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*magazine*  
August '24

A TIME OF



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RESTORATION



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BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

# A TIME OF

# RESTORATION

We are living in interesting days. There are different things taking place all over the world and they are things that oftentimes can be of concern! Many individuals have been through difficult seasons. But God has something new, and I believe it is a time of restoration. A season during which He will do a work of restoring. I received an email from a friend who wrote and said that it felt like the last few years he was in a 'faith school' and things had been a challenge. It is during these 'faith school' seasons that we learn to trust God and to hold on to Him. Faith is the thing that moves God, and we can look forward to the work of restoration that He wants to do in our lives.



# ORIGINAL CONDITION

The purpose of restoration is to return something to its original condition. As we pass through life, we experience things that affect our condition and this in turn blocks us from what God has in store for us. God wants to bring restoration in our lives so that we can be put back on course for His blueprint for our lives. This is something that only God can do. We cannot restore ourselves. God is the One Who can take all that we have been through and undo the damage so that we can be restored to all He had intended for us to be.

## WHAT THE LOCUSTS HAVE EATEN

Joel 2:25

**So I will restore to you the years that  
the swarming locust has eaten.**

When God restores, He is able to take all the years that have been lost or eaten and give them back to us. Locusts work in a particular way. They swarm in their thousands and descend on crops with military precision and wreak havoc and destruction in all directions in a very short period of time. This is exactly what can happen in our lives and many people who have been through such an experience can identify with this. But God is the One Who can undo large-scale destruction and return things to their original condition.



# RESTORE NOT REPLACE

Sometimes we may think that God does not want to bring restoration, but we think that He will just bring a replacement. I am of the persuasion that God wants to restore and not simply to replace. If we look at the story of Moses we can see how God works. God had a plan for Moses. God wanted to use Moses to bring freedom and release to the nation of Israel. Moses however made mistakes and ended running around the desert for years and years. When this happened, God did not simply bring in a replacement to do the job. In due season He brought Moses back and the nation of Israel was free. You see, God restored Moses; He brought him back, out of obscurity and used him just as He had intended. This is how God works. God is in the business of restoration and not replacement.

# A LIFETIME IN A FEW YEARS

This is the amazing thing about God. When God restores, He can take a lifetime and place it in a few short years. This always gives me hope. If you have ended up wasting time and spending time on things that have robbed you of what God had for you, there is hope. As we allow God to restore our lives, we can look forward to this very thing happening in our lives. It is for this reason that it is never too late with God. We are never too far gone or too distant for God to bring restoration of His purposes in our lives. God can do it!



# LIFE

Another definition of the term restoration is the concept of bringing back to life. God wants to do just that for us. He wants to restore His life in us. It is, as though, God wants to breathe new life into our lives. Sometimes, as we wander through life, we die on the inside. We may be physically alive, but we know that on the inside there is a measure of death. This can be the result of many things including the things we have been through or the things we have been exposed to. But God is the Source of life. He wants to come and restore life to us, so that we can truly be alive to God on the inside.

## RESTORATION AND BROKENNESS

This may be a more difficult concept. Let me give you an example: when we restore furniture, it involves several steps.


1. We first have to disassemble the furniture
2. We have to strip away all the years of wear and tear.
3. Then we can add new materials and put it all back together.

Perhaps this does not sound like a very good experience to us, but the reality is that it is very rewarding as the true beauty and glory of the piece is brought out. Sometimes in the process of restoration there is the element of brokenness. Some things must go but most things stay. This is something we must embrace and not reject as God is doing something wonderful.





# THE PURPOSE



Just as in the natural when we restore furniture there is a purpose. Restoration is part of the process to prepare something for further and future use. We don't restore a piece of furniture to store it in the garage. We restore furniture to use it and bring it out of obscurity and give it value and purpose. It is just the same in our spiritual lives. God has a plan and purpose for each one of us and He wants to bring restoration so that He can use us, just as He intended to. Once a piece of furniture has been restored it can be replaced in a position of priority and visibility. That is exactly what God wants to do with you and me.



# WHAT IS RESTORED?

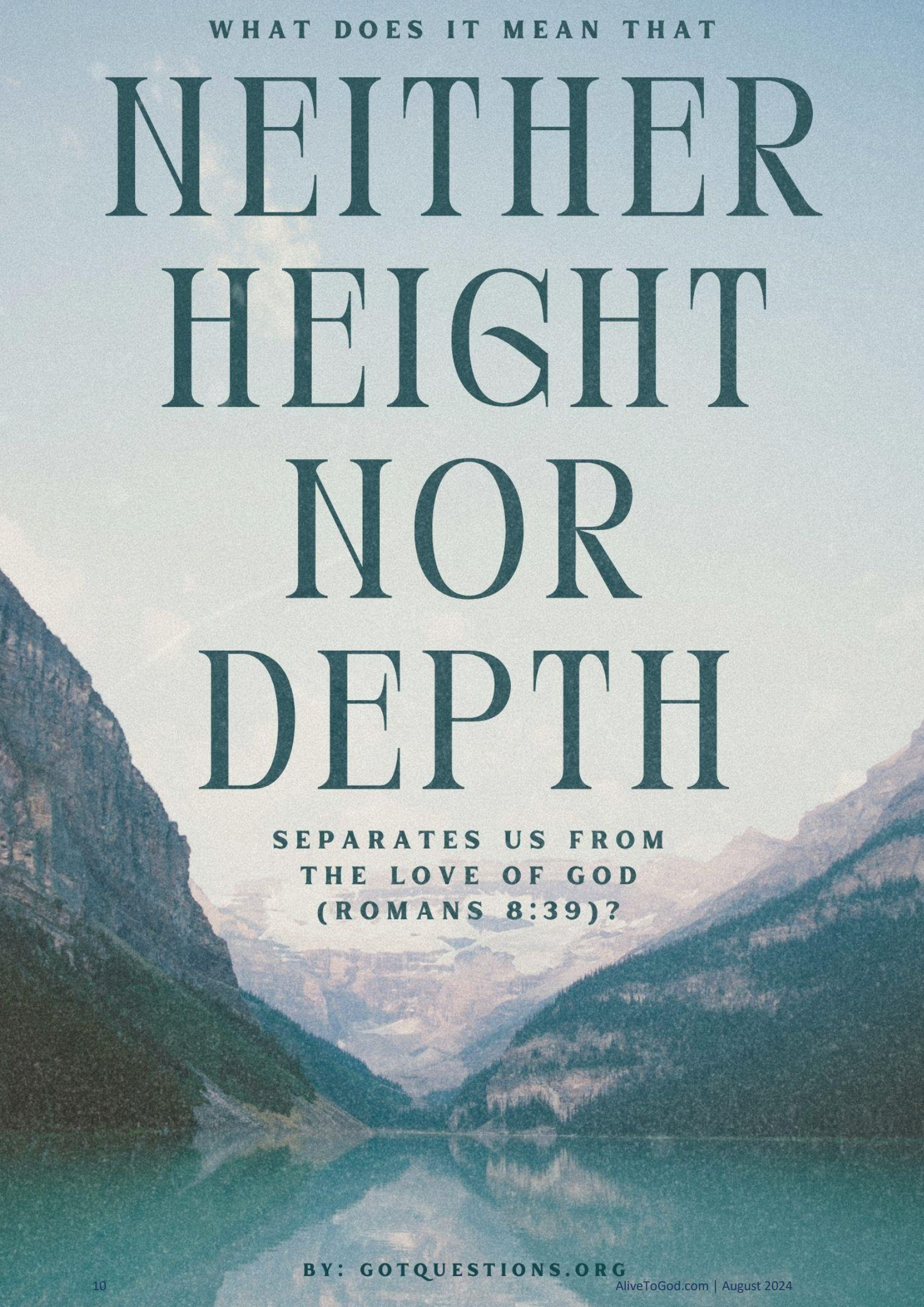
Not any old piece of furniture is restored! Usually, it is only pieces of furniture that have a value that are taken and restored. They are restored because they are worth the effort. You are worth the effort to God to be restored. You and I have great value to God and He wants to restore and use each one of us. Remember, you are valuable and precious to God and He loves you dearly. May the restoring power of the living God be a reality in your life.



## Matthew 6:26

**Look at the birds! They don't worry about what to eat – they don't need to sow or reap or store up food – for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to Him than they are.**






WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT

# NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH

SEPARATES US FROM  
THE LOVE OF GOD  
(ROMANS 8:39)?

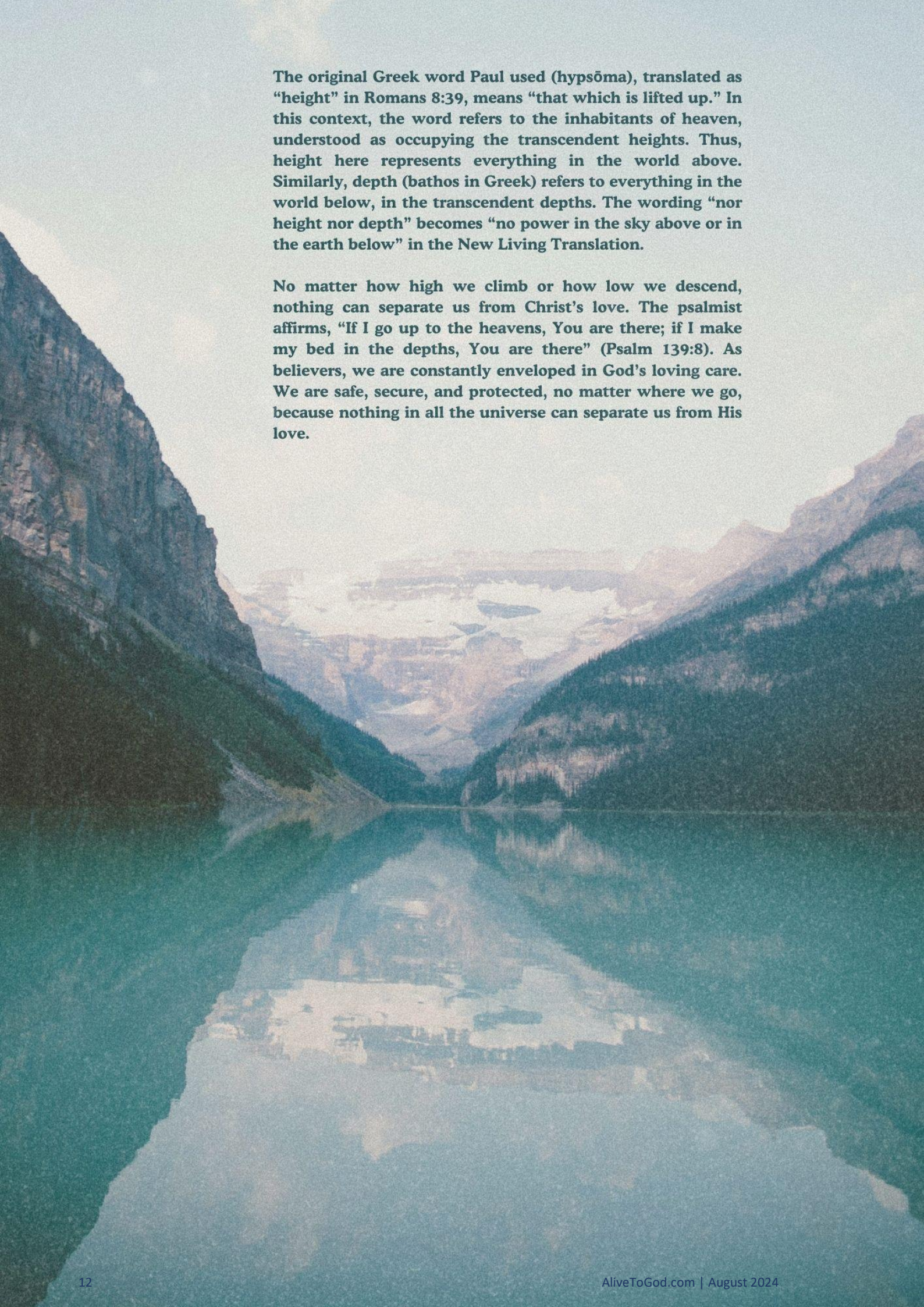




People are plagued with phobias. Fear of death is a big one. We worry about the future and the cares of this life. Some people suffer from an extreme fear of heights, while others are terrified of deep, dark, confined spaces such as tunnels. In Romans 8:31–39, the apostle Paul identifies a range of desperately troubling circumstances and almost every human fear imaginable. He then pronounces one of the most comforting reassurances in all the Bible: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (verses 37–39, ESV).

Height and depth are terms used in Scripture to express the extreme nature of God and His great love (see Job 11:7–8; Romans 11:11). In Ephesians 3:16–19, Paul prayed for the Ephesians to grasp the width, length, height, and depth of Christ’s love. The perfect love of God in Jesus Christ is not just a comforting thought but a powerful force that can cast out all our fears (1 John 4:18). The born-again child of God is not just known in advance but chosen by the Father in love to be conformed into the image of His Son and to be justified and glorified (Romans 8:29–30). God’s love is so all-encompassing that absolutely nothing and no one, neither in this life nor in the life to come, neither angels nor demons, nor height nor depth, can harm the one who is kept in His loving presence.



A scenic view of a mountain valley with a lake reflecting the surrounding peaks and forests. The image shows a wide, deep valley with steep, rocky mountainsides covered in dense evergreen forests. In the distance, a large, flat-topped mountain range is visible under a clear sky. A calm lake in the foreground perfectly reflects the surrounding landscape, creating a mirror image of the mountains and trees. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

The original Greek word Paul used (*hypsōma*), translated as “height” in Romans 8:39, means “that which is lifted up.” In this context, the word refers to the inhabitants of heaven, understood as occupying the transcendent heights. Thus, height here represents everything in the world above. Similarly, depth (*bathos* in Greek) refers to everything in the world below, in the transcendent depths. The wording “nor height nor depth” becomes “no power in the sky above or in the earth below” in the New Living Translation.

No matter how high we climb or how low we descend, nothing can separate us from Christ’s love. The psalmist affirms, “If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there” (Psalm 139:8). As believers, we are constantly enveloped in God’s loving care. We are safe, secure, and protected, no matter where we go, because nothing in all the universe can separate us from His love.





**Paul's list of potential fear-inducing situations represents the full spectrum of human horrors. Death and life are on opposite ends of the spectrum, as are angels and demons, the present and the future, and height and depth. Anything and everything that could cause us to fear, whether tangible or intangible, is powerless to break the bond of God's love for His children. Anything we feel might barricade us from the Lord's presence is dealt with under God's sovereign control (Ephesians 1:22; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28; Hebrews 2:8).**

**God does not always spare us from life's steep uphill climb or from traversing the depths of sorrow and pain. Sometimes, we need the difficulties to stretch us and cause us to grow spiritually (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7). But God does promise to walk beside us on the mountain and in the valley with His mighty, loving presence to dispel our fears (Psalm 23:4).**

**In both the heights and depths of our walk with God, in the joyous moments and the dark nights of the soul, we can trust and "know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). He allows these challenges for our good and His glory (Hebrews 12:10-11; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 4:13).**



# HE LIFTS OUR HEADS

BY: ANDREW ROEBERT





Life can sometimes get too much. Have you ever watched someone who is walking around carrying a burden? Often times it is written all over their faces and eventually their heads begin to drop. There are many reasons why our heads would drop. Our heads may drop in shame, distress, stress, despondency and despair. But God wants to step into our lives and lift our heads so that we can see Him and He can give us new hope.

# GOD WANTS TO LIFT UP OUR HEADS

Psalm 3:3

But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. (NIV)

God wants to be a shield around our lives. God wants to lift up our heads. When life gets too much we may drop our heads. But God wants to step into our lives and lift up our heads. I just see this great picture of the great God reaching to us and placing his hand under our chins and gently lifting our heads and reminding us that everything will be all right

# SEASONS OF CHALLENGE

We all face seasons of challenge and difficulty from time to time. I have even seen those who one would expect have everything, face these things. There are many reasons why we get to this point.



**It just so happens that we can find ourselves in difficulty and challenge from time to time. But God wants to lift us up and out of these situations as well. He wants to lift our heads in the process.**

Psalm 40:2

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

Psalm 3:3

But Lord, you are my shield, my glory, and my only hope. You alone can lift my head, now bowed in shame. (Living Bible)

## THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

**You may feel that your situation or circumstances are far too serious and that not even God could change the things that you are facing. This happens when we lose vision or lose sight of God in our lives. There is nothing too hard for God. There is no situation, circumstance or dilemma that He cannot overcome. God wants to do the impossible in the process of lifting our heads.**

Psalm 23:5

You prepare a table before me,  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Psalm 3:3

But You, O Lord, are a shield for  
me, my glory and the One who  
lifts up my head. (NKJV)



# HOW LOW CAN YOU GO

**It seems like the lower we may go the more God is interested in lifting us up. We can never get to the point where we have sunken below the point where God can reach us. God always wants to reach out and lift us up.**

Jonah 2:5-7

I sank beneath the waves, and death was very near. The waters closed above me; the seaweed wrapped itself around my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains that rise from the ocean floor. I was locked out of life and imprisoned in the land of death. But, O Lord my God, you have snatched me from the yawning jaws of death! When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord.

**Jonah was a man who had run away from God and ended up in the belly of a big fish in the depths of the ocean. Yet even there God was ready to lift him up and use him.**

## WHEN WE TURN TO GOD

**It is as we turn to God that He can begin to lift us and lift up our heads. When Jonah got to that point and turned to God, God stepped back into the picture and began to turn his circumstances around.**



Jonah 2:7

When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord.

**Don't miss this opportunity. If you feel like the pressures of life are drowning you, turn to God. Run to Him and expect that as you do so. He in turn will lift your head**

Psalm 91:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer; I will be with him in trouble and rescue him and honour him. I will satisfy him with a full life and give him my salvation."

## GOD LIFTS US UP

**God is the one who is truly in the position to lift us up. When God lifts us up it will become obvious to others that He has done just that.**

1 Samuel 2:7

The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

Psalm 75:7

But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

**I believe that the desire in God's heart for each of us is that we would follow him and love Him and in return He would lift us up. God is not looking for reason to pull us down; He is looking for reason to lift us up.**





# LIFTING UP OUR FACES

**There was a song that we used to sing some years ago: 'Lift your vision high'. I believe that this is what we need to do. If we will begin to lift our faces and look towards God, I believe that He will begin to lift us up.**

Job 22:26

Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God.

Song of Solomon 2:6

His left hand is under my head and with his right hand he embraces me.

Psalm 24:7

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

# LIFTING UP OUR FACES

**I believe that we can ask God to lift us up. You may feel that you have gone as low as you can go. Then I believe it is time to ask God to lift you up.**

Psalm 9:13

O LORD, see how my enemies persecute me! Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death.

**Let's begin to trust God to do this**

Psalm 25:1-2

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.

Psalm 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.



# TIMELESS CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



[RobertMinistries.co.za](http://RobertMinistries.co.za)

# FREE DAILY BIBLE VERSE



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We also encourage you to extend your support to others by lifting them up in prayer. It's as simple as clicking the "I PRAYED FOR THIS" button, and a notification will be sent to them, letting them know that someone is holding them in prayer.

Together, through our collective prayers and support, we can create a community filled with warmth, love, and genuine care. Thank you for being a part of it!



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