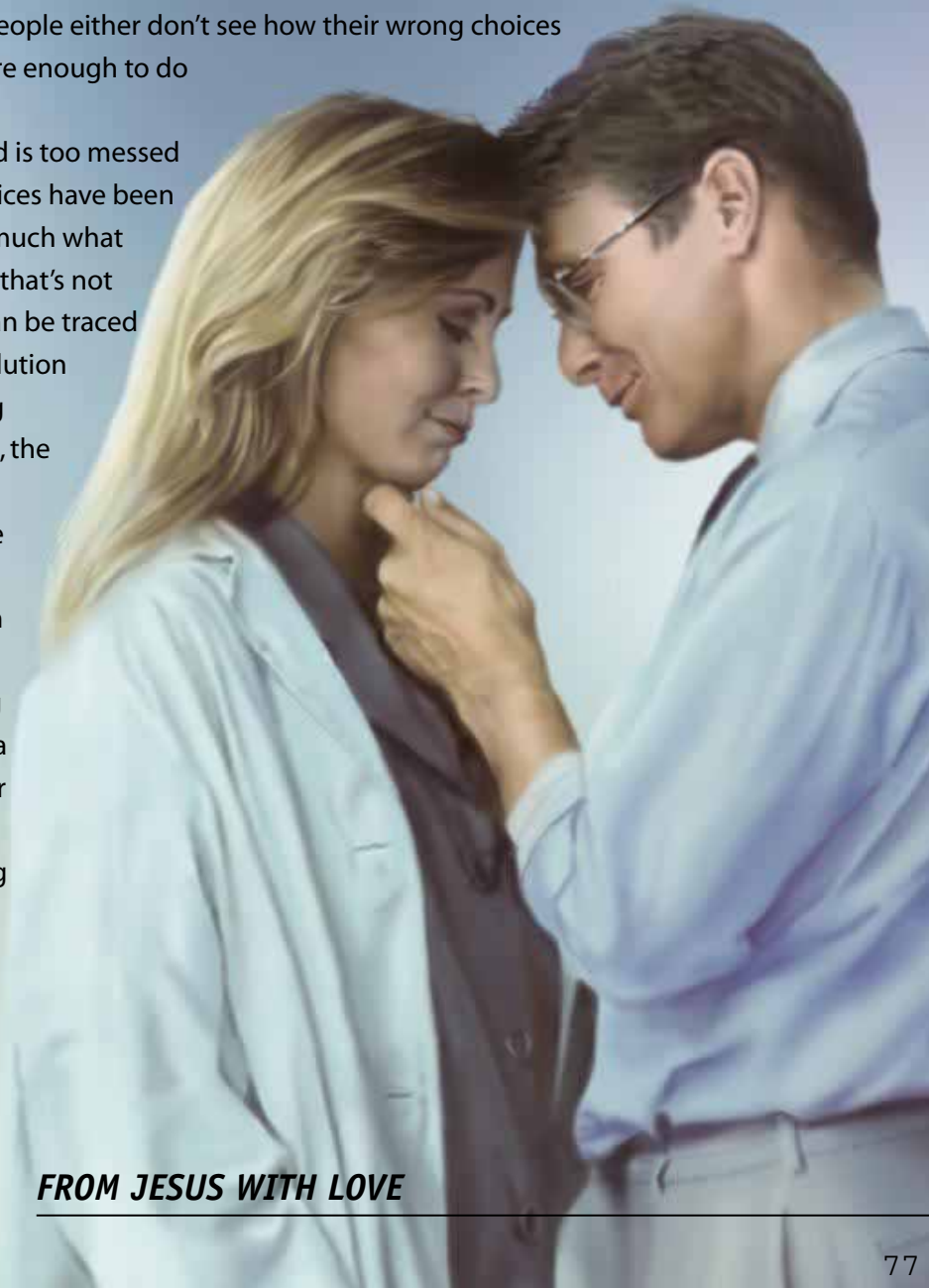
Life is a great cycle of cause and effect. Everyone makes choices every day, and everyone's choices affect others. The combination of everyone's choices and the effect those choices have on others makes the world what it is.

Every problem can be traced to some unloving or selfish choice someone made. These sins are the major cause of problems in the world today—selfishness and lack of love. People either don't see how their wrong choices affect others or they don't care enough to do things differently.

You may feel that the world is too messed up, that too many wrong choices have been made, that it doesn't matter much what you do, that it's hopeless. But that's not true. Just as every problem can be traced to a wrong decision, every solution begins with a wise and loving decision to do the right thing, the loving and unselfish thing.

A little bit of love can make a lot of difference. One act of kindness or unselfishness can start a whole chain reaction of events that will, in the long run, make life a lot better for a lot of people. So don't despair because there is so much suffering and grief and wrong in the world. Instead, do what you can to make things right and encourage others to do the same. The world won't change in a day, but you can make a difference if you try.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



Stay simple

I spoke great truths, profound words that changed lives and continue to do so. But I also spoke to the children. I was simple, I was clear, and I didn't lose My appreciation of little things. I stopped to enjoy the flowers. I cooked for My disciples.

It's when you can't find joy in the everyday things of life that you become complicated and lose the human touch; you exchange depth of character for a labyrinth of complex thinking, a heart that is sensitive to the things of the spirit for mere head knowledge.

Simplicity is a gift. Everyone starts out with it, but as some people grow up they discount this gift because they associate it with ignorance, naiveté, immaturity, and a lack of sophistication. They prefer to weave a web of complexity to cover it. But did I not say that unless you have childlike simplicity to believe in the "impossible" and the unseen—Me, the One who died for you and rose to life again so you could have the wonderful but simple gift of eternal life—you cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven? The gift of simplicity remains for those who have the humility and wisdom to value it and claim it as their own.

There is much to discover throughout life and even more in Heaven, but you will always find that the most profound truths, the greatest beauty, and the most outstanding wisdom are expressed simply.

Consider the sparrow...



My eye is on the sparrow as she flutters about in search of food and a place to nest. I guide her to a resting place, and she trusts Me. She doesn't worry about what she doesn't have. She just goes about her day and trusts that I will provide her needs. How small and numerous are the sparrows, and yet I know and watch over them all. I remember and care for each one.

You, My child, are far more precious to Me than all the sparrows combined, and if I show such concern for these small and seemingly insignificant birds, will I not also care for you? I know your troubles and I understand your fears. I am here to give you faith and answer your prayers, but I need you to trust Me as the little sparrow does. You don't see her fluttering about in a panic, worried and flurried; she is calm and peaceful, knowing that My eye is on her and I will care for her as My own. My eye is on you, too, and I stand ready to help. So trust Me, won't you? Let Me do the worrying!

Let My love warm your Christmas.

No matter how down you may be, if you are out of work and have an empty wallet or bank account, if you're lonely or sick or have suffered personal loss, if war or hate or injustice or others' indifference have chilled your heart this Christmas, My love can change that. Let My birth and all that it heralded be remembered today. Let My love fill you and give you purpose.

Evils also plagued the world at the time of My birth and throughout My life on earth. Remember the miserable circumstances into which I was born. Think of the mothers who mourned the slaughter of their baby boys by a power-crazed king. Remember the oppression of that time.

In the midst of such great darkness came the brightest light the world has ever known; amidst great suffering the greatest gift was given. My Father sent Me in the form of a weak and helpless baby to grow up and live as one of you and experience the same hurts you do, and to suffer at the hands of unjust men. I became one of you in order to save you.

Let the truth and love that I brought that first Christmas Day shine in your heart now. Let Me wipe away your fears and tears. Let My love warm your Christmas.

Start anew, start today.

Life is all about the little decisions you make every day. Decisions of the past have had their effect, but every new day can be a new start. No matter what has happened up till now, you have a chance to make the right decisions today.

Don't waste time reliving the pain of past mistakes and wrong decisions. That only saps your power to do what you can do today. You can't change the past, but the future is what you make it, starting right now, so take full advantage of the present.

Learn from past mistakes and put them behind you today. Forgive those who have wronged you and ask forgiveness from those you have wronged. That probably won't be easy, but don't put it off; do it today. Look to Me and My Word for fresh courage and hope, starting today. Dream new dreams today. Set new goals today. Spend your time on things that truly count today. Love your family today. Be a friend today. Do things better, starting today.

With My help, your future can be filled with wonderful accomplishment and fulfillment that will more than make up for past disappointments—and it all starts today.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

My love

My love is patient and understanding in a world of intolerance. My love is tender and kind when people are callous or indifferent. My love comforts in times of sorrow. My love consoles the lonely. My love brings clarity of mind to those who are confused, rest to the weary, help to the helpless, and renewed strength to those who feel they can't go on. My love brings peace in the midst of life's storms.

My love can heal broken bodies. It can even soothe and mend broken hearts. My love melts away tension, worry, and strain. My love gives faith and courage in place of fear, hope in place of despair. My love is light and drives away the darkness. My love will descend to any depth to save, go to any length to rescue. My love knows no stopping place. There is no problem that My love can't overcome.

My love is My special gift to you. It has always been there for you, and always will be. Won't you take it now?

You don't have to be perfect

A lot of people don't pray until they're in some sort of trouble, and then they find they don't have the kind of faith that gets results. Their faith is weak because it's been so long since they last exercised it, and they feel their relationship with Me is strained because they didn't place much importance on it before trouble struck. They feel hypocritical or underserving, and don't know where to start in making things right.

It is much easier to pray full-of-faith prayers when you have a history of praying and receiving My answers, when you feel close to Me because you've opened your heart to Me day by day, and when you know you've done your best to please Me. But even if you don't meet those conditions, there's hope. You don't have to be perfect for Me to answer your prayers. I help all who call on Me in faith and humble desperation.

Simply turn to Me in your time of need, get your heart right by confessing your faults and receiving My forgiveness, believe that I can perform the miracle you need, and I will. Best of all, this can be the start of a whole new life with Me in which you experience more answers to prayers and a greater closeness to Me.

HAPPINESS

AS CONSTANT AS THE SUN

THE HAPPINESS OF THE SPIRIT is far above the happiness of the flesh, for the happiness of the spirit is something that will always be there for you. The loneliest nights or the darkest clouds can't take it away from you. The happiness of the flesh is fleeting. It comes and goes with your mood and surroundings, with the physical things that you see and feel, but the

happiness of the spirit comes from knowing that I am your Savior and that I care for you. Those truths never change.

The happiness that I give is as constant as the sun. When the sun disappears beneath the horizon at night, do you worry that it's gone forever? No, you realize that it is constant, always there. Though the night comes and you cannot see the sun, you never doubt its existence or that it will rise the next morning. So is the happiness of the spirit; it's ever-present, like the sun.

When darkness settles on your spirit and you lose sight of the happiness I have promised, that is the time to trust until morning, until you see and feel the sunshine of My love again. Never doubt—the dawn will come!



Parenting through prayer

It's not easy raising children in today's world. Many of the godly values that you want to encourage in your children are constantly being attacked by others who are going the opposite direction. You worry that even your best efforts will fail and that your children will turn their backs on the values you hold dear. I know you're tempted sometimes to give up, but don't. Your concern and care are not in vain. There's only so much that you can do, even though you try your best. But I'm capable of doing much more than you ever could, and I am here to help. I also understand your children even better than you do, and I know how to best handle their problems. I want to work with you to shape your children into the godly people you and I both want them to become.

Commit your children to Me in prayer. Through prayer you can be the better parent you want to be. Through prayer you can help protect your children from harm and unwholesome influences. Through prayer you can find My solutions to their problems. Through your prayers I can do what you can't do.

Set aside time each day to pray for your children. Each time you're faced with a troublesome issue, ask Me for the answer. Start today to be a better parent through prayer. Changes that you haven't thought possible will come to pass through the power of prayer.



Taking back **CONTROL**



There's so much that you need to do each day, so much that you want to do, and so much that others expect of you. You feel pulled in all directions. Pressure. Tension. Anxiety. Will it ever stop?

It won't stop on its own, but you can break the cycle. You don't have to remain entangled in the unending struggle to do more and have more. Life doesn't have to be a daily crisis. You don't have to be the prisoner of unrealistic expectations. Let Me help you regain control of your life.

The root of the problem is simple: You try to do too much, more than is humanly possible, and you put your mind, body, and spirit under pressure they were never meant to handle. It's time to reassess. Determine what things mean the most to you—your primary long-term goals and responsibilities—and what other things are essential to achieve those things. Channel your energies into those things, and let go of the rest. Once you've done this, the pressures that once seemed unbearable will start to dissipate.

Do you want a new lease on life? You can have one, but you have to be willing to let go of the pressures that drive you now. It's up to you.

Be wise -let Me decide!

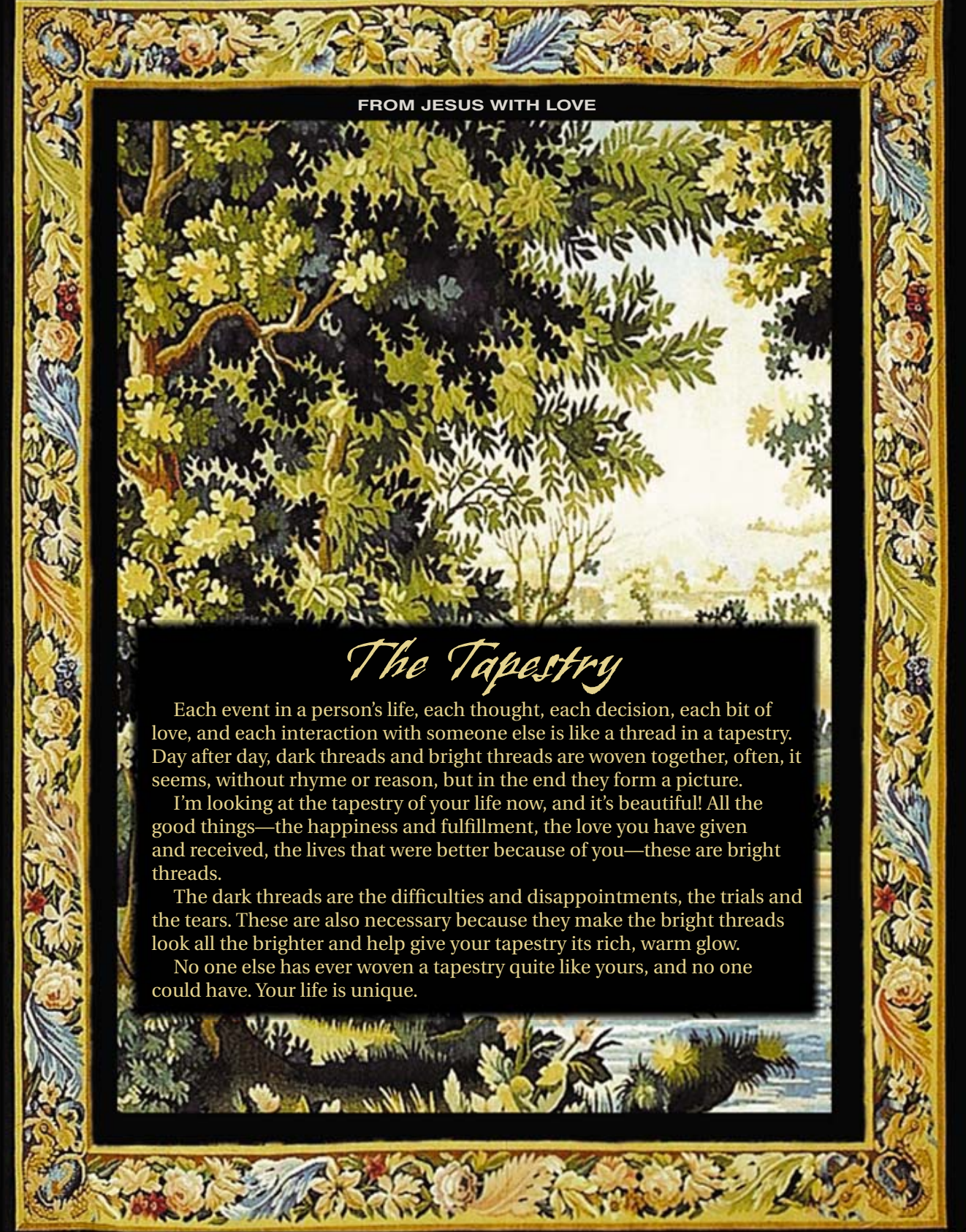
It's natural to have your own ideas, opinions, and preferences. That's the way you were created, and it's part of what makes you the unique individual you are. It's natural, but it doesn't always lead to the wisest and best choices unless you also involve Me in the decision-making process.

I love you and want you to be happy, fulfilled, and have everything you need, but for Me to help you all I can, you need to learn to let Me do the choosing. There's no decision too big or too small for Me to help you with. It may surprise you how practical and down to earth I can be! As you bring your plans or wishes to Me in prayer, I will give you My thoughts, counsel, and instruction.

It's not that I want to control you or dictate your every move, but from My vantage point I can see things much more clearly than you can, and I always know what will work out best and make you and everyone else involved happiest in the end. So when you pray about what to do in a certain situation, ask Me to override your own ideas and personal desires if I know that something else would prove better.

Then, of course, you need to be willing to accept My counsel and do things the way I show you. That's often easier said than done, but as you watch Me work on your behalf, you'll be happy you let Me have the final say. I always give the very best to those who leave the choice to Me!





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



The Tapestry

Each event in a person's life, each thought, each decision, each bit of love, and each interaction with someone else is like a thread in a tapestry. Day after day, dark threads and bright threads are woven together, often, it seems, without rhyme or reason, but in the end they form a picture.

I'm looking at the tapestry of your life now, and it's beautiful! All the good things—the happiness and fulfillment, the love you have given and received, the lives that were better because of you—these are bright threads.

The dark threads are the difficulties and disappointments, the trials and the tears. These are also necessary because they make the bright threads look all the brighter and help give your tapestry its rich, warm glow.

No one else has ever woven a tapestry quite like yours, and no one could have. Your life is unique.



Loved by the Light

If you have faith in Me, you have no need to fear the future. With Me in your heart, you can know that I will care for you all the days of your life and on into the next life. Find peace in knowing Me, believing in My love, and believing that there is a better world waiting.

Let the light of My love shine into your life. Find comfort and solace in this light. When you know that I love you, you can rest assured that everything is going to be okay.

You cannot possibly imagine the love and joy and freedom that await you in the heavenly realm, but I can give you a little foretaste—a little glimpse of Heaven and its wonders. Won't you step into the light and experience a touch of that love?

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE





Humble people are My friends

The humble person may not end up on the top of the heap, but he is more likely to have a truly successful life because he is more likely to succeed in the things that matter most. He is a quiet force for good, and I always reward that. He also wins the love and respect of others because his humble spirit conveys his love and respect for them. They see him putting their happiness before his own, and that makes them want to do the same.

Humility runs contrary to human nature. It is the nature of man to try to appear to be more than he really is by boasting of his personal attributes, abilities, and achievements. He hopes to make himself feel better about himself and to win the respect of others, but it seldom turns out that way. He may feel better about himself for the moment, but pride drives others away.

As a proverb states, “Pride comes before a fall.” The proud live in fear of falling, of being exposed and humiliated. But the humble have nothing to fear because they have nowhere to fall—they are already lowly in their own eyes. The humble are always welcome with Me. They are My companions and friends. And when they join Me in Heaven, they will feel right at home and fit right in. Heaven was made for people like them!



How faith works

**FROM
JESUS
WITH
LOVE**

If faith no larger than a mustard seed can move a mountain (Matthew 17:20), you figure that your faith must be small indeed, because your prayers seem to go unanswered. That can be disheartening, I know, but it shouldn't stop you from asking Me for a miracle when you need one.

There are a couple of things you should know about faith: First, it's not something you can earn or muster up yourself, but it's a gift from your heavenly Father. Second, like a muscle, faith needs nourishment and exercise to grow. That spiritual nourishment comes from reading and absorbing God's Word. You exercise your faith by acting on it. So nourish and put your faith to work daily through your prayers and actions.

You don't have to wait till you feel you have strong faith to begin receiving My help, though. If you need results now but feel you don't have enough faith to warrant them, ask Me to increase your faith. Be like the man in the Bible who begged Me to heal his son, who could not hear or speak. The man had every reason to doubt that things could ever be different, and he did. He knew that his faith was weak, so when I asked him if he believed I could heal his son, he replied, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." The moment he confessed his inadequacy and asked for My help, he received both faith and the miracle—his son was instantly healed!

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Draw Near

THAT SIMPLE CHRISTMAS CAROL has a message for everyone—girl or boy, man or woman.

“Leave your toys.” Toys can also mean worldly trappings or anything that encumbers your life or distracts you from the true meaning of Christmas.

“Make no noise.” There is a lot of noise in the world today—noise and confusion that threatens to drown out My voice. I want to speak to you, to give you My love, encouragement, counsel, and all the other good things I have for you, but to hear My voice clearly you must get quiet and block out the noise of the world.

“Kneel at His crib and worship Him.” If you love Me, honor Me by kneeling before Me. “Kneeling” is a position of the heart, more than a position of the body. My “crib” is anywhere—wherever you are.

“At Thy shrine...” Don’t necessarily think of “shrine” as a church building or temple, for I am present wherever you are and you can worship Me there.

“Child divine, we are Thine. Our Savior’s here.” Yes, all who have received Me are My children, regardless of who they are or where they are.

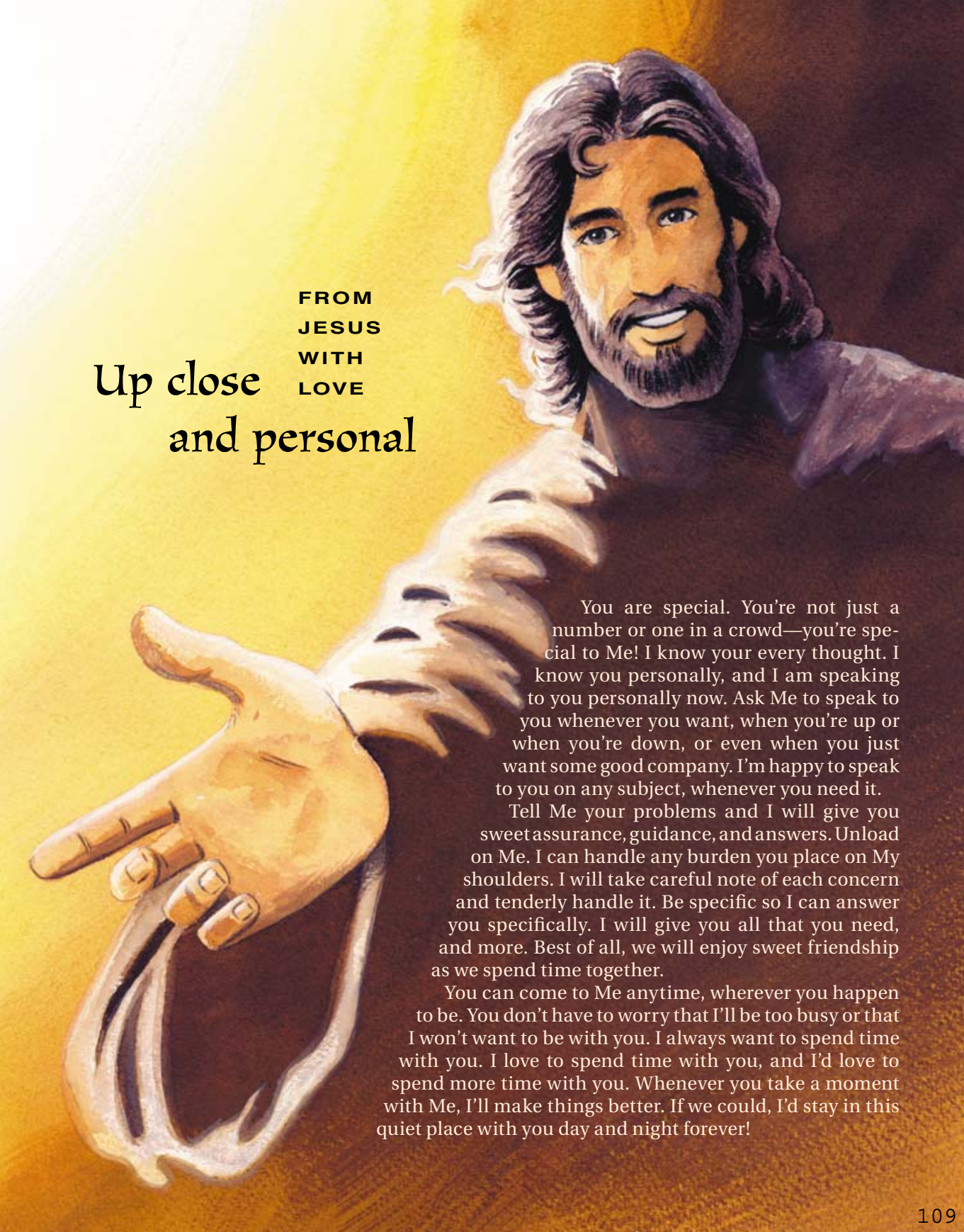
“All must draw near.” Have you drawn near? Have you let Me be born anew in your heart? Then you can truly sing, “Hallelujah, now I hear the bells’ joyful ringing! Hallelujah, now I can hear the angels sing! Hallelujah for everything, because my Savior makes everything right!”

Girls and boys,
leave your toys,
make no noise,
Kneel at His crib
and worship Him.

At Thy shrine,
Child divine,
we are Thine.
Our Savior’s here.

“Hallelujah”
the bells do ring,
“Hallelujah”
the angels sing,
“Hallelujah”
for everything,”
All must draw near.





**FROM
JESUS
WITH
LOVE**

**Up close
and personal**

You are special. You're not just a number or one in a crowd—you're special to Me! I know your every thought. I know you personally, and I am speaking to you personally now. Ask Me to speak to you whenever you want, when you're up or when you're down, or even when you just want some good company. I'm happy to speak to you on any subject, whenever you need it.

Tell Me your problems and I will give you sweet assurance, guidance, and answers. Unload on Me. I can handle any burden you place on My shoulders. I will take careful note of each concern and tenderly handle it. Be specific so I can answer you specifically. I will give you all that you need, and more. Best of all, we will enjoy sweet friendship as we spend time together.

You can come to Me anytime, wherever you happen to be. You don't have to worry that I'll be too busy or that I won't want to be with you. I always want to spend time with you. I love to spend time with you, and I'd love to spend more time with you. Whenever you take a moment with Me, I'll make things better. If we could, I'd stay in this quiet place with you day and night forever!

WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT?


You can ask Me for any of the gifts of My Spirit, and according to My will I'll give them to you.

Solomon, when he was first made king, was desperate for My wisdom because he knew that he needed it. He prayed sincerely, wholeheartedly, and unselfishly, "Give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:9). Because his heart was in the right place, I really poured it on. As long as he stayed close to Me, he was one of the wisest men who had ever lived.

Wisdom is a great gift to have, because it's the gift of understanding what's true and right—and in today's mixed-up world, that can sometimes be hard to know. If you were to go only by what you read or hear, you'd be completely lost—you'd have no idea what the truth is or what's really happening around you. But with My gift of wisdom, you can know exactly where things truly stand.

Another gift that would be a big help to you is the gift of discernment. It's very similar to wisdom in that it helps you to have greater insight into people and situations, and to be able to tell whether they're being true or false.

Having these two gifts is a lot better than just being smart or well educated. If you want to be wise and have good discernment, just ask Me. Sincerely pray for these gifts of My Spirit, and I'll give them to you.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

LIVE!

the Golden Rule

I ONCE TOLD MY FOLLOWERS, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12). So many problems would be solved if people would live by that simple rule. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it is the smart thing to do. When you do it—even when it’s to your own hurt at first—it eventually comes back to you in the form of more love and other good things in your own life. When you build your life and character on treating people the way you want to be treated, it’s inevitable that they will return the favor by treating you with respect and kindness. But it starts with you.

You have opportunities every day to spread goodwill. You face choices every day in which you can either do what is best for yourself or best for someone else. Sometimes it can be difficult to do the right thing, especially when the person you’re dealing with hasn’t done right to you. You may not feel others deserve to be treated with love and kindness or that they are worth the sacrifice, but I didn’t say, “Do to others as they do to you.” My code for living is far above that normal perception of fairness. I want you to live on a higher plane. Anyone can be nice to those who are nice, but the person who can be nice to those who *aren’t* is the bigger person and more blessed by Me.



PRINCE OF *Peace*

Once, when I was crossing the Sea of Galilee with My disciples, a storm arose and threatened to sink our small boat. My disciples were frightened, but I commanded the storm to cease—“Peace! Be still!”—and the wind and waves obeyed Me. So shall it be one day soon when I say, “Enough!” and cause the storms of wars and strife to cease.

All of the problems of today’s world prove that people can’t solve their own problems. The world cannot survive without its Savior; it needs Me. Universal, lasting peace is not possible without Me, the Prince of Peace, but the time will come when the whole world will submit to My loving and righteous rule. Just a little longer and I will dry the eyes of the downtrodden and those who have been cruelly tormented by the horrors of war. One day, war will be a thing of the past—a concept only scarcely understood by those living then.

In the meantime, you can have real and lasting peace in your heart—peace that can withstand anything—by receiving Me as your personal Savior and turning to Me, the Prince of Peace, in your time of need. I will always be there for you.



INCLUDE *Me*

If you want a happier family and happier family life, here's how:

Include Me in everything you do.

I'm not talking about dry, formal, somber religiosity—anything but! You just might be surprised at how much fun I can be! The benefits of including Me are too numerous to list here, but I'll give you three.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

ONE: I'm full of ideas. My Father and I created this world together—the first-ever family project, if you will—and you've got to admit, we came up with some pretty good stuff! If we made it all for you and want you to enjoy it to the full—which we did—don't you think I can show you better things to do together than to sit semi-comatose in front of a TV?

TWO: I can relate. I can relate to every generation and know better than anyone how to bring generations together and *keep* them together. Don't forget, I've been at this a long time. There's no situation you face that I haven't helped others deal with before, so consult with Me the moment you begin to have problems on the home front.

THREE: More love. Isn't that what you want most for your family—love? *I am* love—the very spirit of love—so where I am, love is. The Bible says that in My presence is fullness of joy, and at My right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11). I have so much love to give you and yours—more than you could possibly imagine and much more than you can contain. It's here for you any time, all the time, just for the asking.

I'm at your beck and call. Just say, "Jesus, thank You for being a part of our family—the head of our family. Be with us now in what we're about to do."



HOW TO

GET THE MOST FROM LIFE

It's sad how so many people are content to just let life pass them by. Sure, they may be busy keeping up or trying to get ahead, and they may fill every spare moment with activities that they hope will be relaxing and enjoyable, but where is all that busy activity taking them? When do they really live?

The secret to getting the most out of life is in living close to Me and living in My Word. By that I don't mean that you should hide away and give yourself solely to quiet reflection and study; I mean that you should try to include Me in your daily activities and apply My Word to whatever you're doing. If you can learn to do that, your life will take on new meaning and depth. You will not only be much happier and feel more fulfilled, but you will brighten the lives of those around you as you reflect My love and the light of My Word in all you do.

It starts by making a habit of taking a few quiet minutes at the start of every day for prayer and reading My Word. Then take what I have taught you in the "classroom" and apply it throughout the day. If you don't know how, just shoot up a quick prayer and I will show you. On the job, running errands, or relaxing with family and friends, I can make you a greater blessing to others and bless you in the process. Life will become richer and more meaningful as I help you make more time for the most interesting and rewarding thing I have going—people. You'll even get much more out of such everyday things as reading the newspaper or watching a movie or TV if you ask Me for My mind on each matter. I think you'll be surprised to find how much I know and how much I have to offer!



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

HOW TO TAKE PRESSURE

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESSURE AND STRESS.

Pressure can be either good or bad for you, depending on where it's coming from and how you deal with it. Sometimes a little pressure is just what you need to help you reach your full potential. But stress—mental, emotional, or physical strain that wears you out and gets you nowhere—is never good for you. If you're feeling stressed, then something isn't right. You're either going about things the wrong way, or you're looking at things the wrong way.

When faced with a challenge, difficulty, or some other form of outside pressure, if you try to handle it by yourself instead of asking for My help, the pressure will turn into stress. You will feel anxious, rushed, frustrated, discouraged, and ultimately overwhelmed. When you try to handle pressure on your own, when you switch into “self-works” mode, it's really “self-destruction” mode. You think you don't have time to pray and wait for Me to work or show you what to do, so of course you're going to make more mistakes than you would with My help. That compounds the stress and makes a bad situation worse. It can become a vicious cycle if you don't recognize the problem, slow down, and do things differently.

The pressure situations I have designed for your life are meant to help, not hurt you—and they *will* if you handle them the right way. If it causes you to recognize your own limitations and become more dependent on Me, you're sure to come out ahead. If it causes you to turn around and transfer that pressure to Me by asking Me to help carry the load, I will. I will also give you the strength, patience, wisdom, understanding, or whatever it is you need in extra measure so you can do *your* part. Together we can tackle any problem without you getting stressed.

Sleep has obvious physical benefits—relaxation, energy restoration, growth, and healing, to name a few. Sleep helps you to live longer by giving your body a chance to focus on strengthening and repairing itself. You may spend a third of your life sleeping, but it's hardly a waste of time, because without it you wouldn't live long enough to enjoy all the time you'd save by not sleeping. And that's not the half of it!

The spiritual benefits from sleep are even greater and longer lasting, because your spirit is immortal, eternal. Freer from the mental habits, material concerns, and other distractions that dominate your waking hours, your spirit is more attuned to the spirit world when your body is asleep. This gives Me time and opportunity to work in your life in ways that I'm not always able to when you are preoccupied with other things. Sleep is a learning time and sometimes a testing time. It's also a time when your spirit can explore realms and discover truths that your mortal mind can't fathom. But most of all, I want it to be a loving time—a time when you can tap into My Spirit, experience My love in fuller measure, and learn to let it guide your thoughts and decisions. That's easier than you may think. All you need to do is commit any unfinished business or problems of the day to Me and ask Me to watch over you, and I will.

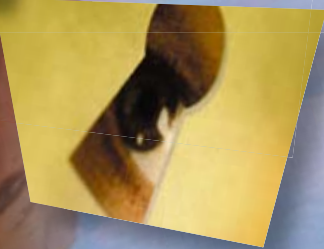
Come away with Me tonight! Find sweet rest and perfect peace at My side. Leave behind the problems and cares of this life, and catch glimpses of the world to come. Marvel at all I have in store for all those who love Me. Thrill to wonders of My love!



*sweet
dreams tonight!* **SWEET
DREAMS TONIGHT**

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

WHAT IS TRUTH?



That age-old question is being asked less and less these days. Some people don't ask because they're so wrapped up in gratifying their physical needs and desires that they never stop to consider their spiritual needs. Others don't ask because they're afraid they won't like the answer. But most people today don't ask because they've lost faith that there is an answer; their inborn hunger for truth has been dulled by the skepticism and notion of "relative morality" that pervade modern thought.

But does the truth cease to exist because people don't seek it or don't want to acknowledge it? Do God and the spirit world cease to exist because so many choose not to believe? Of course not! The truth is the truth, and it's not contingent on anyone believing it. Even if no one believed, it would remain more real and enduring than the world you experience with your five senses. What you consider reality is no more than a weak reflection of the real world—and that's the truth!

The truth is spiritual reality, and it's there for all who sincerely want it. I gave the keys to finding it when I said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. If you abide in My Word, you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (John 14:6; 8:31–32; Matthew 7:7). Open your heart to Me, and receive new life—eternal life. Let Me guide you into all truth. Let Me set you free!

WHY PRAISE

Positiveness lifts your spirit. It's a law of both the natural and spiritual realms that when you dwell on the good, then good surrounds you. When you think positive thoughts, speak positive things, and take positive action, you feel better and things generally work out better. Praising Me accelerates that positive cycle because it not only helps you to think on the good, but it moves you out of the physical realm with all of its limitations into the spiritual realm, where all things are possible.

Praise brings you closer to Me. When you praise Me, it opens and strengthens our connection. That enables Me to speak to you more clearly so I can help put things in perspective. Praise puts you on My wavelength, receiving My vibes. It opens a channel in the spirit through which I can pour out My blessings upon you.

Praising Me reminds you that only I am capable of solving your problems. It also tells Me that you're trusting Me and My power to bring victory. Your praises prove to Me that you're depending on Me, that you're letting go of your own works and depending on My power to work the needed miracle.

Praise activates your faith. It pleases Me and moves Me to answer your prayers, but it also encourages you and causes you to see beyond your request and present circumstances, to focus instead on the fulfillment.

Praise brings so much of My Spirit and so many of the fruits of My Spirit into your life, particularly the gifts of faith and positiveness, and those put you in line for healing, good health, and miracles of all sorts.

Focus on the good, no matter how bad the situation seems to be. Praise Me for all the wonderful things I have done for you in the past. Praise Me for the good that you can imagine Me accomplishing through this. Once you start praising Me more, you'll realize how much there is to praise Me for. Praise will turn your times of trouble into times of triumph.

PRAISE WHY

Gift exchange



The first Christmas was all for you. It was My Father’s gift of love to the world, but it was also His gift to you specifically. And it was a “gift that keeps on giving,” as they say.

For those who saw it firsthand—the star, the choir of angels, the baby in the manger—it was an unexpected and overwhelming spiritual experience. For the blessed few who recognized that baby as their Messiah, it was a dream come true. For them and the many millions since who have likewise believed, it has been the door to eternal life. And it’s the same today. If you celebrate Christmas in spirit and truth, the same wonder, the same promise, and the same unspeakable joy can all be yours.

But now Christmas is more than that. It’s more than a gift from My Father’s heart to yours—it’s a gift *exchange*. It’s a special time for you as you soak in My love and relive the wonder of the first Christmas, but it’s also special for Me in that you take more time to love and thank and praise Me for all I’ve done for you. This may be hard for you to understand and believe, but I need and appreciate your love as much as you do Mine. So if you’re still wondering what to give Me this Christmas, that’s it. Let’s make this Christmas extra special by giving each other the *best* of all gifts—our love.

WHEELS OF PROGRESS

There are cycles in life—times in which everything seems to go well, and times when things seem to go badly. I want you to learn to hold on to Me through each phase of the cycle.

When you are faced with a new obstacle or problem, don't let it discourage you and don't worry that you and I together won't be able to overcome it. We will, but you must pass through this low phase of the cycle in the process. Problems cause you to exercise your faith as you rise up to meet them, and that brings the next phase of the cycle: You call on Me for help, and you fight and you win and you make progress. It's like a wheel as it turns: As the top goes down, the bottom comes around to the top and the wheel carries you forward.

Each time you face a new test, you must fight once again. You take up the challenge, call on Me for help, and once again overcome and make more progress. More tests bring more victories. But if at any time you don't seek Me for the solution, if you don't take up the challenge or don't fight through to victory, you stop the cycle. You remain at the low point and there is no forward motion; you go nowhere.

So don't look at the low points in your life as defeats, but as opportunities to make forward progress. I know it's often difficult to go through these cycles, but you must in order to keep moving forward, so keep at it!

When things go wrong it's easy to ask, "Jesus, where are You when I need You?" It seems to you that I have failed you or that My love and patience have run out. At times like that your faith is being tested, and when you react in doubt rather than faith, you limit My ability to help you. It can become a vicious cycle.

Yet there are some people who remain positive, no matter what their circumstances. How can they face disappointment and even disaster so calmly? It's because they have strong faith in My love and the promises I've made in My Word. It's because they have sought and found a close personal link with Me. It's because they have learned to turn to Me in their times of need. It's not that their faith is never tested, but they know where to turn to for the help they need to pass the test.

Here's the secret to that kind of victory: Prepare for the hard times by learning to stay close to Me when times are good. Make a point of looking for My loving hand at work around you. Count your blessings. Cultivate an attitude of faith and trust and thankfulness. Then when the going gets rough, you will know I'm only a prayer away.

“Where ARE YOU?”

FROM
JESUS
WITH
LOVE

Make
time
for
people

It's easy to be a good person, but still be wrapped up in your own little world. After all, you already have more work and other responsibilities than you feel you can keep up with. It's no surprise that there's so little time for reaching out to others.

When I was on earth, I was also a busy man, especially during My public ministry. I had only about three and a half years to accomplish My mission, but I still took time for people—even some who others thought weren't worth My time. I let the children come to Me. I talked with the Samaritan woman at the well. I noticed Zacchaeus up in the tree and asked to spend the evening with him in his house. I also took time to personally encourage a thousand others—conversations so numerous and seemingly everyday that they didn't make it into the Gospels, yet each had a big impact on someone's life. If I could take the time to stop and show a little love and kindness and understanding to those around Me, you can too.

As you show love in the little things, I will pour more of My love into you, so you will have more to give and more to enjoy. You'll find this "extra" giving of yourself is really no sacrifice at all. I will more than make it up to you in added inspiration and other blessings, and so will those you make time for.





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I love you for who you are

In My heavenly kingdom, in the realm of the Spirit, all are happy and fulfilled, because they better understand My love. They do not question My love for them, for they have experienced the height and breadth and depth of it. They have great peace and great joy. There is no feeling that one is greater than another or that one is more loved, because they have found contentment in the knowledge that I love each of them for who they are. They understand that each is precious to Me. They understand that I died for each one, that I have redeemed each one, and therefore each one is very special to Me.

And so it is with you. You are special to Me! My love for you is personal. Don't ever think that you're just one in the crowd to Me. Don't ever think that because there are so many others, I don't have time for you or that My love will run out before it reaches you.

I know your innermost longings and your innermost fears and insecurities. I know your faults, too, and I love you just the same. I am love and

mercy and tenderness and forgiveness and sympathy. When you struggle, when you are tempted or weary or weak, I feel for you. When you are victorious, I rejoice with you.

I love and care about you, and I am not far away. I am right there beside you. Let Me shower you with My love. Let Me surround you with the warmth of My love. Let Me clothe you with the security of My love. Let Me fill you to overflowing with My love. Let Me show you how special you are to Me.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Thank you, mothers!

A mother's love is one of the best examples of My love for My children, because a godly mother loves unconditionally, continually, and despite the circumstances. It is a special love that I place in each mother's heart because I knew that through the love that mothers have for their children, all of you would better understand My love.

You may feel incapable in your task as a mother. You see your faults and know that you aren't perfect. But, oh, there is so much beauty surrounding a mother! You mothers resemble Me in the way you unselfishly give, sometimes without seeming to receive much in return, and in the way you pray for your children and support their dreams.

I knew when I gave you children that there would be times of disappointment, desperation, and heartbreak, but I also knew that there would be times of great joy and love beyond measure, and that in your children you would find much of the meaning to your life.

Being a mother requires a lot, but it also has its rewards—the joy of holding a newborn, the smile of a little child, the happy moments shared as a family, the appreciation and respect shown by your grown child, and the love exchanged all along the way. These and many more are My blessings for all that you give up to be a mother. And one day here in Heaven you will receive the ultimate reward for all that you have given. It will be the greatest family reunion ever, untarnished by tears or earthly limitations, where unveiled love will envelop you. In that moment you will experience the rewards of motherhood to the full.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Ever-Present Help

I don't want you to look at this sickness as something that I stand back and watch you go through—you there and Me here. It's never been like that, really, and I certainly don't want it to be like that now.

My heart breaks to see you in pain—not only the physical pain, but also the mental and spiritual attacks that come with it, the thoughts of helplessness and hopelessness, the despair. Please believe that I never allow anything to happen to you, one of My children who loves Me, that's not in some way for your good. Hang on to that promise.

I'm right here. I know it hurts, and I feel for you. I'm right here by your side. No, I'm not even that distant; I surround you, covering all the sore spots, soothing as only I can, and I won't leave you for an instant.

In times of pain, I will bring sweet relief. In times of distress, I will be your comforter. In times of doubt, I will fan your spark of faith. In your darkest hour, I will be your guiding light. In times of torment, I will be your safe haven. In times of emptiness, I will be your all-in-all.



The God factor

Nearly everyone in the world experiences financial pressure at one time or another, but some people deal with it better than others. What makes the difference is often not so much these people's circumstances, but to whom they turn for help. The secret to overcoming financial problems is actually the secret to overcoming *any* problem: Do what you can do, and then rely on the "God factor."

I told My disciples long ago, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). That truth—"with God all things are possible"—is the "God factor." If you can believe that, it changes everything! When you apply the God factor, all things become possible for you, too, because faith in God and His promises overrides all impossibilities.

Here are some promises you can bank on: "God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory" (Philippians 4:19). "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24). "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

All that the Father has is Mine, so I have all the riches of the universe at My disposal. I can give you all that you need and more, and I love you enough and am concerned about your happiness and wellbeing enough to do just that. No good thing will I withhold from you when you have done what *you* can do and then apply the God factor, asking Me to step in and do what you *can't* do.

FROM JESUS
WITH LOVE

Your billboard

Your face is your billboard by the highway of life. It's your means of unspoken communication, your first and most powerful "advertisement."

Many people don't put enough emphasis on making sure their billboard is displaying the right message. They walk around with their worries or woes or whatever else is on their mind written all over their face. Their introspection and stress can't help but show and are bound to affect others negatively. That sort of message is enough to repel all but their most understanding and loyal friends. But other people have a knack for staying cheerful no matter what they are going through. They have a bright countenance that attracts others.

So if you want to make and keep friends, let your face send a positive message that will lift others' hearts. Concentrate on having a pleasant facial expression that conveys faith, optimism, kindness, approachability, concern for others, and a joy for living—not one that changes with circumstances or how you happen to feel at the moment.

That's easier said than done, you say, especially when troubles loom large. This is one more good reason to bring your problems to Me in prayer—so I can help you see things from My perspective, give you solutions, and replace your fears with faith and your laments with praises. Then your face will reflect those positive inner feelings.

Understanding.

Answers.

Faith.

What may seem logical to you in a particular situation isn't necessarily right, because you're human and fallible. It also may not be the way I see it, because "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8–9).

You may be able to figure some things out and get some things right, but you'll do much better if you learn to ask Me for My insight and solutions. I understand it *all*, and I am ready, willing, and able to pass that understanding on to you when you ask Me to.


Sometimes I will lead you to the answer in My Word. Sometimes I will give you the answer in a flash of revelation. Other times I may guide your thoughts until you reach the right conclusion. I may even give you the answer through someone else. The point is, you'll get much farther by praying for My guidance than by trying to reason things out yourself. Not only am I able to give you understanding of situations and answers to your problems, but I am also able to give you the "intangibles"—love, faith, happiness, peace of mind, and a general sense of well-being that comes through living close to Me.

So come to Me with the faith of a little child. Come to Me with an open heart and an open mind, and let Me give you all that I have for you.



Let's start anew

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



LIFE'S MANY PROBLEMS AND WORRIES have pulled you away from Me. Your self-doubt and fear of failure have weakened your faith that I hear your prayers and am concerned and want to help you. But I'm telling you now that these doubts and the discouragement and depression they lead to are not from Me. They are straight from the enemy of your soul, the Devil. He wants to beat you down and destroy your happiness, but I want to rescue you and lift you up and make you happier than you ever dreamed possible. I want to give you a new start.

When you feel discouraged over some mistake you've made or the way you are, remember that I specialize in using weak, fallible people to show My love to the world. I allowed the disappointments and setbacks you've experienced over the years in order to make you more gentle, more compassionate, more understanding of others' weaknesses and problems—more like Me—so you can be a bigger help to them.

So you see, even deep dark experiences are good for you, and it doesn't need to stop there. If you will put yourself into My hands and be soft and moldable, like clay in the hands of a master potter, I will remake you. I will take your broken dreams, your heartaches, your disappointments, and with My hands of love make you into a better "pot." It may not be as grand or beautiful or perfect as what you had in mind, but it will be perfect in My sight, perfect for the role I have for you to play here, and perfect for your place in My heavenly kingdom.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

A gift that keeps on giving

I have a very special gift for you—one that's different from anything you've ever received from anyone else. It's not for sale in any store because it can't be bought or sold, but I give it freely. It will never get old, never break down or wear out, and you can never outgrow it. No one can take it from you, and it will last forever. You can take it with you wherever you go and enjoy it any time, all the time. It never changes, but will never cease to surprise and amaze you. You can share it all you want, and there will always be plenty to go around. In fact, the more you share it, the more you'll have.

Have you guessed what it is?

My gift to you is the promise of My presence. I want to be nearer and dearer to you than any earthly friend or lover can be, and I have so much to give you—more than enough to fill every day from now through eternity.

I'll start with an extra dose of My love—true, unfailing, unconditional love, the kind of love you've wanted and waited for all your life. I know you're happiest when you feel loved, and because My love is the richest, fullest form of love there is, the happiness it brings is out of this world. It's not the fleeting happiness you sometimes find elsewhere, but deep, abiding happiness in all of its many hues and tones—joy, comfort, contentment, peace, stability, security, positiveness, delight...

And I'll *always* be here, just a heartbeat away, to enjoy the good times with you and help you through the tough ones. I never tire of your company, and I have the answers to all of your questions and problems. You can talk to Me any time, anywhere, and I'll whisper back to your heart or mind just what you need at that moment.

Reach out and accept this special gift, and it's yours!

*I'll always
be here*



You can change



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Anybody can change, because I can change anybody who wants to be changed and comes to Me. In fact, if you're willing to do things My way, you can be anything that you want to be—as happy as you want to be, as fulfilled as you want to be, as challenged as you want to be, as content as you want to be, as positive as you want to be—because all of these things are within My power to give.

Whatever change you want to make in your life is possible. It doesn't matter what you've been like or how long you've been that way. It doesn't even matter if something you're trying to change is a part of your personality, your inborn nature, or something you feel is unchangeable. Even if you don't think you can change, you *can* because I can change you. If I made the world and everything in it, don't you see that it's a small thing for Me to transform a single life into something new, something even better?

It all begins with a spark of faith. I can speak to your heart and put that spark there—a spark of faith that tells you that I can and want to help you. But for Me to continue to work in your life and bring the desired change to fruition, you must give Me your full cooperation. You must have a believing and yielded heart. You must come to Me and receive My instruction, and then you have to be willing to do the things I ask of you. Only then will I be able to bring about all the changes you desire, and even then they won't all happen overnight. Certain aspects of this miracle can happen in an instant, the moment you believe and ask Me and yield. Others will take time, but as you continue to look to Me and do as I say, you will change. That I can promise!

So you see, everything is possible! It doesn't matter how bad you think you are, because I am able. *All* things are possible with Me, if you believe.

MY PRESENCE

I'm just as real and present as someone you can see and touch—even more so, actually, because I am *always* with you. I'm right here by your side, and I'm ready, willing, and able to speak to you, to help you, to direct you, to comfort you, to love you, to heal you, and to provide for you. I have a lot to offer, but how fully I am able to bless you depends on how much room you make for Me.

I want you to bring Me into every area of your life. I want you to think about Me, to talk to Me, and to listen to Me, and to learn to follow where I lead. I don't ask this because I want to harness or control you, but because I love you. I want to provide for you

and protect you and shower you with love. I want to be with you and around you and in you all the time, like a lover wants to be with the one he loves.

When you include Me in whatever it is you're doing, it strengthens our relationship; it draws you closer to My Spirit, and we form stronger bonds of love and communication. The more we talk, the more you come to Me for companionship, the more you look to Me for answers to your questions and solutions to your problems, the more you bring Me into each area of your life, the more our love will grow and the greater satisfaction you will find in life, because all you do will be blessed with My presence.

Try Me



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

If you don't know Me yet, then I have a proposal for you: Rather than trying to figure Me out, why not give Me a chance to show you the truth? I am not just talking about right and wrong, or good advice, but supernatural truth. All that I am cannot be comprehended by the mind. You have to seek and understand with your heart. Why not see for yourself if I'm real and "the way, the truth, and the life" as I told My first disciples? (John 14:6). Why not put Me to the test? Accept My love and presence into your life, and then see what I can do for you.

I can be your closest friend and confidant. I can help you when things go wrong and you need sup-

port. I can give happiness in place of grief, and I can bring beauty out of the ashes of failures and mistakes. Once you ask Me into your life, I will never leave you. That's a solemn pledge! I will always love and care for you in spite of everything, including your own faults and failings.

Once you connect with Me personally, then as you delve into what I have revealed in the Bible—and particularly in the Gospels—you will discover pure and life-giving truths within My Word. There's a personal message from Me to you within that book.

All you need to do to start to receive all that I have to offer is open your heart and invite Me in.

Let's live!

If you have found Me, you have found the secret to experiencing life to the full. I am far more than a historical character who lived and died 2,000 years ago. I lived and died back then, yes, but I also rose from the dead and am as alive and active today as I was when I walked the earth. And because I live, you can experience life and love as they were meant to be experienced, both here and now, and forever—boundless and eternal.

This heavenly gift is within your grasp. It's not difficult or complicated or only for certain people, but it's only possible when our spirits meet. When your spirit reaches out to Me, when you invite Me into your life, I give you full access to My love and power, which can help you succeed in every aspect of life. There is no problem that I can't fix, nothing bad that I can't make good, and nothing good that I can't make better. There is no hurt that I can't heal. There is no sadness that I can't turn to joy. There is no need that I can't provide. There is no void that I can't fill.

I am alive today in each heart that welcomes Me. I am active and at work, always renewing, restoring, and replenishing, making everything better and more beautiful whenever I am given a chance. Let Me live in you!

FROM JESUS
WITH LOVE



parenting by example

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

PARENTING HAS NEVER BEEN EASY, but all parents have one great thing going for them from day one: Their children love and look up to them more than anyone else in the world. This is an important part of the grand scheme of things, because while your children are a gift from Heaven, they are a work in progress. It's your job to help them grow into loving, responsible adults.

The love and respect your children feel for you are inborn, but love and respect aren't static. They increase or diminish day by day according to how you interact with your child. So don't betray your children's trust. Set the kind of example they will be proud to follow.

If you want your children to be outgoing and genuinely concerned about others, be that way yourself. If you want them to be unselfish, be unselfish. If you want them to be honest, be honest. If you want them to be optimistic and solution oriented, let them see you approach life's challenges and disappointments positively. If you want them to love, respect, and have a genuine connection with Me, keep your own connection strong through spending time with Me and reading My Word and putting what it says into practice. If you want them to have thankful hearts, thank and praise Me for My goodness at every turn.

If you set the right example for your children during their formative years, those bonds of love and respect will be unbreakable, no matter what may befall you or them. They will also be equipped to grow into adults that both you and I can be proud of. Then when you come home to Me, you'll hear Me say, "Well done, good and faithful parent!" (Matthew 25:21, *paraphrased*).





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Quietness of spirit

As you wait on Me in prayer, I am able to fill you with My strength. What does it mean to wait on Me? It means to give your thoughts and will to Me and to accept Mine. Often I do not reveal My will—what I know will prove best in the long run—all at once. That is often a step-by-step process. You surrender your thoughts and plans to Me, whether they be your plans for the day, your personal desires, your opinions on a certain subject, or whatever the case. But even after that initial yielding, it's still a step-by-step process as My plan unfolds. As I reveal more and more of My will, you must give Me more and more of yours.

As that process takes place, you are filled with My strength and My grace for each step. It is only when you begin to buck against My will or insist on keeping some of yours that you find you don't have the strength to keep up. As long as you're yielding and accepting, you'll receive all the grace and strength and peace of mind you need; you'll never lack. This is the simple principle of operating in My strength. To do it right, you must acknowledge Me and listen for My instructions at every turn.

It's a three-step process. First, you humbly give Me your will; second, you ask Me to show you My will in the matter; and third, you take action by asking Me for strength, yielding to My will, and doing it. As you do these things, My Spirit flows into you, supporting you and giving you exactly what you need in that situation. It is a beautiful state—the state of perfect peace with Me.



Rest IN ME

I love it when you take time to commune with Me. There don't even have to be words, prayers, or praises involved. We can commune in spirit if you turn your thoughts toward Me and let your mind and spirit dwell there.

We can be like two lovers who are happy at the thought of just being in each other's presence, no words passing between them. They hold each other and gaze into each other's eyes, and that is communication enough. Their hearts get on the same wavelength. They don't need to communicate verbally because their closeness lets them know what the other is thinking. It can be the same with you and Me. You start out by praising Me or thinking about Me, turning your heart toward Me and meditating on My goodness to you. As you do, we will start to connect in the spirit.

It takes peace and contentment of spirit to create this link with Me. Often the connection won't happen if you are worked up or worried about other things. It's like learning to float in water. If you struggle, the balance will be upset. You will break the connection with Me, and you will "sink." But if you lie back and focus on relaxing every muscle in your body, shutting out the noise of the world, you'll find that the water holds you up perfectly. It is such a wonderful feeling!

I want you to learn how to enter that state of full relaxation of mind and body, your thoughts filled entirely with Me. That is where I can minister to your spirit more directly, guide you in important matters, and give you solutions to your problems.



LET ME LOVE OTHERS THROUGH YOU

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Let Me use your eyes to see the needs of others. Let Me use your ears to hear the heartcries of the lost. Let Me use your tongue to pour forth My Words of love and encouragement to one who is downcast. Let Me break your heart for the multitudes of people who have not yet heard of My love. Let Me use your hands to dry the tears of those who cry, to give a pat on the back to those who are discouraged, to be a helping hand to someone who is falling by the way.

Let My Word fill you to overflowing, so that you exude its warmth, its cheerfulness, its love, and its positiveness. As you let it fill your heart and mind and spirit, it will provide an aura of love around you that others will want to partake of.

Give and it shall be given to you. I will pour My love upon you as you go forth to preach My Gospel, My Word, My love. Thus you will heal their hearts.

A Special Place

When I was there on Earth, I told those who loved Me that I was going before them to prepare a place for them, that where I am, they may be also. Since that time, I've been preparing a city for those who love Me to come to and live with Me. Since this place is for My special friends, I wanted it to be the best and most wonderful place there ever was, so I have created it to be perfect in every way. I have also made beautiful homes for them to live in, so they can be as comfortable as possible and have everything that their hearts could desire.

If you have received Me as your Savior, that makes you one of My special friends, and I have such a place for you. I have reserved a corner of Heaven just for you, a place where all your dreams will come true, where everything you've ever wanted will be right at your fingertips, where all those you love will be near you and you will be totally happy. This is a surprise that I have waiting for you when your earthly life is over. I can hardly wait to show you all that I've made for you and to enjoy the look on your face when I do.

You might feel you don't deserve these things. You might still be ashamed of things you've done, or you may have only just met Me, or you might feel like you haven't done much for Me. But don't worry about all that. Because I see your heart and I love you more than you could possibly know or understand, these things are My gift to you. When you give a gift to a loved one, you don't give it only because of what they do for you or because they deserve it; you give it because you love them. That's how I feel about you.

*dreams
come
true*

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

STAYING IN TOUCH

Talk to Me and I will talk to you. It's that simple. I'm here. I'm always with you. If you want to talk to Me, I'm available anytime and anywhere. I don't have office hours or office fees. I don't even have an office. I am available for you whenever you need Me. If you will stop, acknowledge Me, speak to Me, and wait, I will answer. I will never leave you comfortless (John 14:8 KJV). I will never leave you without an answer. I will never walk away from you. I am here for you.

You can ask Me anything, and I will give you an answer. In fact, if you want to make a difference in this world, ask Me *everything!* Ask Me about everything and you will find that it is a key to progress, a key to happiness, a key that will set your spirit free.

So if you want to reach a place where you can make a difference, where there is joy in place of sorrow, sunshine instead of shadows, love that casts out fear, and beauty for ashes—then come to Me (Isaiah 61:3). I will not turn you away. I can't wait to talk to you. I love you!

MULTIPLIED

DOWN

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Many people, when faced with a negative situation, feel justified in complaining and dwelling on the negative. Others have discovered the power of positive thinking and use it, but they don't understand that the good results of positive thinking are part of the spiritual principle of praise, that praising Me for My goodness brings down My blessings. The power of positive thinking is multiplied when turned into praise, but because many don't know they should bring Me into their positive thinking, they're only scratching the surface.

Your bodies are built to respond vibrantly to positive thinking, and praise is the ultimate form of positive thinking. When you praise Me even in the midst of seemingly dark circumstances, you're initiating a reaction that will actually make you feel good physically and will give you extra strength to persevere. But that's just the beginning, because at the same time, in the spirit, you're pleasing Me by telling Me that you appreciate My blessings in spite of the negative; that you have faith that I'll work it out and continue to take care of you. That results in My increased blessings in your life.

What will you give Me?

What can you give Me, the King of kings and Lord of lords, whose throne is Heaven and whose footstool is Earth?¹ What could you possibly give Me, the One who has everything? What more could I possibly need?—Gifts from the heart. Any gift from the heart is a gift that I will treasure.

Each person is created with a unique blend of gifts, talents, and abilities. Some appear to be natural abilities—a quick or inquisitive mind, or an aptitude for a certain skill or type of work, for example. Some are gifts of the spirit that are clearly manifested in the physical, such as charisma, captivating eyes, or a beautiful smile. Others are gifts of the spirit that often go unnoticed but can actually go even further, such as the gifts of humility, optimism, compassion, and self-sacrifice. And then there is one of the greatest gifts of all: the

ability to give and receive love. This is a gift that everyone receives a measure of, and it's a big part of what makes you godlike; it's part of having been created in God's own image. Whatever your gifts, they work together to make you special to Me.

All of these precious gifts have been given to enrich your life and the lives of others, but what you do with them and how much you do with them is up to you. Nothing makes Me happier than to see you use them to benefit others and make them happy. When you do, you are giving back to Me and the most wonderful thing happens: Your gifts and talents grow, they are multiplied, and that love that was your motivation spreads from heart to heart and comes back to you.

What can you give Me this Christmas and in the coming year? Use what you have, what you've already been gifted with, to the full. That will be the perfect present for Me.

¹ 1 Timothy 6:15; Isaiah 66:1





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Happy new you!

In this coming year, I can help you become more like you want to be. In fact, I can do better than that! I can help you become more like *I* want you to be. As I do, I think you'll find that your plans for yourself and My plans for you really aren't that different. They may start out that way, but if you'll trust that I know best and go My way, you'll soon find that I was right. You'll know that by the love and happiness and fulfillment you'll experience, which will be much greater than anything you might have found on your own.

Yes, it will take some effort on your part; it will take a daily yielding. For Me to live and move in you and work through you in greater measure, there must be yielding. You must ask Me to help you change, and you must be willing to work at overcoming any habits that are holding you back from becoming all you could be. Make some resolutions, with My guidance, and then review them daily and put them into practice until they become second nature to you. You may not be able to do all of these things every day, especially not at first, but with practice, as you apply yourself and learn to avail yourself of My help, I will override your old habits and nature.

Don't expect to be totally changed overnight, for this is not the way I work. Be patient, be consistent, and I will bring about the desired changes. If you will do your part, I will bring you along step by step, because I love you.



Life can be rough, and it's not always easy to understand why things happen the way they do. When everything seems to be going wrong, it's natural to question My love, but it's during those very times that I want to be closer than ever to you. My love is what will get you through the tough times, and it's *always* there for you.

Unconditional love in its purest form comes from Me. Even when you blame Me for the troubles that have befallen you, I love you and don't condemn you. Even when you question My love, I still love you and I'm not going to give up on you. I'm still going to be right there beside you when you need counsel, when you need some company, when you are desperate for a listening ear, or when you need a friend. I want to ease your mind with the knowledge that there is always someone who loves you and sees endless possibilities in you, someone who enjoys you as you are—and that someone is Me.

No matter what, I will always love you unconditionally. That love will see you through anything. It will be a light in dark places, a compass when you are lost, an anchor to hold you fast in the storm, and a warm blanket to comfort you when you are alone and cold. And it doesn't cost you anything, but is freely given by someone who loves you to the core.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

LOVE to the core



Stay simple

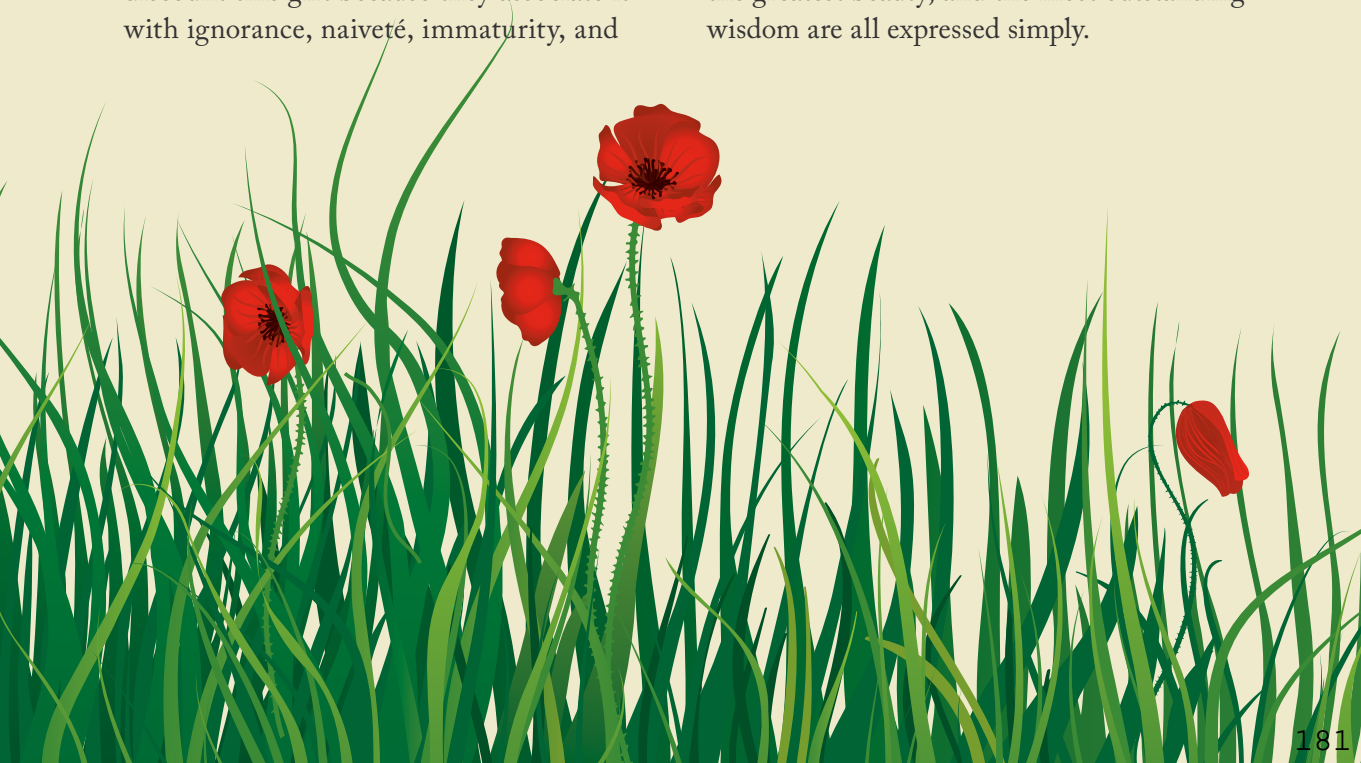
I spoke great truths, profound words that changed lives and continue to do so. But I also spoke to the children. I was simple, I was clear, and I didn't lose My appreciation of little things. I stopped to enjoy the flowers. I cooked for My disciples.

It's when you can't find joy in the everyday things of life that you become complicated and lose the human touch. You exchange depth of character for a labyrinth of complex thinking, a heart that is sensitive to the things of the spirit for mere head knowledge.

Simplicity is a gift. Everyone starts out with it, but as some people grow up they discount this gift because they associate it with ignorance, naiveté, immaturity, and

a lack of sophistication. They prefer to weave a web of complexity to cover it. But did I not say that unless you have childlike simplicity to believe in the "impossible" and the unseen—Me, the One who died for you and rose to life again so you could have the wonderful but simple gift of eternal life—you cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven? The gift of simplicity remains for those who have the humility and wisdom to value it and claim it as their own.

There is much to discover throughout life and even more in Heaven, but you will always find that the most profound truths, the greatest beauty, and the most outstanding wisdom are all expressed simply.



HOME OF

hearts

Love has creative power, and in the home love does its magic by engendering unselfish acts and helping each family member see the others in a positive light. Everyone wants to be understood, accepted, and loved for who he or she is, and the home is a God-created environment where these things can thrive.

There are also things that work against love in the home—enemies of love, if you will. Disagreements between children and parents and sibling rivalries are a couple of the obvious ones, but there are other problems that are more subtle and therefore even more dangerous—selfishness, laziness, indifference, criticalness, nagging, taking one another for granted, and thinking and talking negatively about one another, to name a few. These usually begin with small, seemingly innocent incidents—finding excuses to not help out, squabbles over petty issues, little putdowns and sarcastic remarks—but unless you recognize these as attacks on your family's love and unity, they will develop into bad habits that will take a terrible toll on your family.

The root problem is a lack of love. The only thing that will cure a lack of love is love itself, so ask Me to bring more love into your home, and then work with Me on it. If you ask Me to give each of you genuine respect and appreciation for the others, I will put that kind of love in your hearts, but then it's up to you to cultivate that love through loving thoughts, words, and actions.

from Jesus with love



abundant health

The human body is a very versatile, adaptable, durable, intricate, and highly developed creation, made so to encase the yet more beautiful and durable spirit inside. The apostle Paul called your body the “temple of God” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17), and so it is. Only the spirit lasts for eternity, but its fleshly “temple” is meant to last a long, healthy lifetime.

You were created in such a way that you have a part to play in keeping your body strong and healthy. Through its care, you show respect to your Creator. The biblical principle that you reap what you sow is true and very much applies to your health. It’s easy in your youth in particular to dismiss this fact, to feel that it doesn’t really matter that much and maybe isn’t true for you. You may be able to get by for a time with that attitude without feeling its effects, but sooner or later there is always a price to pay for such neglect. Those who are wise strive to stay in optimum health and peak fitness; they give their body the best they can, so it will run well and last as long as possible.

As I told My first disciples, “I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Part of the abundance I want you to have is the blessing of a strong, healthy body. It is a gift, but it also requires your cooperation. As you do your part, I will bless you with good health.

The Real Thing

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I am not a fabrication, a figment of the imagination, or a fable. I am *real*—and I am what you need. I am the great problem-solver. If you want to know how to overcome life's trials, come to Me. I will give you comfort to replace anxiety, faith to replace fear, rest in place of struggle, peace in place of worry, happiness in place of sadness, and answers to your questions. I will be your strength, your help in time of need, your friend and companion. That does not mean you will never have

another problem or challenge in life, but I will be able to help you with life's problems. You will no longer have to try to handle things on your own, because you can call on Me.

Your life consists of more than the physical, the material. You also have spiritual needs, and I have the power to fill those needs and to satisfy your spiritual hunger. In My Spirit you will find real love and satisfaction and the fulfillment of *all* your needs. I understand your deepest desires and dreams. I can fill your life with much more than you've ever imagined: true love, peace of mind and heart, unflinching friendship, answers, strength for every task.

I have all that you need, but you must open your heart to receive My blessings and love. Reach out and receive My love, and there you will find fulfillment.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

build bridges not walls

It's been said that people are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges. How true!

Most people tend to be a little selfish. It's human nature to "look out for number one," to put your own needs and desires before the needs of others. It's easy enough to get caught up in your own life and problems, but when you do that, you're creating a bigger problem by closing yourself off to many wonderful things in life and many wonderful people.

When you build bridges by reaching out to and connecting with others, it may add a few problems and complications, but it's worth the trouble because it also brings warmth, friendship, love, and other blessings into your life. It is a matter of give and take, and it does require some effort, patience, and perseverance. The bridge doesn't build itself, and sometimes others aren't so keen at first to see you building in their direction. But if everyone got stuck in the me-first mentality and built nothing but walls, the world would be a terribly lonely place.

Building a bridge begins with a prayer for love and understanding and for Me to help you change in other areas as needed. When you begin to think in terms of what others want and need, the framework is in place. Then that bridge grows a little stronger each time you give of yourself to that hard-to-reach person. It might take a little courage to cross that bridge the first time, when you're not sure how well it's going to hold or how you'll be received on the other side, but you'll be glad you did. I will bless every unselfish act, and honor every step you take to reach out to another.





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Constant Companion

I want to be a very present companion, counselor, and help to you—not merely someone you know *of*, or someone you met once but rarely think about or talk to, or even an advisor that you consult from time to time when you have a problem or need to make an important decision. I want to be a constant, loving presence.

I want to communicate with you personally and directly, and not in a distant, formal, or mental sort of way, but heart to heart. I want us to commune as intimates would, to talk things over, to reach decisions together, and to sometimes communicate without saying a word. I want to develop a bond of love between us that you've never experienced with anyone else and can't even imagine.

Learning to converse freely with Me, like learning to be natural, open, honest, and trusting in your communications with any friend, is something that comes with time and practice. It may feel awkward or even seem like work at first, learning to come into My presence and recognize My voice, but if you will do your part by making that effort, *I will* speak to you. At first you may think that little voice you hear deep inside is your mind, but in time you will know that it is Mine. I may give you ideas or solutions or answers to your questions, or I may give you a feeling of peace and well-being, or I may simply tell you how special you are to Me and how much I enjoy being with you. I'm full of surprises, so you'll never know what to expect, but this one thing I promise: I will never disappoint you!

Forgiveness is divine

The power to forgive is one of the greatest powers given to man. It's part of the nature and essence of God, and when you exercise it you assume godlike stature. You have the power to forgive and thus rise above the pettiness of mortals.

Choosing to forgive another is one of the hardest things most people ever do, especially if it's undeserved. It's hard because it's not human nature. Human nature cries out for revenge and retribution. But why get stuck in human nature?

I came to bring forgiveness and salvation from sin, but I also came to save you from human nature. When you received Me as your Savior, you received a measure of My superhuman nature. Once you've received Me, how much that superhuman nature rules in your life is up to you, and that is reflected in your choices. Since one of the most outstanding traits of My nature is a readiness to forgive, how quick you are to forgive others is a pretty good indication of whether or not you're letting My superhuman nature take charge.

Whether that person who wronged you deserves forgiveness or not is not the central issue. The central issue is *you* doing the right thing. No one really deserves forgiveness. If others have done wrong, they deserve a just punishment. But forgiveness is greater than justice. Justice is human; forgiveness is divine.

Forgive others who have wronged you, even as your heavenly Father forgives you.

Work with Me

When you work with Me as your partner on the job, you're working with the most multitalented, multitasking partner in the universe. I truly can do anything and everything!

Look at Me not only as a spiritual guide and counselor, but as someone who can actually get in there, roll up His sleeves, and help you do the work. I can save you hours and hours of work time by taking care of the behind-the-scenes side of things. I will even take care of situations before you have to get involved.

Tell Me specifically what you want to see done, and leave it with Me. Don't worry or fret about it, and don't keep checking up on Me to see if I'm on the job. Of course I'm on the job! Have faith, and your faith will bring out an entirely new dynamic in our relationship.

This is the key to your success: Let Me carry a good chunk of the load, which is exactly what I want to do. Commit things to Me in prayer. Depend on Me, and let Me do the "heavy lifting." I can easily remove obstacles that look insurmountable to you and help things to fall into place as they should. Give Me a chance to help you out, to do some of the work.



The Essence of Christmas—Love

Christmas is best enjoyed when it isn't centered on decorations, gifts, or festivities, but on love. Love is the essence of Christmas. Christmas is about taking quality time with your family and friends; it's about cherishing and celebrating the love you share. Sadly, love can get lost amid the Christmas hustle and bustle. Sometimes it's covered up by the decorations and gifts, the endless shopping, and the Christmas dinner and parties.

Christmas is a time for festivities, but there's much more to it than that. Christmas is My birthday. Can you spare a moment for Me on My birthday? Can you take a minute to let Me tell you how much I love you? It was love for you that brought Me to your world, to live and die for you. Love was, and still is, the core of My being. Everything I have done has been out of love for you. I did it for everyone who has ever lived or ever will, but I would have done it for you alone. You mean that much to Me!

Do you want to know what I would like most from you on My birthday? I would like for you to take time for love. Enjoy the festive decorations, the scrumptious food, and the gift-giving, but don't let those overshadow or distract you from the best and most important thing, the only thing that will last for eternity, the essence of Christmas—love.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

The difference

FROM JESUS

WITH LOVE



Picture a forest—lush, deep, inviting. You enter and look around, expecting that rush of wonder that you've experienced before in nature, but this time the birds are not singing, there is no breeze to rustle the leaves, and the stream is not flowing. Everything is still, frozen in time, lifeless. You are in the forest, but it might as well be a picture hanging on the wall.

Now imagine the same scene, except this time everything you expect is there—the cheerful singing of birds, the babbling of the brook, the rustling of the leaves, the breeze in your hair, the scent of a forest after rain, the cool, lingering mist, the mossy path beneath your feet.

The contrast between these two forests is like the difference between knowing *of* Me and actually *knowing* Me; it's the difference between merely having heard or read about Me and having a direct, personal relationship with Me. One is static; the other is vibrant and brimming with excitement and love. One is empty; the other fills your senses. One may help you be a better person, but the other makes you complete.

I know what our relationship can be like, but I won't force Myself on you. The choice is yours. My love is just waiting for you. Won't you step in and experience all that I have in store for you? I'm only a prayer away. Just open your heart, and I'll be there.



Positive perks

When life gets to be too much, when everything around you seems to be falling apart, when you feel that nothing you do helps, what should you do?—Think about Me. Think about how much I love you. Think about My power. Think about all your blessings, and thank Me.

You can praise your way right out of a bad mood! If you thank Me for all the good things in your life, the negative feelings will dissipate.

You may sometimes find yourself in situations where there doesn't seem to be anything at all good to thank Me for. Well, then thank Me for the good that will

eventually come out of the bad, because if you love Me, sooner or later it will. That's explained in the Bible, in Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God." For those who love Me, I can bring good out of anything.

Let Me change your difficult day into a happy one. You can always find something to thank Me for. Praise Me for one thing, and you'll usually be reminded of another, and another. Happiness will find you as you focus on Me and on the positive.



From Jesus with Love



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

My love for you is complete

Have you ever thought about the word “love” and all it encompasses? There are many different kinds of love—many facets of love.


There is the unconditional love that a mother feels for her children, and the love and respect that children feel for their parents.

There is the kinship love that brothers and sisters feel for each other, or the friendship love that you feel for your best friend.

There is the love and appreciation that a student or athlete feels for his teacher or coach who helps him to become a better person or player.

There is a love that a man feels for a woman, which makes him want to marry her and live with her day in and day out and protect and provide for her. And there is the love that a woman has for a man, which makes her want to bear his children and love and care for their family.

My love for you is all this and more. My love for you is complete, for I am love. I give each person a measure of My love, but My love is immeasurable and limitless. I love you with a perfect and everlasting love that will never be taken away.



When I walked the earth many, many years ago, I went about doing good to all who crossed My path. I healed the sick, comforted the brokenhearted, lifted the spirits of those who were discouraged, and strengthened those who felt weak. And My love and power are the same today! I still long to touch and heal the bodies of those who suffer, and I still long to encourage the hearts of those who stoop under heavy burdens or go through difficult times. Since returning to Heaven I have touched many who lifted their hearts to Me and told Me their needs, and I want to do the same for you.

All it takes on your part is faith. You simply have to believe that I, the Great Physician, can still touch and make you whole. I am just a prayer away. Tell Me about your troubles, your fears, your worries, and ask Me to help and heal you. Sometimes healing the body takes a while—I know the best time—but the healing of your heart, the gifts of peace in place of turmoil and faith in place of fear, I can give in an instant. It is something that you can't understand with your mind, but when you ask in faith and it happens, you will know that I have touched you.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE



*Let Me
touch you*



My miracle-working power is yours

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I have promised miracles to those who love and follow Me, and I can deliver on that promise. My power is limitless. According to your need and the situation, I will do wondrous things for you and through you.

In order to see these manifestations of My power, only one thing is required of you: faith. You must believe that I am able to work the miracle and ask Me to do it, and then expect that I will. When you ask in faith, I am bound by My word to give you what you need. It might not always be what you *think* you need, but I will always rescue, protect, supply for you, or resolve the problem some other way, as I know is best. Sometimes it will be an overt miracle, where there is no doubt that I have answered your prayer, but other times it won't be so obvious.

I manifest My power most freely on behalf of those who follow Me closest, who do their best to live according to the principles of My Word and what they believe is My will for them personally, but anyone who calls on Me in faith will get the help they need, according to My will.

Remember this when the days darken and you find yourself in what seem like hopeless situations: Nothing is impossible for Me, so anything is possible for you when you ask in faith for Me to intervene. I always reward faith, My power is always at the ready, and I put Myself at your beck and call—all because I love you.



Leading the way

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Your children need Me, like you do. They need to learn to include Me in their daily lives. They need to learn to trust Me when the going is hard. They need to learn to depend on Me. They need to learn to bring their problems to Me. They need to learn to pray for others. They need to learn to listen to My voice, so I can help them make the right choices. Most of all, they need to learn to love Me and accept My love.

Do you want your children to learn all these things? They will as they see them in you. The best way to get your children to go the right way is to lead the way. I want the best for your children and it is Mine to give, but you are the channel through which most of My blessings will flow. How much I am able to work in your children's lives depends largely on how much I am able to work in yours. Love Me with all your heart. Seek to please Me. Ask Me to lead the way. Follow closely, and I will do the rest.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

you're
special!

You are part of a magnificent, vast, overall plan. You can't see that plan, but I can. You can't see how beautifully you fit in with the overall panorama of life and the balance of the universe, but I can. Someday you will see it too, and you will marvel together with Me at how wonderfully it all came together and how perfect it all is.

You are unique. There has never been a person like you, nor will there ever be another just like you. That's one of the things I like most about you. Resist the temptation to look negatively at yourself

and focus on what you think are your shortcomings—weaknesses and inability, a less-than-perfect body or personality or whatever. What you perceive as imperfections, I perceive as uniqueness. What is perfection, after all? It is fulfilling the purpose for which you were created, which is to love and be loved. I love you just the way you are, and I love you as though you were the only person in the world.

Come and let Me show you how much I love you and how special you are to Me.

Talk to Me

Are you feeling isolated? Angry? Hurt? Frustrated? Misunderstood? Tell Me about it. You don't have to keep it all bottled up inside. I am your best friend, and you can confide in Me. I am your strong shoulder to lean on when times are tough or people are being difficult. Come to Me and tell Me your thoughts, and I will guide you through those trying times.

Often just talking about things is the best way to sort them out, and if you don't feel you can talk with anyone else about what you're going through, you can always talk to Me. I will help you make sense of what you're feeling. In some cases I will help you to see things more realistically, and that will be enough. In others, I will give you ideas of how to go about resolving the problem.

It's tough to be objective about your emotions, as they can be overpowering. But if you'll come to Me and talk things out with Me, I can help you to live above those feelings and make good choices. That is the surest way to true success and happiness.



hideaway.

Everyone is worried about the future these days—and it's no wonder. The way things are going, everyone has reason to fear what will happen to them, their family, their city, their country, their world. This planet has become a frightening and stressful place to live. Sometimes you wish you could find a hideaway, nail the windows and doors closed, and keep the world out.

It doesn't do any good to pretend the problems aren't there, but you don't have to be afraid, because I'm looking out for you. When fears overwhelm you, hide away in Me. When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, call on Me for help and then rest assured that I will be there to protect you. When you can't watch over your loved ones, commit them to My care. When a national or international crisis erupts, I will provide a safe haven for you and yours.

And even if the unthinkable happens—if you or your loved ones are taken from this life—know that a better life awaits on the other side. Heaven is where all this world's wrongs are made right.

So you see, although there's plenty you could worry about, you don't have to worry about a thing. I'm taking care of you!





The Eternal Chain of FROM JESUS WITH LOVE *Love*

I came to earth because I love you.
I gave up the splendor of heaven
to come and make salvation and
eternal life available to you.

My gift of salvation is for anyone
who will receive it, and I long for
everyone to come to know Me
and My love. That message always
has and will always be passed on
through the words and deeds of My
friends and followers.

Throughout the ages, multitudes
of My followers have given of
themselves to continue this chain of
love. Some have given little, some
have given much, and some have
given all, but all were a part; all were
needed, and My great worldwide
chain of love would not have been
complete without each one playing
a part.

There have been times when I
looked back and thought about how
things might have been, had I not
chosen to come and live and die as
one of you—but never once have I
looked back with regret or wished
I had done anything differently!

I want My chain of love to grow
longer and stronger. I want it to
encompass the whole earth! I want
everyone to have a chance to be part
of it. I want My love to touch every
life. Will you do your part? Will
you receive My love and then share
it with others? Give them Me, give
them My words, give of yourself—
and above all, give love.



My gift to you

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Love—this is My special gift for you. Love that knows no boundaries. Love that does not judge you by the color of your skin, the way you look, or how you speak. Love that gives. Love that shares. Love that cares. Love that is vibrant, warm, and kind. Love that is unconditional and forever.

Love that is patient in a world of intolerance. Love that is understanding when others fail to see into your heart. Love that is kind and tender when all else around you seems cold and hard. Love that comforts you in your sorrow, that consoles you when you're lonely, that gives you a helping hand when you're down. Love that is full of happiness and laughter. Love that brings peace in the midst of stormy weather. Love that always finds a way.

My love is always there for you—any place, any time, day or night. My love will descend to any depth to save, go any length to rescue. It knows no stopping place, no limit. I give you My love, infinite and true.

My love brings peace of mind when you are confused, rest when you are weary, and strength when you feel you cannot go on. My love will calm your fears and give you courage in the face of despair. My love can heal when your body is broken; it can soothe your heartaches and pain. My love will ease your mind when it is troubled and weary; it will melt away tension, worry, and strain.

My love is My Christmas gift for you.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

The Climb to Victory

The rugged climb doesn't dissuade the determined mountain climber; he revels in the challenge. Nothing can stop him from pressing on until he reaches his goal. No adversity can cause him to turn back. When he looks at the steep cliffs ahead, he doesn't focus on the danger but on the toeholds and narrow rock ledges that will take him to the peak. He isn't held back by the harshness of his surroundings or the toll the climb is taking on his body; he is propelled onward and upward by the thought of triumph.

There are many obstacles to surmount in life, but each one you conquer is another one behind you. When the going gets tough, lean on Me. Let Me lead the way and guide you up the rugged cliffs. I know all the danger spots and how to get past them. Together we will surmount each obstacle, together we will reach the summit, and together we will plant the flag of victory!

Make your day

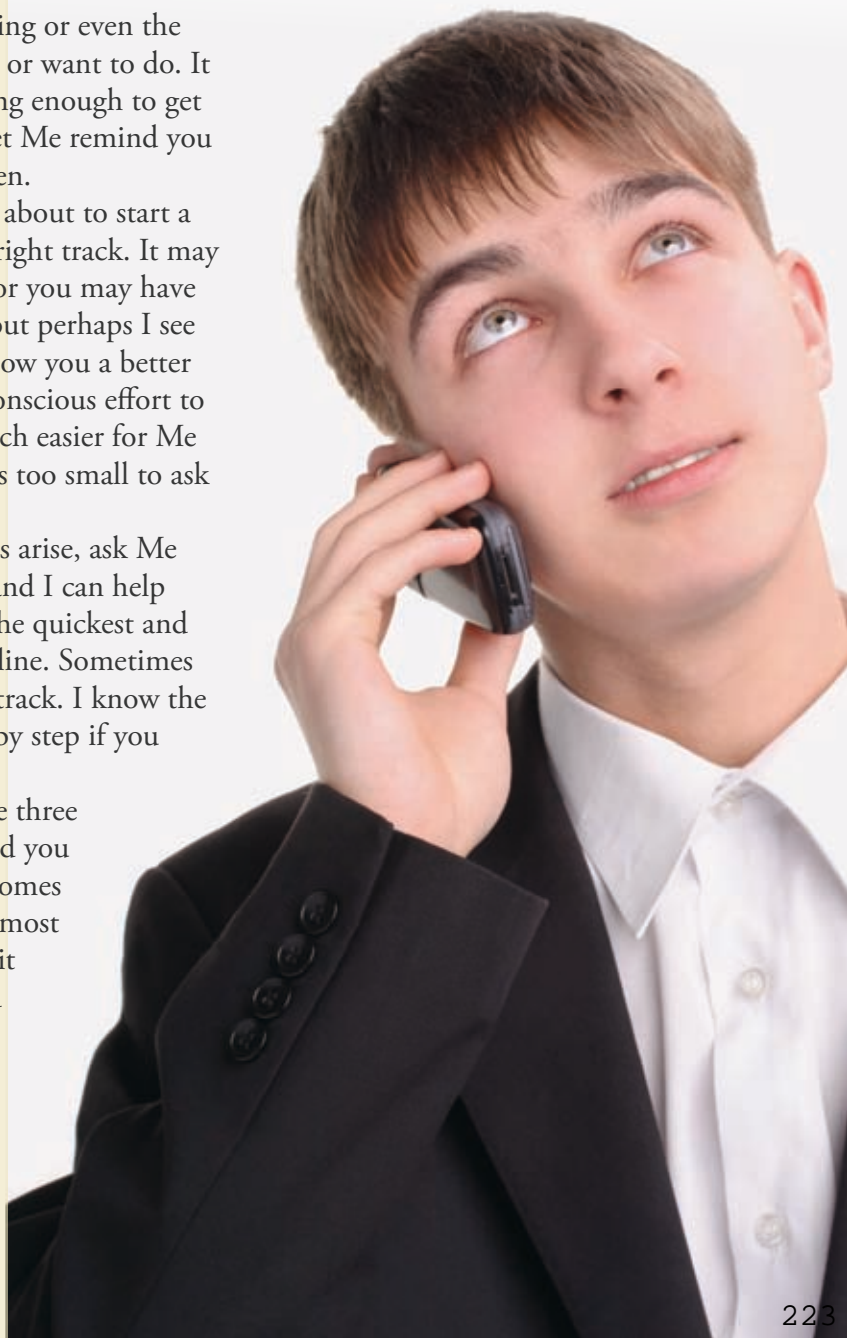
There are three things you can do to make the most of your day.

Number one, talk to Me first thing or even the night before about what you need or want to do. It doesn't have to take long—just long enough to get your bearings on the day and to let Me remind you of anything you may have forgotten.

Number two, each time you are about to start a new task, ask Me if you're on the right track. It may seem like the logical thing to do, or you may have done it a thousand times before, but perhaps I see factors you don't see or want to show you a better way to do it. When you make a conscious effort to check your plans with Me, it's much easier for Me to help you get it right. Nothing is too small to ask Me about.

Number three, when new factors arise, ask Me what to do. I see the big picture, and I can help you see things more clearly too. The quickest and surest route isn't always a straight line. Sometimes you need to sidestep or even backtrack. I know the way, but I can only lead you step by step if you ask Me step by step.

If you will remember to do these three things, your days will go better and you will have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that you made the most of your day. As you get in the habit of involving Me in your plans and work, you will also come to know Me in a deeper, more personal way. Each day will take on a new dimension—the dimension of My loving, guiding presence.



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

when “reality” is not reality

Sometimes, because you see yourself or situations a certain way, you put limits on what I am able to do in answer to your prayers. You have to let go of your preconceived ideas before you can believe that I will intercede, or that change is even possible. Sometimes your desire to want to be realistic and not get your hopes too high becomes a lack of faith. It's good to be a realist to some degree, to not have unrealistic expectations of yourself or life in general, but too much realism can lead to discouragement and a defeatist attitude.

Introspection and dwelling on your weaknesses could lead you to “realistically” conclude that you're a hopeless wreck. “Realistically” evaluating your abilities could lead you

to conclude that you'll never be a success. “Realistically” looking at your personal history and situation, you could conclude that it's better not to expect to ever find a soul mate, because then you won't be disappointed. But being so “realistic” can dry up the soul. Put your hope and faith in Me. That's the one and only way you can be sure to not be disappointed.

There are times when the reality you see is *not* reality. But whether the challenge is in your mind or a real obstacle or circumstance, I can see you through it. I'm even able to defy the laws of nature in answer to your prayers, because *all* things are possible for Me. *That's* reality!



THE SANCTUARY

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I see your struggles and hear your calls for help. When you feel all alone, I am there. I feel your heartaches, and wait for you to come to Me in prayer. Come into My sanctuary, into that secret place that you and I can share. There I am able to lift the worries, the cares, and the confusion. There I can restore your feeling of purpose and infuse you with strength to go on.

Life can be a struggle, but you do not have to struggle alone. Many times I have placed burdens in your life that seemed like mountains. They weigh your spirit down and you wonder why I have placed them there. I have not done these things to reprove you or as some sort of punishment.—I have done

them to bring you closer to Me. I know your heart better than anyone else ever could, and love you more dearly.

The problems and obstacles that I allow in your life can be taken two ways: They can make you either bitter or better. When you have found the peace that only I can give, I can then use you as an instrument of My love to comfort others.

Many things in life can seem unfair or even unloving, but when you look at them through My promise of “all things work together for good,” that gives a whole new meaning to things. That promise holds the key to easing any heartache, relieving any problem, or conquering any fear.

My riches are yours

The secret to obtaining both spiritual riches and material supply is actually quite simple: Realize what vast resources are at My disposal.

My Word contains hundreds of promises that are yours to claim. As you read, absorb, and claim them, you will see answers to your prayers that will thrill your soul and cause your faith to grow. And as you continue to read and absorb and claim, I will continue to answer and inspire and provide. Together we will create an unbeatable, unbreakable cycle of success.

That is not to say that your faith will never ebb or that you will never again go through difficult times. As long as you are in this present world you will experience good times and hard times. Problems are a necessary part of life, but your connection with Me and your faith in My love and promises can make all the difference in the world!



The source of joy

When you first accept Me into your life and come to know Me, I fill you with a profound and intense happiness. The apostle Peter described this as “joy unspeakable and full of glory.”¹

When I died on the cross, I paid the price for the sins of the world—including every wrongful deed you have ever committed. And because I did that, whoever believes in and receives Me will live forever—and that includes you too. When you understand what that means, when you realize that all is forgiven, that I love you unconditionally, that I will be there for you through thick and thin, that I will never give up on you, and that no matter what turns this life may take, you can look forward to eternal happiness in a truly perfect world—now *that* is something to get happy and excited about!

Happiness is knowing that the nagging problems and imperfections of this present world will soon pass away, and then everything will be made perfect in love. You come to that realization by focusing on Me and My power and My promises.

And if you’ve experienced that joy in the past but somehow lost it, you can regain it the same way. Just think about Me, all I have done for you, and all I have promised you. I told My first disciples, “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full,”² and that same joy can be yours.

1. 1 Peter 1:8 KJV

2. John 15:11



I AM
HERE
FOR
YOU

Turn to Me in your loneliness. I love you dearly, and I am here for you anytime, all the time. I am your constant companion, your best friend.

When you feel like no one cares and there is no love to be found, that is the time to lie back in My arms and find peace. When you are discouraged and feel like a mess, look into My face and see Me smile upon you, for I love you just the way you are. When you feel worried or frustrated, run to Me. I will be your perfect companion. When you feel that no one can possibly understand the difficulties you are passing through, that is the time to come to Me. I *always* understand. Set your affections on Me, and I will fill your every need.

In those special times together, our love will grow stronger and our relationship deeper than any earthly love or relationship could ever be. From this oneness with Me will grow your greatest and most lasting happiness, fulfillment, and contentment.

Meet Me in the

m o r n i n g

You do well to take time with Me first thing in the morning, for you are powerless without the strength you draw from Me, you are foolish without the wisdom you learn from Me, and you have no love to share with others unless you first get it from Me. Without Me, you would continue on in your own little world and be limited to your own meager resources. Your human strength would run out before the day had scarcely started, your own thoughts would get in the way, and you wouldn't go far on yesterday's store of love. But when you come to Me, I open the boundless world of My Spirit to you. I am wisdom, I am strength, and I am love.

As I told My disciples, you can find rest for your spirit and strength for the day in Me.¹ It seems easier to carry on in your own energy than to work at entering into the realm of My Spirit where I would carry you along, but that's not so. You really make it harder for yourself, because you make it harder for Me to help you.

So take a little time each morning to draw close to Me. Practice makes perfect. As you practice reaching out to Me by praying and reading My Word, it will become easier. Keep taking this time with Me each morning and it will become easier to connect with Me throughout the day, whenever you need My help.

1. Matthew 11:28–30



Forgive and forget

My heart aches for you. I feel your pain, the anger, the regret, the remorse, the feelings of being hurt and angered by the faults and mistakes and sins of others. I also know that it's human nature to want to retaliate, to want revenge, and to resist that inner voice that tells you to forgive and bury your differences. To truly forgive and forget is difficult.

Only through love and forgiveness can you be freed from these roots of bitterness that entangle your heart, and you get that love and forgiveness from Me. I *am* love, I *am* forgiveness, and I am here for you, waiting to lift this load that you've been carrying around. Take it off and give it to Me. Just say, "Jesus, take this. I don't want it anymore." Together we will bury it in My love. Then you will feel light as a feather and the future will look bright once again, for you will experience the joy of My Spirit and know that I have made you whole again.

Peace process

How can you find peace of mind and relief from discouragement? Simple. It is within My power to override the negative thoughts that drag you down, and that power is released through prayer and praise. When you turn whatever is bothering you over to Me and praise Me for taking care of it, your focus shifts from your problems to My power to solve them, and that puts your mind at ease. It's a three-step process:

First, hand your heart full of worries, problems, doubts, and fears over to Me.

Second, thank Me for taking care of them, even before you see the answers to your prayers.

Third, let the negative feelings dissolve and My peace fill your being.

How do you start praising, especially if you don't feel like it? Concentrate on Me and My power and goodness. This will probably take some effort on your part because your heart is weighed down with troubles, but once you start, I will carry you from there. I will fill you with peace and confidence. Your praises will also create a force field that will help shield you from further negativity. I can even give you the oomph you need to get started praising. Call out to Me in prayer, and I will answer. That's a promise!



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Let My love warm your Christmas

No matter how down you may be—if you are out of work and have an empty wallet or bank account, if you're lonely or sick or have suffered personal loss, if war or hatred or injustice or others' indifference has chilled your heart—My love can change that. Let My birth and all that it heralded be remembered. Let My love fill you and give you purpose. Evils also plagued the world at the time of My birth and throughout My life on earth, but in the midst of such great darkness came the brightest light the world has ever known; amidst great suffering the greatest gift was given. My Father sent Me in the form of a weak and helpless baby to grow up and live as one of you and experience the same hurts you do, and to suffer at the hands of unjust men. I became one of you in order to save you.

Let the truth and love that I brought that first Christmas Day shine in your heart now.
Let Me wipe away your fears and tears.
Let My love warm your Christmas.

