

# PRAISE FOR *EXPLORING GOD'S PROMISES*

.....

What a blessing it is to see this book in the works. The purpose of *Exploring God's Promises* is to help us apply God's Word to our lives—our joys, our tough times, our every situation. A neat feature of this book is that you can respond personally to the God who knows your name, as Isaiah 43:1 tells us. Please read, enjoy, and take to heart these wonderful messages from God's Word.

*Mary Alice Minirth, writer and life coach*

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This book of assurances is unique and special. It's intensely biblical. You'll hear God speak to you personally—through His Word. However, it also reflects a loving father's deep concern for his daughter. You'll be blessed.

*Dr. Gene Getz, pastor; professor; author*

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God works through His Word. *Exploring God's Promises* embraces this expansive truth, narrows it down to the reader, and connects it to promises God makes in His Word and through His Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh (John 1:14). I believe you will find this book to be profound, for your hope abounds when you know God is at work through His Word; personal, as love for God and others finds expression when it deeply impacts your life; and penetrating, as the laser-like truth of His Word is a solid foundation for your faith and trust in Him in every circumstance of life.

*Steve Wagner, pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas; director, Pastor360*

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Through insightful reflections, Terry Zuehsow intertwines God's inspired Word and enduring promises with questions that facilitate a deeper engagement with Scripture. Since the heart and emotions can be deceptive, Zuehsow's book guides us to experience healing and renewal by anchoring our trust in God's enduring promises. This book is a valuable resource for those seeking guidance, inspiration, and renewed assurance of God's purpose and unconditional love.

*Florene West, director, Our Savior Lutheran Preschool, McKinney, Texas*

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Has anyone ever written a book just for you? Now you can say that someone has! *Exploring God's Promises* shows Terry's commitment to thoughtful education, helping everyone know God in a deep, meaningful, and personal way. Even though I'm a lifelong Christian, reading Terry's book made me realize what God's promises are, how many there are, and how they belong specifically to me (and you!). He distilled promises from every part of the Bible so

that the assurances of God are at your fingertips. Read it and see the wondrous love that God has for you.

*Tara M. Niendorf, attorney*

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Exploring what God has done on my behalf through Terry's book was deeply moving and powerfully humbling. As yesterday, today, and forever promises came to light, my relationship with the everlasting, loving God increased. I even found myself growing in confidence as a child of God as I journaled my feelings. Most assuredly, the Holy Spirit dwelt in my mind, heart, and soul as this gem of writing unfolded itself before me.

*Anni Jezek, retired educational coach;  
master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University Texas*

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*Exploring God's Promises* is a concise and organized study of the promises of God found in every facet of the Bible. Terry Zuehsow prepares his readers with ways to get the most from his book, and space for journaling is included to assist the readers in exploring their relationship with God and considering His promises. Mr. Zuehsow's faith and close relationship with God are evident in his research and illustrations, and he makes God's promises personal to all who study His Word.

*Larry Wissner, retired LCMS school administrator*

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This book is for every Christian who would like to know in a more tangible way the promises of God. *Exploring God's Promises* is helpful, interesting, relatable, compelling, accurate, theologically appropriate, and very moving. Terry takes the reader on a transformative journey through the scriptural promises of God. Sometimes in the storms of life, it is difficult to see that we are not alone or even to realize that anyone cares for us. But through this book, readers can trace the times God has cared deeply for them, comforted them, and enabled them.

*Jacqueline Truax, retired international marketing project manager;  
graduate marketing studies professor; principal, BSEI*

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For many years, I traveled on a spiritual pilgrimage, seeking not only the promises of God but also a way to convince myself the promises were actually for me. When I read Terry's book, I found exactly what I was looking for. Drawing on both serious griefs and wonderful triumphs in his life, Terry has carefully searched for God's promises, and he presents them in such a way that readers will be assured that the promises are for them. My journey through these pages has deepened my faith and my love for the Lord, who indeed has promised to meet all our needs.

*Karen Brinkmann, senior test development specialist*

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EXPLORING

A GUIDED JOURNEY

GOD'S

THROUGH HIS WORD

PROMISES

TERRY ZUEHSOW

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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What an amazing journey this has been! I joyfully acknowledge my daughter Sara, who, in the midst of deep pain from a shattered relationship and an unexpected journey into single parenthood, desired a personalized collection of God’s promises (and didn’t know that I was working on one already). She and my other daughter, Kate, have been invaluable in helping me throughout the development of this devotional book.

I am indebted to Joshua Hansard, a brother in Christ who was also healing from a similarly devastating situation. He introduced me to several books about God’s ongoing activity in our lives, through which I was inspired to envision this book in its current form. I am thankful for my pastor, David Thompson, who has encouraged me throughout this endeavor, diligently reviewing my work and helping me resolve critical theological issues.

I am thankful for my team of editors, including Kristen E. Clark, Kim Parker Nyman, Rick Nyman, Michael J. Sweeney, and Jamie Moldenhauer. I especially appreciate my beloved wife, Angi, who has been very supportive and has graciously allowed me the time necessary to bring this concept to fruition over several years. She has lovingly assisted me in a careful review of the text and in ensuring the accuracy of the selected Bible verses.

Above all, I humbly and gratefully acknowledge the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who has given us His amazing and excellent promises and assurances. I begin to see how the specific gifts, abilities, and experiences the Lord has provided me over the years have made such a book possible, and I recognize He has guided and enabled me throughout the book’s development. God in Christ has demonstrated yet again His power and commitment to work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

To God be the glory!

## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the start of a unique journey through the promises of God. Here you will have the opportunity to explore all God has done, is doing, and will do on your behalf. Although the assurances of God presented in the following chapters apply to every believer in Jesus Christ, it is my prayer that you will personalize each promise in your own heart and mind.

In this book, I identify nearly 230 distinct promises and assurances, drawn from almost 1,400 verses throughout the Bible. I continue to be astounded by the absolute consistency of God and His message to us throughout the 66 books of the Bible, written over a period of some fifteen hundred years. By God's grace, I am now seeing Scripture through new lenses—not leading to any new doctrines, but definitely to deeper love and excitement! It is my distinct joy to share those lenses with you.

All quoted Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV) unless otherwise noted. I have used italics to highlight specific promises and assurances within each verse. For clarity, I have replaced key pronouns for God with implied divine names in square brackets, and I have capitalized the remaining divine pronouns. For example, the following promise about you being a citizen of Christ's kingdom looks like this in the ESV:

**He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.** (COLOSSIANS 1:13)

Here's an example of how it might be formatted in this book:

**[*The Father*] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**

(COLOSSIANS 1:13)

## EXPLORING GOD'S PROMISES

After each of God's promises, you are invited to respond directly to Him through a journaling prompt. I suggest that you journey through this book together with one or more traveling companions, sharing your thoughts and insights with one another along your way.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will open your heart and mind so that God's dependable and powerful Word may have its full effect on you.

# YOUR ITINERARY

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## EVERY GOOD THING THAT IS IN YOU

The apostle Paul sent a brief letter to his friend Philemon. In it, Paul prayed that Philemon and all those he engaged might gain “the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ” (Philemon 6). So what all is included in “every good thing”? Have you ever meditated about all that is now yours as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you wondered about God’s thoughts concerning you from before the universe began? Have you considered all that changed for you when Jesus Christ died on the cross, arose from the dead, and ascended into heaven for you? How much do you know about God’s promises for you day by day, moment by moment during your life here on earth? And what can you confidently look forward to after this life is over?

Several years ago, one of my Bible teachers was considering John 3:16 with us:

**God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

In order to deepen our individual connection with this familiar Bible verse, the teacher suggested that we insert our own names in place of the more general nouns and pronouns. Try that with your name in the blanks:

**God so loved \_\_\_\_\_, that He gave His only Son, that \_\_\_\_\_ should not perish but have eternal life.**

That felt remarkably different to me.

 Describe your reaction to reading this Bible verse with your name in it.

## READING PAST GOD'S PROMISES

At times, I have tended to gloss over the promises in God's Word and to focus instead on what *I* should be doing—trying to keep God's Law. I mistakenly assumed that since God already did so much for me, it was now primarily up to *me* to do my best for Him. Whenever I succumb to such thinking, I become less peaceful, more driven, and less loving. I feel the weight of living a “Christian life” squarely on my own shoulders. This typically leaves me feeling either self-righteously proud or woefully inadequate.

Paul very much wanted to help us avoid this trap. He dedicated the entire first half of his letter to the Ephesians exclusively to remarkable facts about

- **yesterday**, what God has already accomplished for you,
- **today**, what God is doing in your life now, and
- **forever**, what God will continue to do for you into eternity.

Paul earnestly prayed that you would realize this and take it fully to heart:

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is *the hope to which He has called you* [yesterday], what are *the riches*

*of His glorious inheritance in the saints [forever], and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe [today], according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* (EPHESIANS 1:15–21)

## FEELING UNLOVABLE

I suspect we all struggle at times, feeling as if God’s assurances don’t fully apply to us. Sometimes you may feel alone, afraid, unloved, unlovable, abandoned, or hopeless. You may accept that God *has* to love you because of what Christ did, but you are not always sure that He *likes* you very much. Perhaps you see yourself as a second-class Christian, of limited value, usefulness, and significance to God. On occasion, you might even feel like a failure or an embarrassment to Him.

If you experience such feelings, you are actually in good company. Try doing a quick survey of the first few verses of each psalm. In a quarter of them, you will discover many similar feelings and fears expressed passionately. But in these same psalms, you will also find confessions of the reality and certainty of God’s assurances and the hope and comfort that they bring—honest feelings met by powerful and rock-solid promises.

## HOW GOD REALLY FEELS ABOUT YOU

How does God actually feel about you? He loves you passionately and forever (Jeremiah 31:3)! We learn from the Scriptures that even before creation began, God was thinking about you and chose you to be His own (Ephesians 1:3–6). And He never changes (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8)!

But why would God populate His perfect universe with people like us, who were free to reject Him? If God knew full well that the people He created would spurn His love, fall into sin, and fundamentally

damage His creation, why even go through with it at all? Why didn't He just make us so we *had* to love Him? Think about it. If you *had* to love your parents, spouse, child, or friend, would that really be love?

## **GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE FOR YOU**

Apparently, it was and is so important to God that you genuinely love Him that He was willing to endure all the sin, evil, and even His Son's death on a cross in order that He might finally achieve an eternal love relationship with you (Hebrews 12:1-2). From the very beginning, Jesus' death and resurrection were part of God's plan to make you holy and to woo you to Himself (1 Peter 1:18-21; Acts 2:23-24). Jesus declared that God's greatest desire is that you "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27).

The apostle John reminds us that our love for God is only made possible by Him having first loved us (1 John 4:19). Jesus wants you to know that both He and His Father love you as much as they love each other (John 15:9; 17:23)! Imagine how great that love must be! God treasures you (Exodus 19:5), you are precious to Him (Isaiah 43:4), and you are His delight (Isaiah 62:4). He rejoices over you and is glad in you (Isaiah 65:19). Every little detail about you is cherished by Him, from when you were first knit together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) to the day you die to be with Him (Psalm 116:15). He has numbered the hairs on your head (Luke 12:7). Evidently, He even journals about you (Psalm 56:8)!

## **A TOOL FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST**

*Exploring God's Promises* is not intended to replace your Bible reading but rather to serve as a supporting devotional tool. This book does not chronicle God's involvement in history, which reveals much about God's character and confirms the certainty of prophecies yet to be fulfilled. It speaks little about living in a God-pleasing manner, although being grounded in God's assurances makes possible the life of good works, which our Lord created us for in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10). Nor does this book substantially address God's wrath

and judgment, hell, or the influence of the devil, the world, and your own sinful nature, although it is only through God’s mighty promises that you experience His grace and are empowered to confess your sins, receive God’s forgiveness, and ultimately be victorious over evil.

True Christian faith is grounded in the cross of Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14)—on your dependence upon God for forgiveness and restoration (1 John 1:8–9). Focusing exclusively on God’s assurances apart from the full context of His Word might delude some into expecting heaven on earth, a life free today from temptation, sin, disappointment, sorrow, troubles, and persecution. The day is indeed coming when, either through your death or the Lord’s return, you will experience such perfection for eternity. Today, however, your Lord reminds you, “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Even in this fallen world, “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). In the midst of it all, “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). Christ’s parting words to us before ascending into heaven were, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

### INTENDED AUDIENCE

As you’ve probably surmised, this collection of God’s promises and assurances is specifically targeted to *Christians*, who believe in the one true God—Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; see also the “Names of God” section at the end of this book). By the power of the Holy Spirit, believers acknowledge and confess their sins and trust in Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice for them on the cross. The Spirit enables them to grow in their love for God and for all who belong to Him (Galatians 5:22–23). And they are assured of spending eternity together with God and all believers in His glorious kingdom (Revelation 21:3).

Assuming this describes you, an exciting journey through the multifaceted assurances of God awaits you. If you happen to be reading this book but are not a Christian at this time, I pray that what follows will help paint for you a compelling picture of all that God in

Christ has done for you and of His unchanging will to be in a loving relationship with you both now and forever.

### WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIS WORD AND HIS PROMISES

God's Word is totally accurate, dependable, and life-transforming. It has been "breathed out" by God Himself (2 Timothy 3:16), and the entirety of His Word is truth (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). The Word of God accomplishes His purposes (Isaiah 55:11). It is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12), "at work in you" (1 Thessalonians 2:13), and "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Regarding God's promises, the apostle Peter wrote,

**His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises.** (2 PETER 1:3-4)

These marvelous promises serve as a sure and steadfast anchor for your soul (Hebrews 6:19). Our Lord, who has made these promises to you, is faithful (Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 145:13), and you can be certain that all God's promises find their complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

### GETTING THE MOST FROM THIS BOOK

Read every quoted Bible verse carefully and deliberately. Examine the verse references whenever you wish, and use them to further explore the sections of Scripture from which individual promises and assurances have been drawn. The related verses that follow point to similar assurances throughout the Bible, highlighting the remarkable consistency of God's Word and allowing you to further explore a particular promise or assurance as God leads you.

Each promise is followed by a journaling prompt—an invitation for you to have a conversation with God about what He is promising you in His Word and how His promise impacts you. In your response to each prompt, consider writing directly to God in Jesus’ name, addressing Him as “You” and “Your,” while referring to yourself using “I,” “me,” and “my.” This approach can open up space and time for you to more deeply reflect upon what He wants you to know. The Holy Spirit can use such opportunities to help you grow in faith, hope, and love. Feel free to use sentences, phrases, lists, or illustrations.

You are not limited to the prompts; I encourage you to record whatever God’s Word inspires in you. Write what you are realizing about God, such as the reality and extent of His love, grace, faithfulness, goodness, holiness, wisdom, and power toward you. Similarly, express how each passage leads you to respond to Him—perhaps in praying for insight and understanding, confessing your sins, acknowledging the faith and hope that is in you, or expressing your love for God through worshiping Him and loving and serving others. Also, include any thoughts and insights from your fellow travelers that resonate with you.

## PRAYING FOR YOU

I am praying that God will richly bless your journey of exploring His precious promises and assurances and that your love for Him will continue to grow more and more. Please do not rush through the following pages. Take your time and think deeply about all that is now yours in Christ. You are certainly encouraged to revisit this book as God leads you. And above all, please *do* take it personally!

I invite you to savor Paul’s prayer for you found in Ephesians 3:14–21:

**For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is**

the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



# YESTERDAY

*That you may know what is the hope to  
which [God] has called you.*

EPHESIANS 1:18

It is finished!” That was Jesus’ proclamation to you from the cross. What was finished? That’s the focus of this section. Here you can reflect on all that God has already accomplished in and for you through His Son’s life, death, and resurrection. Here you are reminded of God’s love for you from eternity and of everything that is now true for you in Christ.

This section doesn’t focus on things that are happening today or that may happen someday. It’s not about what you must do or about levels of holiness you must achieve. It is exclusively about what God Himself has done to break the power and consequences of sin within you. In Christ, God has fully dealt with everything that stood in the way of your perfect love relationship with Him.

If you ever find yourself wondering whether you are good enough to get into heaven, ask yourself what part of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice for you was insufficient or inadequate. Since it was complete, just as He declared, you are on very solid ground indeed! You are free to live in total confidence that all of God’s yesterday assurances are absolutely true for you, now and always.

## **GOD FOREKNEW AND PREDESTINED ME**

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ROMANS 8:29

**Do you realize that you have been on God's  
mind and in His heart from before creation?**

**Your presence at this time in history and  
in this place is a matter not of chance but  
of God's deliberate design. In Christ, He  
has provided you all that you need to live  
securely, meaningfully, and effectively.**

1

# Beloved before Time Began

.....


**H**ow amazing that God loved you even before the beginning of time! Scripture showcases this ultimate love story, exploring God's timeless, costly, and unchanging love for you. He created the universe and, even before that, He planned the sacrifice of His Son—all for you. He intended for you to have a true love relationship with Him, and it couldn't have been real love if you were not given the ability and freedom to reject Him. He has always loved you, and He has enabled you to love Him.

**GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT . . .**

**YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE FOR ME**

[The Lord says,] *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.”* (JEREMIAH 31:3)

*Related verses:* Psalm 103:17; John 3:16; Romans 8:37, 39; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 3:1; 4:16.

 Share with the Lord your reactions to this amazing reality: His love for you predates the world, is in full effect today, and never ends.

GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT . . .

**YOUR REDEEMING LOVE FOR ME**

With the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. (PSALM 130:7)

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

(1 JOHN 4:10 NLT)

*Related verses:* Isaiah 43:4; 54:10; Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:4; Revelation 1:5.


 Examine before the Lord God the evidence these verses present of the reality and extent of His love for you.

GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT . . .

**YOUR STEADFAST LOVE FOR ME**

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is [the Lord's] steadfast love toward those who fear Him. (PSALM 103:11)

*Related verses:* Exodus 34:6; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 17:7; 32:10; 40:11; 42:8; 69:16; 103:17; 107:43; 130:7; Hosea 2:19; Micah 7:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 John 4:16.

 *Steadfast* means “unchanging and faithful.” Recall to your Lord some ways in which you have experienced His steadfast love in your life.

2

# Highly Valued

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When my parents told others something they appreciated about me, I recall feeling very special and loved. But proud parents who show pictures and share stories about their children have nothing on God! God highly values you, and He describes you in His Word as His treasured possession, His crown of beauty, His delight, and His source of joy. Perhaps you're asking, "Me? Really?" Most definitely!

**GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT ...**

**YOU HAVE SET YOUR HEART ON ME**

What is man, that You make so much of him, and that You set Your heart on him? (JOB 7:17)

*Related verses:* Deuteronomy 7:13; 32:10; Psalm 56:9; Isaiah 43:4.

 Indicate to God Almighty what it means for you to know that He pays attention to you and sets His heart on you.


GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .

**I AM YOUR TREASURE**

*You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*

(DEUTERONOMY 7:6)

*Related verses:* Job 7:17; Isaiah 26:11; 43:4; 62:3; Malachi 3:17.


 Identify some things, people, or experiences that you treasure. Ponder before the Lord your God what it means to you that He Himself treasures *you*.

GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .

**I AM YOUR DELIGHT**

You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but *you shall be called My Delight Is in Her*, and your land Married; *for the LORD delights in you*, and your land shall be married. (ISAIAH 62:4)

*Related verses:* 2 Samuel 22:20; Psalm 41:11; 44:3; Proverbs 3:12.

 Express to the Lord your God why it's amazing that God doesn't just tolerate or put up with you but that He actually *delights* in you.


GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .

**I AM YOUR JOY**

As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (ISAIAH 62:5)

*For the joy that was set before Him* [, Jesus] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (HEBREWS 12:2)

*Related verses:* Numbers 6:25–26; Zephaniah 3:17; Jude 24.

 Consider what was the joy that was set before Jesus and how that joy might have actually involved you. Describe to Him your reactions.

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## All in God's Plan

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What precious comfort and assurance to know that God elected you in Christ before creation to be His very own! You may wonder how that fits with your ability to freely love God or the fact that not everyone goes to heaven. Paul shares two things to help us with this quandary: God's reasoning is way beyond ours (Romans 11:33), and God is never unjust (Romans 9:14). Apparently, God decided that the good news of His choosing you was much too exciting and important to keep secret!

**GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT ...**

**YOU KNEW ME IN ADVANCE**

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; *in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.* (PSALM 139:16)

*Related verses:* Romans 8:29; Titus 1:1–2; 1 Peter 1:1–2.


 Convey to your Lord the comfort you find in knowing that God prepared every day of your life and that your existence is not merely a cosmic accident.

GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .

**YOU PLANNED FOR ME TO BELONG**

In love [God our Father] predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will. (EPHESIANS 1:4-5)

*Related verses:* Isaiah 43:1; Romans 8:29.


 God your Father determined long before your birth that you were to become His child, a member of His family. Declare to Him the confidence you experience in knowing this.

GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .

**YOU DESTINED ME TO OBTAIN SALVATION**

God has not destined us for wrath, but *to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 THESSALONIANS 5:9)

*Related verses:* Revelation 13:8; 20:15.

 The word *destined* means “planned” or “decided in advance.” Here you learn that God Himself destined you to obtain not the wrath that you deserved, but rather salvation through His Son. Reflect on this amazing reality and tell God the Father your reactions.

## HE ALSO CALLED ME

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ROMANS 8:30

One's vocation, or calling, in life is an important biblical concept (2 Timothy 1:9) that has become part of our everyday language. Who do you suppose is doing the calling? And exactly what has He called you to be and do? You are invited to dive into God's Word and explore!

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# Called by Name

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**H**ow do you feel when a person you've met only briefly in the past remembers your name and details about your life? Do you feel important and respected? God Himself has called you by name with a call that will never be taken back. He has graciously and earnestly reached out to you. He has called you with the sure hope of salvation into a new and vibrant life in His kingdom. Yes, He most assuredly knows your name!

**GOD, YOU WANT ME TO KNOW THAT . . .**

**YOU CALLED ME PERSONALLY**

**Thus says the LORD, . . . “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.”** (ISAIAH 43:1)

*Related verses:* Isaiah 42:6; Matthew 9:13; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Ephesians 1:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Revelation 17:14.

 **We know that the Lord God, King of the universe, calls everyone through His Word. But share with Him what it means to you to realize that He has personally called you by name.**