The background of the entire image is a dense field of pink roses. The roses in the foreground are in sharp focus, showing their intricate petal patterns. The background roses are blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate texture of the petals.

alive
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October '23

GOD WILL **BRING**
GOOD *out of* **EVIL**

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Genesis 50:20

'As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this – to preserve the lives of many people.'

GOD WILL **BRING**
GOOD out of **EVIL**

By: Andrew Roebert

In the Old Testament is a remarkable story about a man named Joseph. He was born into a great family and He was the favoured son. He enjoyed a special relationship with God and the Lord showed him dreams and visions about the future. But everything seemed to go horribly wrong. He was sold into slavery by his brothers, he was reported as dead to his father, he was falsely accused by his owner's wife and he ended up forgotten in prison. Yet at every turn God intervened and turned the bad situation into something unique. In every situation things worked out in a remarkable way for Joseph. The end result was that God used all the evil and the bad things he faced to position him for success, power, influence and as a result used him to save the lives of many people. A story, which would appear to be a trail of disaster, became a road to a divine purpose and destiny. In the end God restored everything that had been lost and stolen and He even took the evil intentions of others to set Joseph up as an example to each of us.

JOSEPH FACED UNIMAGINABLE EVIL REPEATEDLY, BUT WAS ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK EVERY TIME

In life we all face things that seem unfair, unjust and even evil in nature. It is easy to begin to think that someone, something, or everyone is against us and that things will never move in our favour. The enemy of our souls would like to see us destroyed and eliminated and he will use any means to accomplish this – even those close to us.

John 10:10a

‘The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.’

Joseph faced this to a great extent, but every time he was able to bounce back. His attitude and his willingness to serve kept opening doors for him. After being sold as a slave to Potiphar, he served in such a way that he became the head of his owner's household. After being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife he was thrown into prison where he served the authorities and the other prisoners and became responsible for all the prisoners. After being forgotten about in prison, one of the prisoners that he had helped told Pharaoh about him and he was taken from the prison to the throne in one day. Joseph had this amazing ability not to sink into despair and discouragement but to make the most of the situation and in each situation things turned in his favour and ultimately he was exactly where he needed to be when the right time came.

John 10:10b

‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’

Our attitudes and willingness to make the best of a bad situation can turn things around for us, and with God's help, it can set us up for His divine purposes.

GOD CAN USE THE ADVERSITIES OF OUR LIVES FOR HIS PURPOSES

Adversities are part of life. Joseph could have been forgiven, or at least understood, for being an angry, hurt, offended and depressed individual. He could have blamed himself or others and he could even have blamed God for his situation, but he had a different attitude. I believe that deep within himself, he believed that there was a divine or a deeper meaning and purpose to what he was going through, even though he couldn't see it at the time. If we look through history and see how God has turned situations around or given them meaning and purpose, we can also have a different attitude. It doesn't really matter where the difficulties or the adversities come from, we must remind ourselves that God is in control of all things.

The Lord does not bring this evil into our lives, but those who do are unwittingly setting the stage for His plans and purposes to prevail. Perhaps today you are facing some adversities. They often present themselves in many different ways. Even if it feels unfair and unjust and you cannot see the purpose in what you are going through, have the courage to believe that His hand is in all of it and He will turn it into good.


Romans 8:28
And we know that
God causes
everything to work
together for the
good of those who
love God and are
called according to
His purpose for
them.'

DON'T GET IMPATIENT – TIME REVEALS THINGS

When we are in the middle of struggles and adversities, time seems to move very slowly. I remember a time when we as a family were going through tremendous hardship and adversity. We trusted the Lord, we prayed, we fasted, we even performed prophetic actions because nothing seemed to be changing. This season lasted seven years and then within six months everything had changed and we realised that God had something different in mind and He was moving us on to better things. It is, however, difficult during the time when nothing seems to change. We can, and often do, get impatient, frustrated and desperate.

When we get impatient it can lead to taking matters into our own hands and history shows us that this is often the point at which we can make mistakes. When Joseph was going through such times, he watched his attitude, did the best that he could, served and made himself almost indispensable in the situation. In the end Joseph got to see God's plan and purpose unfold in front of his eyes and in front of all of those who had tried to destroy or forget about him. Your patient trust will be rewarded.





ETERNITY WILL REVEAL THE REASON FOR ALL THINGS

Sometimes when we look at things from our earthly perspective it is difficult to see the purpose in all things. My great-grandmother married at a young age (18) and had five children. One day her husband became ill at the age of thirty-six. He died within 7 days. He had contracted the Spanish Flu of 1918. She was present at his death and had wondered about her own health after having been exposed to his sick state. She was left isolated in the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa as a clerk on the railways with five minor children ranging from 9 years to 5 months of age and she was only thirty. I have often wondered how she coped with all this adversity and hardship. But God made a way and brought this family through all of these challenges and her children followed God and today there are a number of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and even some great, great-grandchildren who are all in the ministry, serving God and helping others to know the love of God in their lives.

There was no way that my great-grandmother could ever have imagined how her family would be used intergenerationally by God. I am sure that while she was going through the roughest of times she wondered if it was worth it. If she had known that down the road there would be generations of people serving God, because of her faithfulness, I'm sure she would have said: 'I can do this!' But now, from her eternal perspective, I am sure she knows that it was all worthwhile.



When we are facing challenges they seem very real in the moment. So real, in fact, that they cloud our judgment. We may feel like we are just existing or surviving. What we do not always realise is that we are still playing a role, setting an example and showing those who will come after us how to deal with their challenges. One day, when we go to be with the Lord, we will be able to see, with the benefit of eternity, all the meaning of life's most challenging situations. When we get to heaven, only then will we fully understand why we had to go through certain things. When we are facing challenges they seem very real in the moment. So real, in fact, that they cloud our judgment. We may feel like we are just existing or surviving.

Note it says: 'to preserve the lives of many people.' When we get to the other side we will discover that the challenges that we faced, were not only for ourselves alone, but also for others and more, it would be part of God's great plan to save and preserve the lives of many people. So go for it – it will be worth it in the end. God will bring good out of evil.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE



KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE (KEY 6)

BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

Vision, hope and dreams are another vital part of our lives. Keeping the dreams alive within us is part of real living. We cannot live without hope. Hope comes alive in those things that we dream and envisage in our lives. Vision and dreams have a power and a purpose in our lives. Never despise your dreams, hopes and visions. Never give up on your hopes and dreams!

Romans 15:13

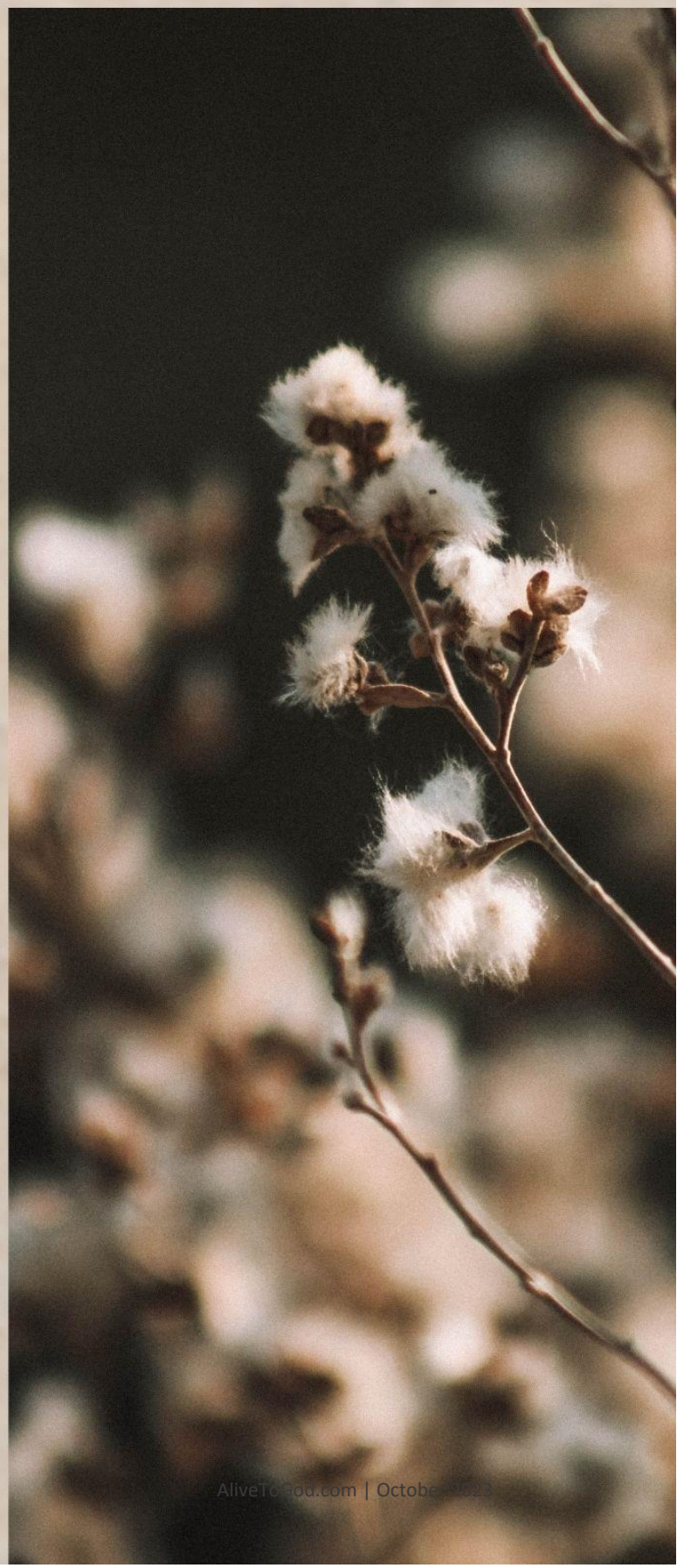
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE SUSTAINING POWER OF A DREAM

Our dreams have the power to sustain us. In a sense our dreams and vision give us a purpose and it is this purpose that can give our lives meaning and significance. Just think of the life of Joseph. Here we have a man to whom God gave great dreams. At first these dreams were a threat to those around him. In reality there was going to be a considerable time span between the dream and the fulfillment. In this in-between time Joseph was rejected, sold out, living as a slave, falsely accused, imprisoned and forgotten before the day when things changed and his dreams became a reality. I believe it was the dreams that sustained him. Although it seemed unlikely and impossible, his dreams had lit a spark within him and he knew that one day something would happen and things would change. He trusted God through it all and eventually the miracle happened. Perhaps you have not seen your dreams becoming a reality as yet? I want to encourage you to keep on hoping in God and keep on believing in God that those things on the inside of you will come to be realised.

Psalm 146:5

Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God





SEE WITH THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS

Our dreams and vision is initially something we need to see with the eyes of our hearts. What do you see through the eyes of your heart? I once heard a story about Walt Disney. He had a vision to build a wonderful place called Disney World. A place of dreams and imagination. He planned this place and work began. However before it was completed Walt Disney died. At the opening of Disney World someone made the comment to his wife. They said: 'We are so sorry that your husband Walt is not here to see his dream'. She responded and said that her husband had in fact seen his dream long ago! Walt Disney had been 'seeing' his dream for a long time. It was the others who were seeing the reality for the first time and had no knowledge about the dream.

Ephesians 4:18

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.

There are things that must be alive in our hearts. There are things that we can only see with the eyes of our hearts.

THE DANGER OF LOSING HOPE

When we lose hope and give up on our vision and dreams, something begins to happen within us. It is as though death sets in. Losing hope dries up our bones. It removes the very life from our existence.

Ezekiel 37:11

Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost; we are completely cut off.



This can happen in many ways. It can happen when our dreams die, the death of a dream. It can also happen as we experience a loss of hope. These can be devastating as they can lead to a loss of purpose and on to depression and discouragement. BUT there is hope.

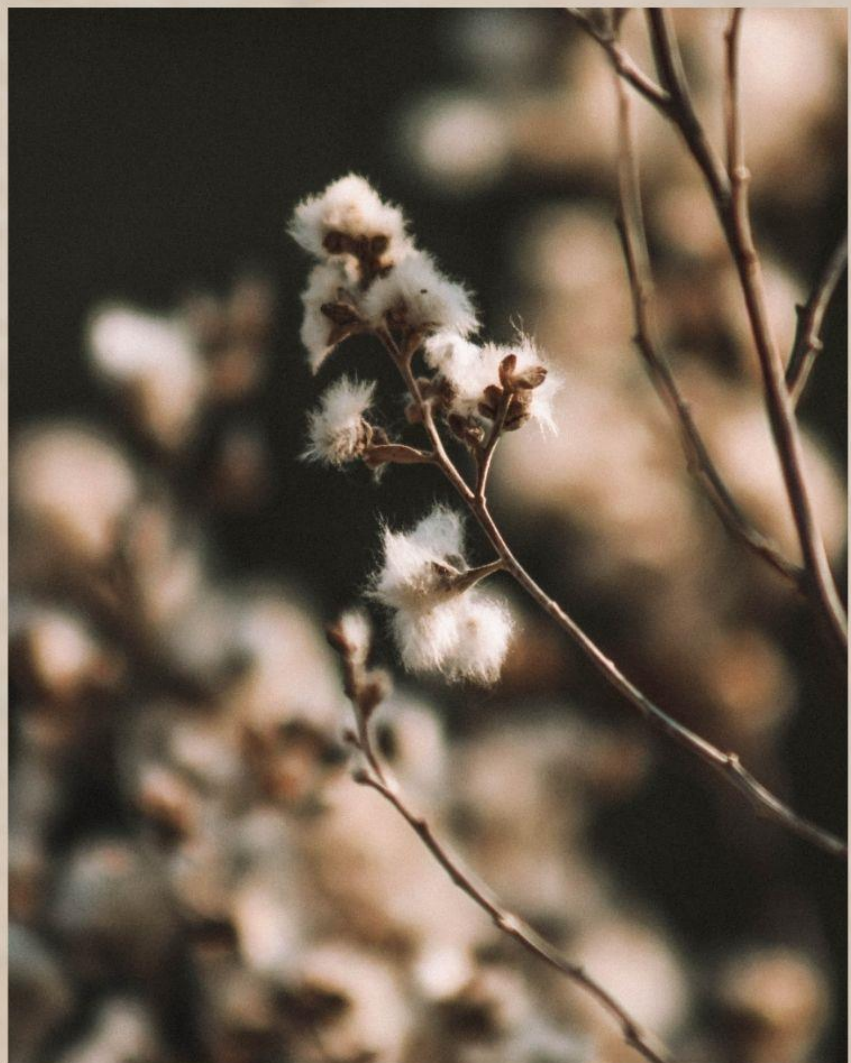
Romans 4:17

God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

God is able to breathe new life into your dreams. God is able to do more and greater than what we could have imagined.

Romans 4:20 -21

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything he promised.



Do not limit God and do not give up on your dreams!

THE DANGERS OF NO VISION

When there are dreams and vision alive within us we come alive with purpose and resolve. Have you ever noticed that people with vision (visionaries) seem unstoppable? As long as we have a purpose we have something to live for. Oftentimes our purpose can be found in those dreams and vision that God has placed within our hearts. If this is lost and there is no vision, death sets in and life becomes an existence.

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Don't aimlessly amble through life. Dream dreams, have hopes and believe God to do something wonderful in and through you!

GOD IS AT WORK WITHIN YOU!



I believe that ultimately God is the dream giver. It is God who is the originator of all creative ideas. God is the one who places dreams and visions in our hearts. As we seek God, He wants to make things clearer and revive our spirits so that we will dream again.

Philippians 1:6

And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.

STARTING SMALL

Oftentimes when we look at our dreams and vision, we don't know where to start. I have a friend who dreamed of owning his own business. He had had dreams of a fleet of white vans fetching and delivering stock. So he started his business with just a small office, a telephone and a desk. As he sat there the phone did not even ring. But he kept on dreaming and he kept on working and today, 10 years later, he has a fleet of white vans fetching and delivering enormous quantities of stock and his business has become a leader in its field! As I have watched I have seen that most dreams that are realised start small. Never allow that to put you off!

Zechariah 4:10

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.



DREAMS CAN BE REALISED

Your dreams and vision can be realised! It is one of the keys to success in life that we have to keep the dreams alive. We have to keep on dreaming and seeing things with the eyes of our hearts, so that we can have a vision and as a result a purpose.

Proverbs 23:18

**There is surely a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off.**

Do not give up! When the dream is fulfilled and becomes a reality, there is something incredibly special about it.

Proverbs 13:12

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but when dreams come true, there is
life and joy.**

Proverbs 13:19

**The desire accomplished is sweet to
the soul!**

So let us keep the dreams alive and let us believe God for things to happen and in this way anticipate and enjoy what God has in store. God is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly, far over and above all that we dare ask or think and infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams. (Ephesians 3:20)

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE



HOW ARE GOD'S INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES

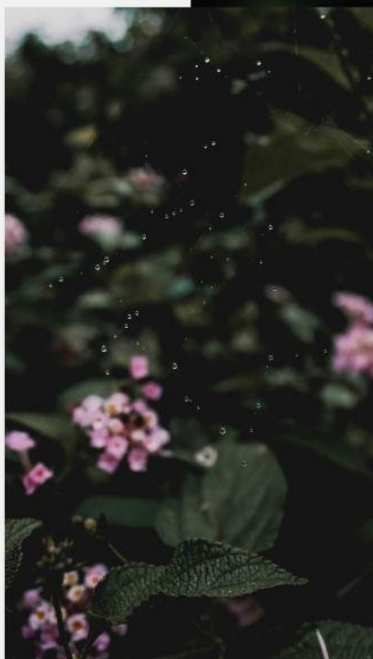
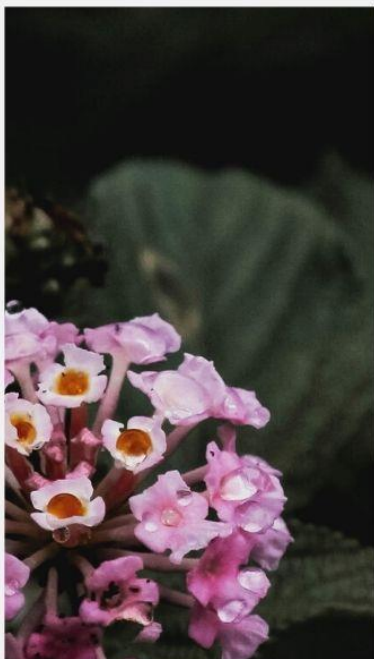
BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

**clearly seen in creation
(Romans 1:20)?**

In order to build the case that all humanity has fallen short of the glory of God and needs to receive God's grace through belief in Jesus, Paul asserts that God's unseen qualities are clearly seen in creation: "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since

the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20, ESV). God has made aspects of who He is evident to all humanity (Romans 1:19), so that no one has an excuse for unbelief. God's invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature have been clearly seen in creation.

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It is remarkable that something invisible—unseeable, by definition—has been clearly seen in creation. But God’s creation reveals His invisible attributes (Romans 1:20). God’s eternal power and divine nature are evident through what He has made. These qualities are understandable through observing creation, and no one has an excuse not to believe. Suppressing the truth is unrighteous (Romans 1:19) because God has made the truth of who He is obvious to all.

There are many places in Scripture where we are told to look to the creation to learn about God. In Job 12:7–9 we are told that the birds, the beasts, the earth itself, and the fish of the sea can all teach us about God and that He made them all. In His hand is the life of every living thing (Job 12:10). The heavens themselves declare God’s glory and proclaim the work of His hands (Psalm 19:1). Each passing day and night reveal knowledge (Psalm 19:2).





As the Creator of all things, God has intimate knowledge of His creation (Isaiah 40:12), and He has revealed Himself in His creation from the founding of the earth (Isaiah 40:21). Isaiah exhorts us to look to the heavens to see God's handiwork (Isaiah 40:26). The heavens' very existence is a proclamation of God's invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature.

The Bible draws a connection between God's creation and God's sovereign control. Since God created all things, He has authority over all things. The biblical account of creation provides the important foundation for us to understand who God is.

In order for readers to understand their need for the good news of Jesus Christ, Paul explains that all are accountable to God. All are guilty, and all who do not believe in Him are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. There are none who do good, not even one (Romans 3:12). Because God is the Creator, He understands what is needed to redeem humanity and all of creation. All have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), yet God justifies all who believe in Jesus (Romans 3:23, 38).



God's creation reveals much about God. His invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature are clearly seen and understood in creation. We gain knowledge of who He is by examining His creation. When we observe the over 100 billion galaxies, we see the glory and might of God. When we study the intricacies of a living cell, we see the intelligence and skill of God. When we consider the 60,000 miles of blood vessels strategically placed in the human body, we see the wisdom and forethought of God.

God has also revealed Himself in the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16–17), and through them we understand that God has resolved our sin and guilt by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9). God's invisible attributes seen in creation help us to know our need for God's grace and where to look to find His provision of grace.

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