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February'26

THE IRREVERSIBLE BLESSING OF GOD!



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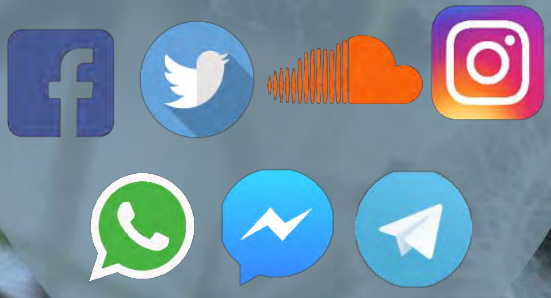
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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
Be Fruitful
IN EVERY GOOD WORK (COLOSSIANS 1:10)?
BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG



While greeting the church in Colosse, the apostle Paul prays for the believers there to "be filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9–10, NKJV).

In the context of the Christian life, being "fruitful" is a metaphor for living in a way that produces results or outcomes pleasing to God. In Colossians 1:10, the Greek verb (karpophorountes) translated as "being fruitful" (NKJV) or "bearing fruit" (ESV, NIV) refers to "producing fruit" or "being fertile." The Logos Bible Sense Lexicon draws out the nuanced meaning in the term's original language, which is "to produce actions and natural consequences befitting one's nature; conceived of as a tree bearing fruit according to its kind."

In the same way that ripe, juicy apples are the visible evidence of a healthy apple tree, good works are the visible evidence of a healthy, growing faith in Christ. Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NLT). God chose and appointed us "to go and produce lasting fruit" (John 15:16, NLT). If we are followers of Christ, we will produce the works that He did as evidence of His life in us.

Pleasing God is the goal of the Christian life. One way we please Him is by being fruitful in every good work. It does not mean that we toil and fret and work our fingers to the bone for God; instead, we let God work in us and through us "to fulfill his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

Good works are not the means to attaining salvation; rather, they naturally follow from our salvation and devotion to Jesus Christ. Good deeds are not so much about our actions as our inner character. They sprout from being "filled with the fruit of [our] salvation—the righteous character produced in [our] life by Christ," which "will bring much glory and praise to God" (Philippians 1:11, NLT). Good works please God because they are what He created us to do: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8–10).

Being fruitful in every good work means reflecting the life of Christ in our actions and behaviors. First, we must fully surrender our will to Him, so that He can fill us with everything we need to abound in good works (see 2 Corinthians 9:8). Then we must continually be led by God's Spirit, so that He can reproduce the fruit of Christ in our lives (see Galatians 5:16–26).

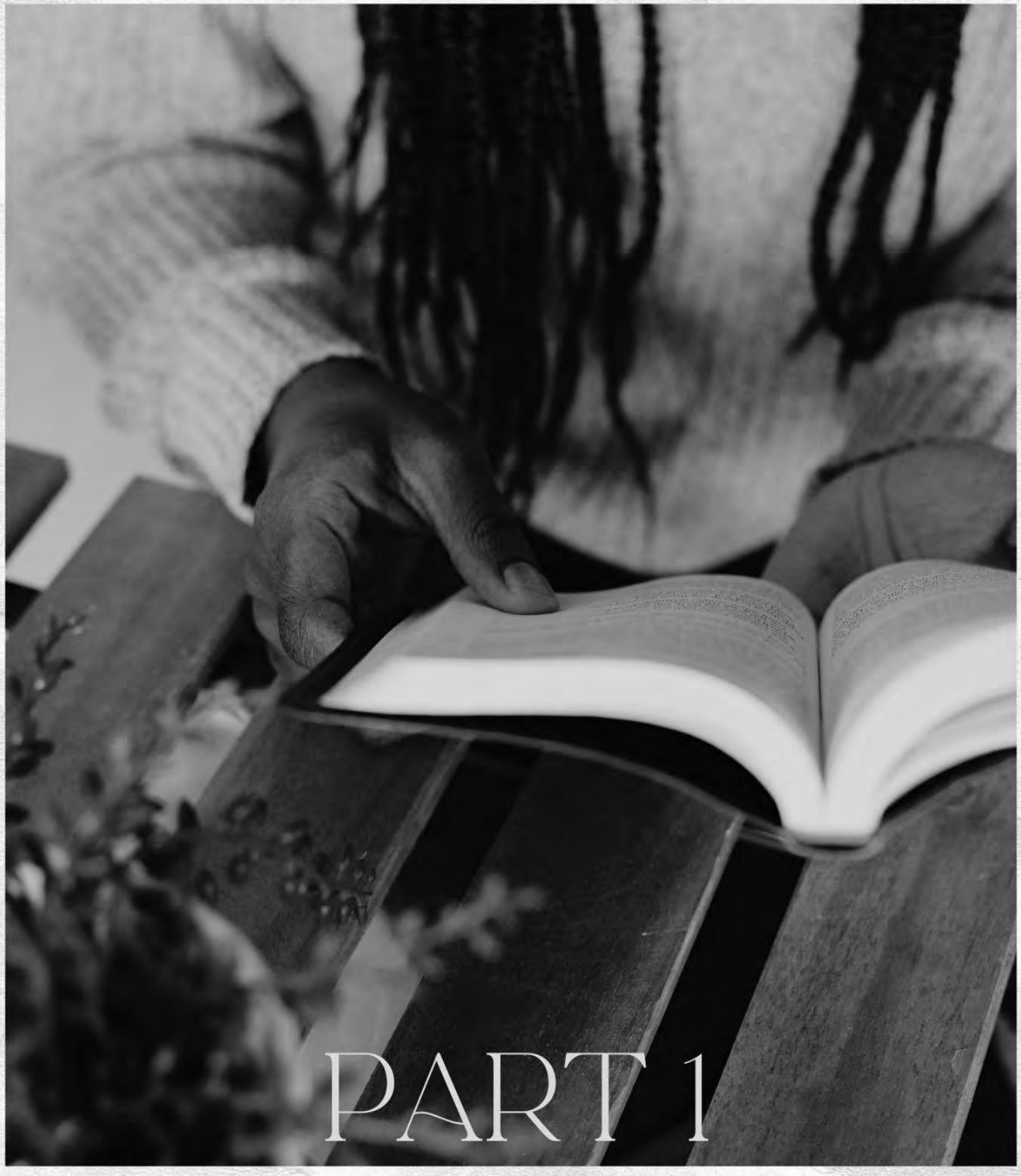
Being fruitful in every good work involves growing in the knowledge of God and His Word. Paul writes, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NLT). As we deepen our relationship with God through His Word, we become better equipped and empowered to do good works.



Growing in the knowledge of God's Word must be coupled with obedience. James urges, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. . . Whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do" (James 1:22, 25).

Being fruitful in every good work does not happen automatically. Fruit must be cultivated as we remain dependent on Christ's life in us. This process of bearing good fruit demonstrates discipleship as we grow in spiritual maturity and become progressively more like Christ (see Philippians 3:12–14; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:22–24; 1 John 2:6). It shows the world that we are followers of Jesus and points unbelievers to Him (Matthew 5:14–16; 7:16–20; John 15:8; 1 Peter 2:12).

COMMUNION WITH GOD



PART 1

BY: PASTOR ED ROEBERT



PREFACE

It is vitally important for every Christian to have COMMUNION WITH GOD.

All truly born again Christians long for it. Many yean for it so deeply that they are prepared to spend protracted times waiting on God in prayer and fasting.

YET, so often the Lord still seems to be far away and for many, it's a matter of "try as I may, I seem to battle to make contact with God and to hear His voice".

Many of God's choice servants know that they should be hearing God's voice for "My sheep hear My voice", and sometimes they feel strongly that they DO – yet at other times they seem to have misgivings about the whole subject.

The too, there are those who DO hear from God, but when asked to explain HOW they hear, they find it very difficult to give a clear answer. Some say that "you know that you know" that you have heard God's voice, but that's no answer. That kind of answer leaves on in the dark.

For years the Holy Spirit has been emphasising the importance of hearing and obeying God's voice but no one, or perhaps very few, seemed to come up with a clear answer on HOW to go about hearing God's voice.

The first person I came across who was prepared to put pen to paper and suggest specific steps we can take to hear God's voice was Mark Virkler, author of two very enlightening books – DIALOGUE WITH GOD and COMMUNION WITH GOD. These two books every serious Christian should read.

When I read them so many of the things that had been happening to me and that I had seen in the Bible, but did not know how to bring together, seemed all of a sudden to fit together. As a result I began to study and preach on the subject, using Mark Virkler's material and the studies that comprise the article you are about to read, are my sermon notes.



As I studied and experimented over a period of months and then as I shared with the Congregation of the local church what the Lord was saying to me, a wave of excitement swept through our local Church. I was so privileged to be able to share these messages with a broader spectrum of people in the larger body of Christ across the country. Their response was similar.



It is my sincere prayer that as you read this article and as you become still before the Lord, that you too will hear from heaven.

Remember that hearing from God is something that we should all experience all the time.

God bless you as you read. God bless you as you listen and hear.



CHAPTER 1

GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN FOR MANKIND

Since the dawn of creation God has desired to have COMMUNION with the people who He has created. That is why He walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Unfortunately they spoiled it, by sinning. Sin brought about separation – they were expelled from the garden.

But immediately after this happened God promised that He would make a plan of salvation so that communion with God could be restored. That is what Genesis 3:15 says by implication.



This we know was fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross for our sins and as a result of Him being bruised (His heel being crushed), He (Jesus) has bruised the head of Satan – He has conquered Satan, who was responsible for causing the original separation between us and God. In other words when Jesus died on the cross, He made it possible for COMMUNION WITH GOD TO BE RESTORED.

COMMUNION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The desire of God's heart for communion with His people in the Old Testament is not only evident through His contact with Adam and Eve. In actual fact ALL those who played a significant God-given role in the Old Testament were people who had communion with God.



ENOCH walked with God!
ABRAHAM was the friend of God!
JACOB wrestled with God!

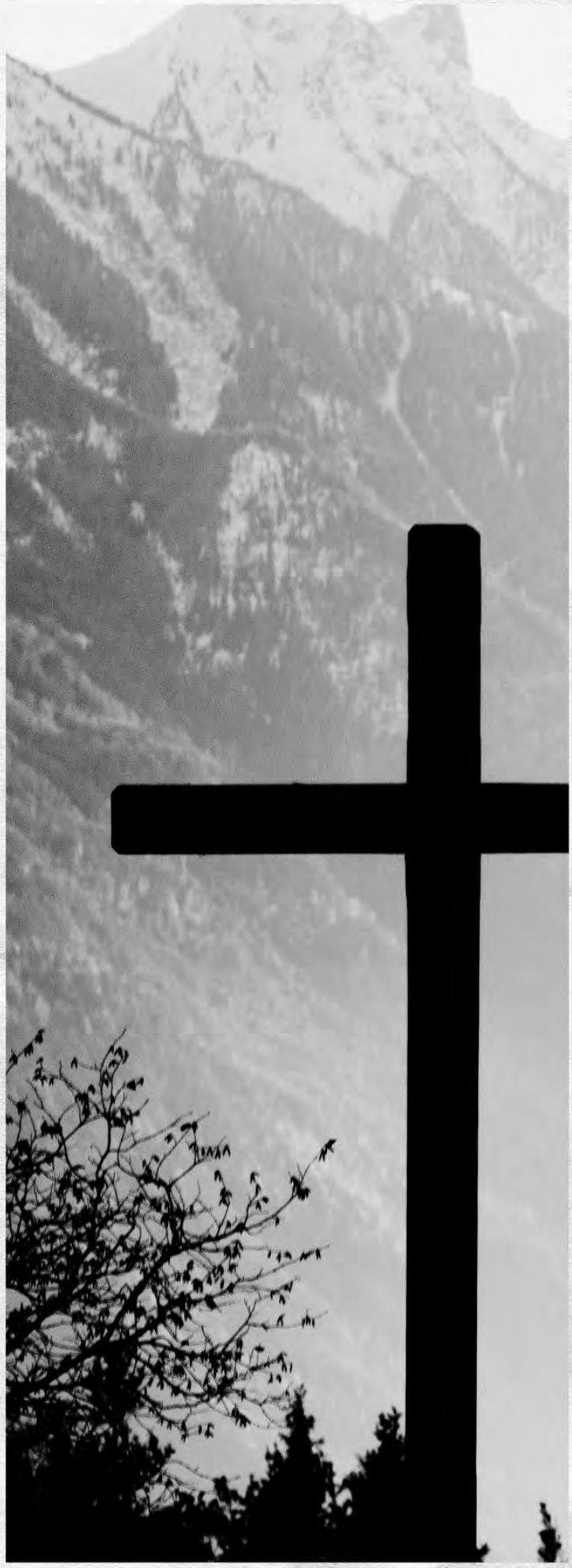
JOB was tested by Satan, but remained faithful to God!
MOSES spoke face to face with God!
CALEB and JOSHUA wholly followed the Lord their God!
THE PROPHETS heard from God! For example, ISAIAH saw the Lord high and lifted up, and then God spoke to him! (Isaiah 6).
DAVID enjoyed the most intimate of communion with God! (The Psalms).

COMMUNION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE DISCIPLES enjoyed intimate communion with Jesus. They were promised that this would continue after Jesus left through the "COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Remember that Jesus said to His disciples, and therefore to us, that He no longer called them servants, for the servant did not know what his master was doing.Rather He called them FRIENDS for al that He had heard of His Father he had made known to them. (John 15:15).





In the same chapter He also spoke of the COMMUION He and His disciples were experiencing and desired to continue the experience. In the light of the fact that He would soon be returning to heaven He said to His disciples, "Abide in Me and I in you!" You couldn't get closer to communion than that!

This communion was expressed in many different ways! Here are two examples:

1. The Bible says that "he that is joined to the Lord is ONE SPIRIT"

(1 Cor.6:17) That is a picture of the ultimate form of communion that is possible with the Holy Spirit – a blending of spirits. When this takes place we experience what is involved in abiding in Christ. We begin to know the "mind of Christ" and receive the wisdom of Christ and experience the flow of the life of Christ! Oh! How wonderful! This clearly speaks of fellowship, of intimacy, of love, of relationship, of abundant life – of COMMUNION!
This God's plan for your life and for my life!

1. The statement of Jesus in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice," is also clear reference to intimacy of communion.

The emphasis here is that not only are we privileged to speak to God, to praise and worship Him, and to let our requests be made known to Him, no, it goes further, HE ALSO SPEAKS TO US!

This is a two-way communion!



This is what MARY experienced as she sat at the feet of Jesus, listening and asking questions (Luke 10:38-42).

This is what PAUL experienced as He was caught up into the third heaven and received incredible revelations from God. (2 Cor. 12).

This is what the EARLY CHURCH LEADERS experienced as they went before the Lord in Acts 13:1-3 and the Holy Spirit spoke to them.



COMMUNION WITH GOD



This is what EARLY CHURCH MEMBERS experienced as well!

Carefully read the fascinating story of "a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias". He had such intimate communion with the Lord, that he was able to receive detailed instructions from the Lord about Saul of Tarsus. As a result of this he was able to launch Paul into active service. Read Acts 9:10-20 and note all the very specific details that God imparted to him.

This is what God plans FOR US ALL TODAY!
Hebrews 12:25 "See that you refuse not Him who speaks... from heaven."

THE IRREVERSIBLE BLESSING OF GOD!



BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

Numbers 23:20

'Listen, I received a command to bless; God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!'

THE BLESSING OF THE LORD

God's blessing is a central theme in the Bible. Our obedience and faithfulness to God brings the reward of His blessing into our lives. We as believers can live fruitful lives because of His blessing, favour and grace.

Proverbs 10:22 (TLB) states,
'The Lord's blessing is our greatest wealth. All our work adds nothing to it!'

Ephesians 1:3
'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.'

Blessing is part of God's plan for His people. The enemy of our souls would love to see this blessing turned into a curse, but there is nothing he can do to reverse it. The Lover of our souls desires that we would know and experience every spiritual blessing in our lives.



THE BLESSING OF BELONGING

As children of God we can know the blessing of belonging to God and to the family of God. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are welcomed into the family of God. Everything changes when this happens: we become sons and daughters, we become joint-heirs, we become new creations and we become His very own people.

Titus 2:14
'He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people...' (NLT)

This position cannot be undone and it is irreversible. We may wander off the path, we may be faithless at times, we may be tempted and go the wrong way, there may be a season when we are far from God, but the enemy can never undo the bond with which the Lord has connected us to Himself.

1 John 3:1

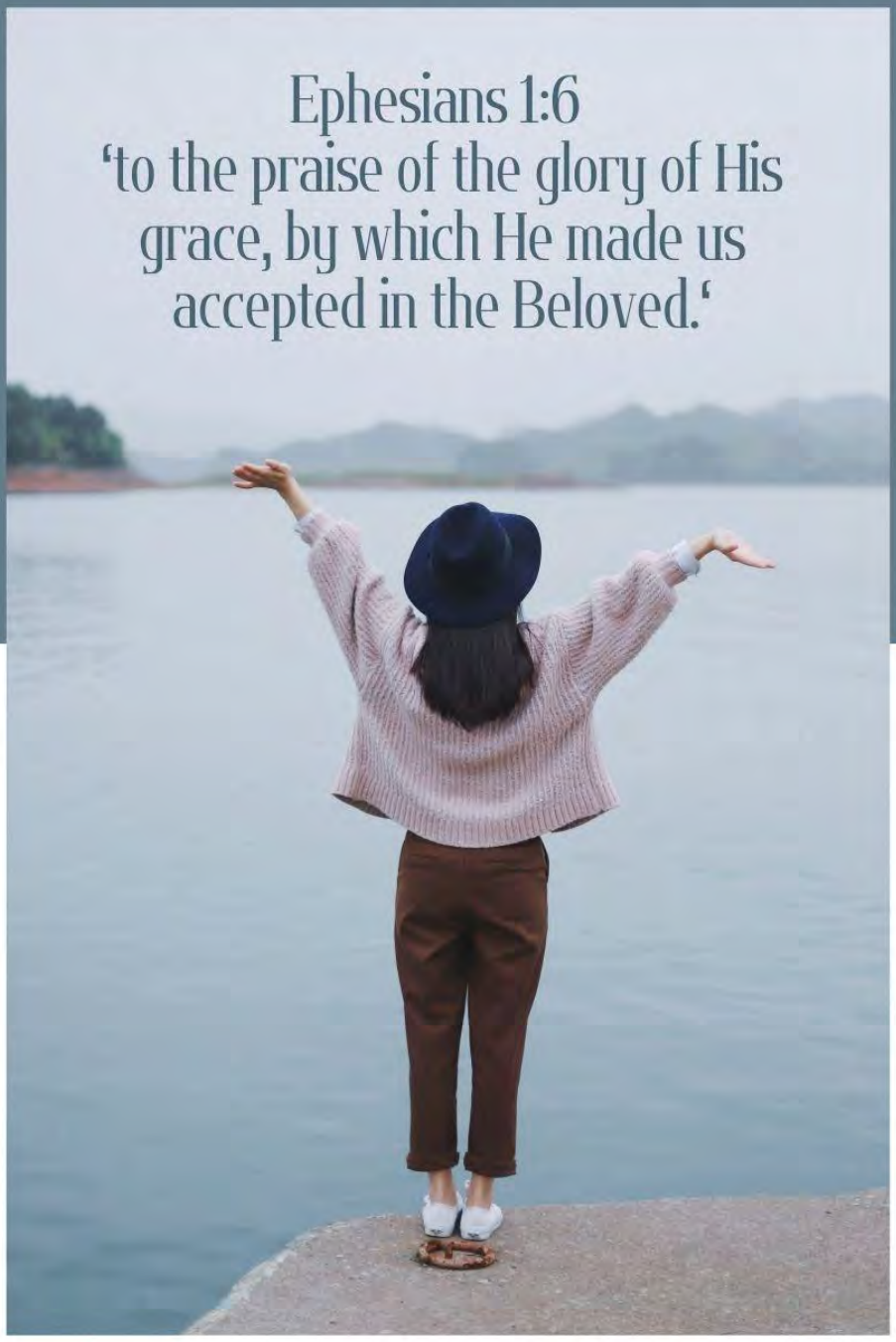
'See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for He allows us to be called His children – think of it – and we really are!' (TLB)

This is something to think about, to ponder and to meditate on. An additional part of this blessing is that we become part of God's worldwide family of believers. You have brothers and sisters in Christ that you have never met. How wonderful to belong to God and to be part of the great family of God.



THE BLESSING OF ACCEPTANCE

Not only can we know the blessing of belonging, but we can also know the joy of His acceptance.



This verse tells us that we have been accepted in the Beloved – what does this mean? When Jesus walked the earth, one day a voice was heard from heaven and it said: 'This is My beloved Son!'

Matthew 3:17
And a voice from heaven said, 'This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased!'

The 'beloved One' refers to Jesus Christ. He enjoyed a very unique relationship with the Father. This title reflects the deep love and approval of the Father for the Son. This blessing of acceptance means that we are also loved in this wonderful way. You and I can also be 'His beloved'. God the Father accepts and blesses us in the same way as His well-beloved Son! You are His beloved one. This also cannot be undone by any scheme of the enemy, or any lie he may try to feed into your heart and mind. The great accuser cannot undo or reverse the blessing of acceptance that God has given to us. In fact, the great accuser has been dealt a blow from which he can never recover, and we can walk tall in the acceptance that comes from God Himself.

Revelation 12:10
Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.'



THE BLESSING OF HIS PROMISES

We can know the blessing of God in that He has given us His promises, and we can depend on His Word, His promises and His covenant with us.

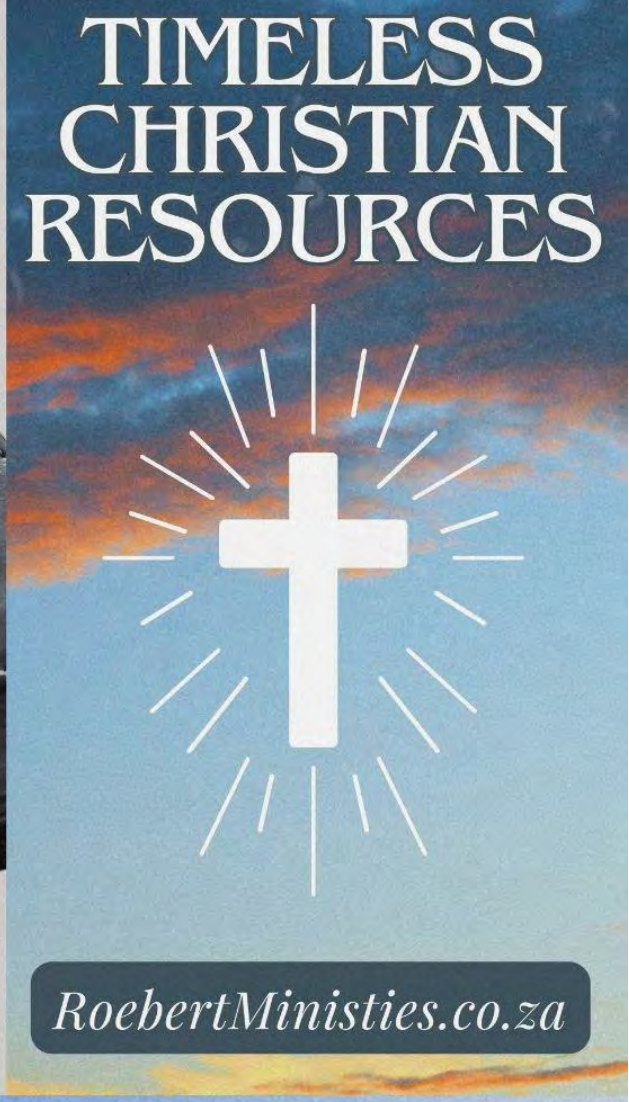
Deuteronomy 7:9
'Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.'

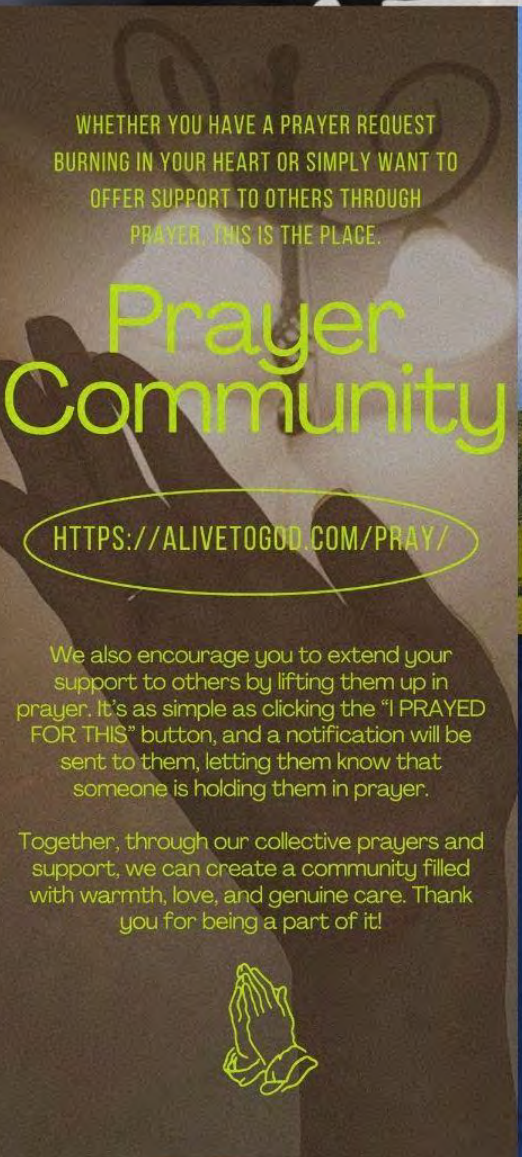
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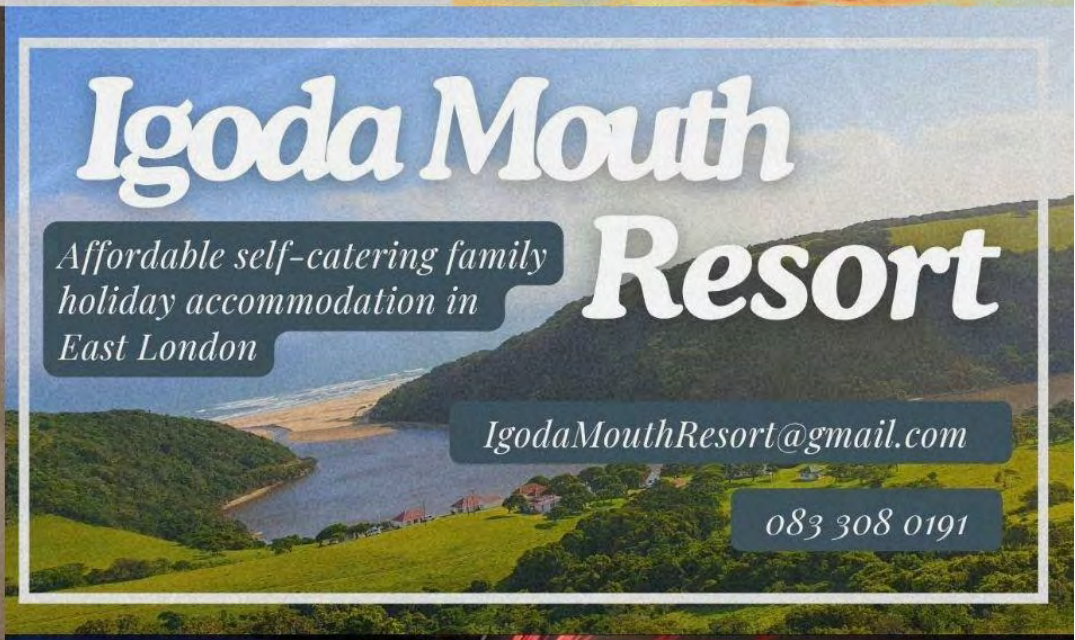
The Lord God is your God and He is a faithful God.
He is a covenant-keeping God.
His love cannot be removed from you, and nothing can separate you from His love.
His covenant of love (His promise of love) extends to a thousand generations – it never ends.
God's faithfulness is a central theme in the Bible.
He is unchanging and reliable, fulfilling His promises across generations.
Your relationship with God is based on a covenant.
Therefore let us live in a way that honours God and influences others positively.




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