

A black and white photograph of two hands cupped together, palms facing up. The hands are positioned centrally, with fingers slightly curled. The skin texture is visible. The background is dark. The text 'alive' is in the top right, 'magazine' is below it, and 'July '26' is below that. The title 'In His Hands' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the center of the hands.

alive
magazine
July '26

*In
His
Hands*

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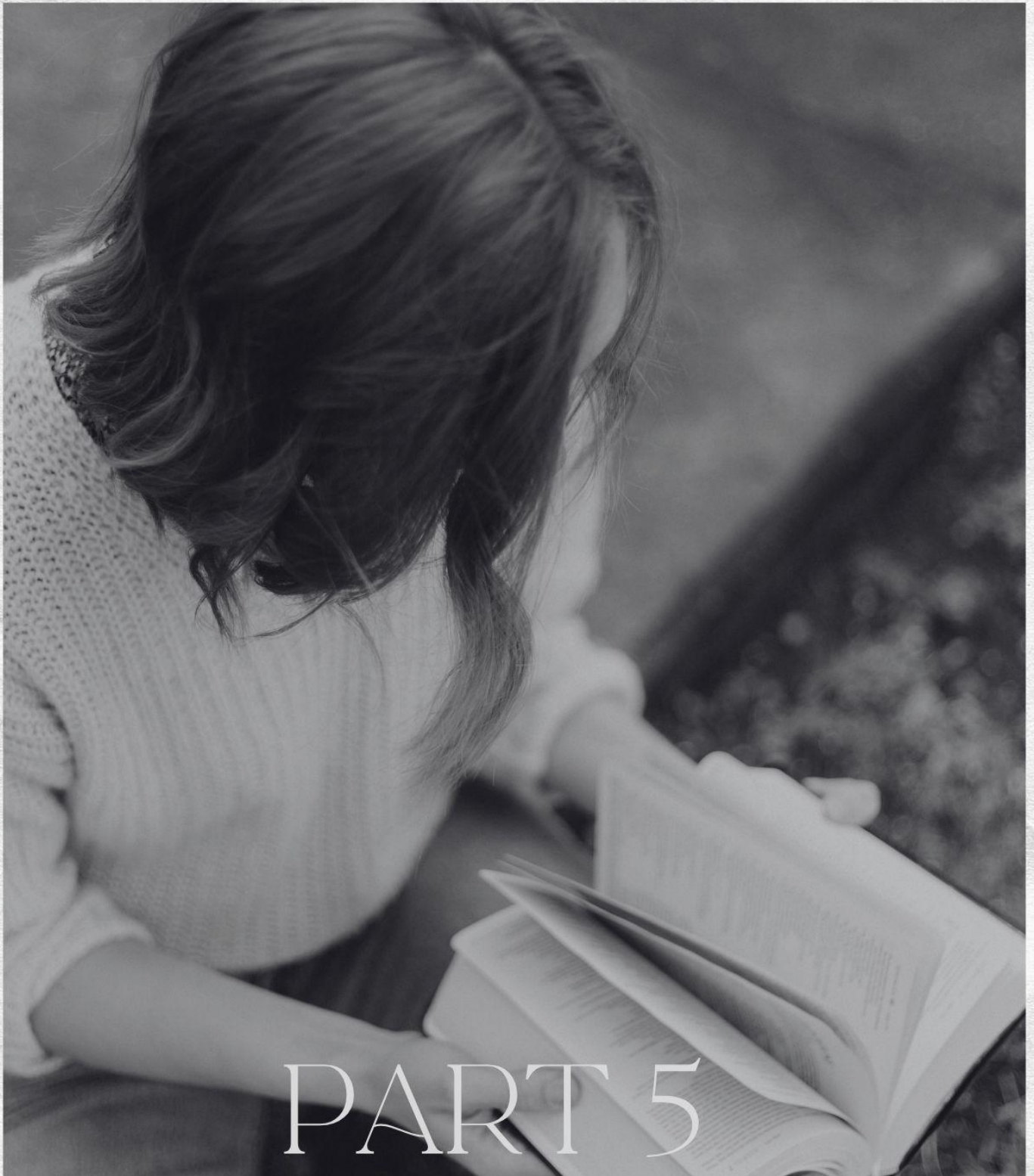
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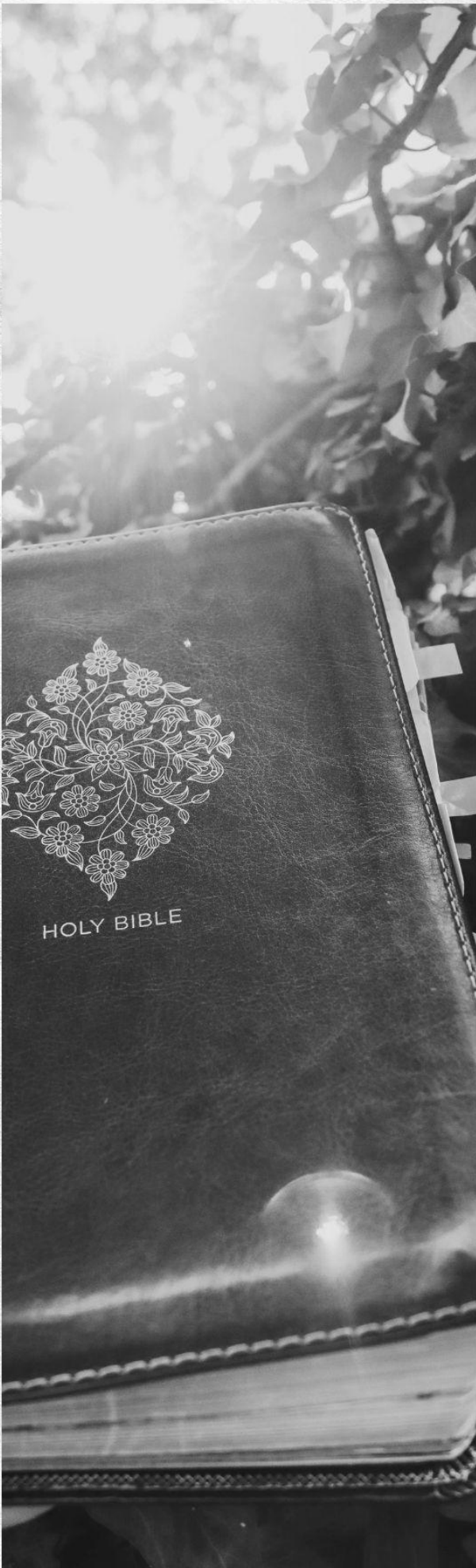


COMMUNION WITH GOD



PART 5

BY: PASTOR ED ROEBERT



CHAPTER 3

HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

Perhaps the clearest message of all that comes to us through the Bible, the Word of God, is the message that **GOD DESIRES TO COMMUNICATE WITH MAN**, and especially so with His born-again children.

That is why He created Adam and Eve in the first place. That is why Abraham was called the Friend of God. That is why Enoch walked with God. That is why Moses was privileged to talk face to face with God, as friend to friend, to mention only a few examples.

The happy inference that we can make from this is that **GOD WANTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL OF US**. Yes, He wants to communicate with **YOU** and with **ME!** How wonderful! How exciting! **GOD** wants to talk to **US**.

GOD COMMUNICATES WITH US IN DIFFERENT WAYS

A brief scan through the pages of the Bible will soon reveal that God, who is so creative, has many ways of communicating with us.

1) He speaks to us through **HIS WORD**, the Bible

Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy **WORD** is a lamp unto my fee and a light unto my path."

God speaks to us through His **WORD** about doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction. In 2 Timothy 3:16 the apostle Paul says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Most Christians have experienced God speaking to them in this way. However we need to note that God speaks to us through His Word in a least two different ways:

A. By way of INFORMATION

Here people read the Bible as a history book or as a guideline for conduct or for what they believe. In the process, they accumulate information and facts that are essential to a stable Christian life.

But, God also speaks to us through His Word,

B. By way of INSPIRATION

Here the person reading the Bible (logos) feels as though God has not only spoken information to them but He has now spoken a specific inspired word to them. A verse has suddenly come alive to them; a statement from the Bible has spoke directly to them as if God had personally spoken it to them. This is an **INSPIRED WORD** (a rhema) from the Lord, coming from the already inspired (God-breathed) Bible.



This kind of inspiration brings excitement, faith and expectation into the heart of the reader. God often speaks to us like this when we ask Him to speak to us through His Word. This is perhaps the most common way in which people hear the voice of the Lord. Praise God for His Word!

There are of course many other ways in which God communicates with us. Let us list some of them without dealing with them in any detail at this stage.

1) God speaks to us through an **AUDIBLE VOICE**, a **STILL, SMALL VOICE** and through **IMPRESSIONS** in our spirits.

This we will deal with presently in detail.

2) God speaks to us through the operation of the **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.





This we will deal with presently in detail.

3) God speaks to us through the operation of the GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Through prophecy

Through tongues and interpretations

Through a word of wisdom or of knowledge

Through the discerning of spirits, etcetera.

4) God speaks to us through DREAMS and VISIONS

5) God speaks to us THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE

(Proverbs 11:14)

6) God speaks to us through Angels

7) God speaks to us through CIRCUMSTANCES

When we consider all of these ways in which God communicates we can only conclude that He deeply desires to communicate with us!

THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS GOD'S RHEMA WORD TO US

This rhema word comes to us in two ways:

FIRSTLY, in the way already described, when He speaks to us through the Bible in a way of inspiration; when the Holy Spirit speaks to us personally through a specific passage of Scripture. This is very welcome when it happens! It's encouraging and it's often challenging.

SECONDLY, the kind of rhema that comes to us is that which we receive when the Holy Spirit speaks directly to us. It is a direct communication from the Holy Spirit to our human spirit. It's an INTERNAL communication from the Holy Spirit, who lives inside the believer, to the spirit of that believer, that is ALSO inside of him. Therefore it is an inner voice, almost like an impression. Perhaps it could also be termed as a "knowing," or as a "sensing" or as a "perceiving."





Our first experience of this kind of rhema is when, having been saved, we come to ASSURANCE through what is normally called "the witness of the Spirit." The Bible puts it this way: "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). Here there is a direct communication from the Spirit of God to our spirit, assuring us of our being children of God. The Holy Spirit speaks directly to our spirit. Often this communication is based on what we have read in the Word, but it could also be a direct communication without reading the Word.

The issue is that a rhema can be received, from the Bible, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, OR it can be received as a direct word from the Holy Spirit. An example of this is found in Acts 8:29 where Philip the evangelist was sitting at the side of the road as the Ethiopian eunuch came travelling by. "Then THE SPIRIT SAID unto Philip, Go near and join thyself to his chariot." Philip responded to this direct instruction from the Holy Spirit. Note that he wasn't suddenly inspired by a verse from the Bible. No, this was a direct communication between the Holy Spirit and Philip's spirit.

For the sake of additional clarity we need to take an even closer look at:





THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RHEMA AND LOGOS

The word "W-O-R-D" that is used 398 times in the New Testament is a translation from two different Greek words. "LOGOS" is translated "word" 325 times and "RHEMA" is translated "word" 73 times.

For example, Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the WORD (rhema) of God."

John 1:1 reads, "In the beginning was the WORD (logos) and the WORD (logos) was with God and the WORD (logos) was God."

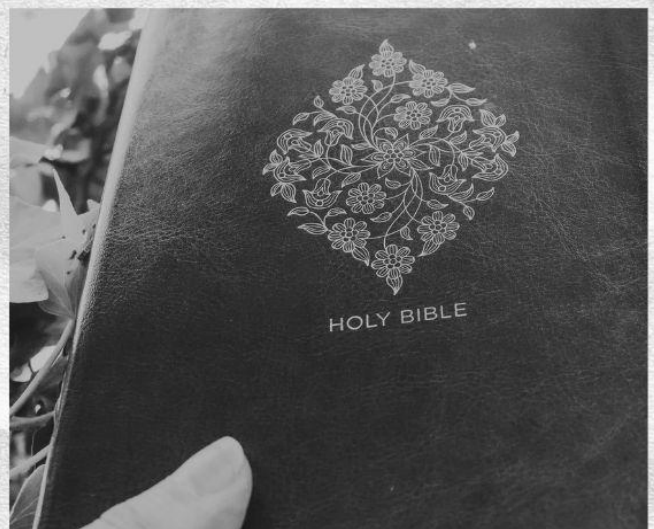
It would appear that scholars are agreed that these two words do indicate different understandings of the word "WORD".

WHAT IS "LOGOS"?

This word usually refers to the contents of the Bible and therefore to the absolute standard by which all truth must be measured.

WHAT IS "RHEMA"?

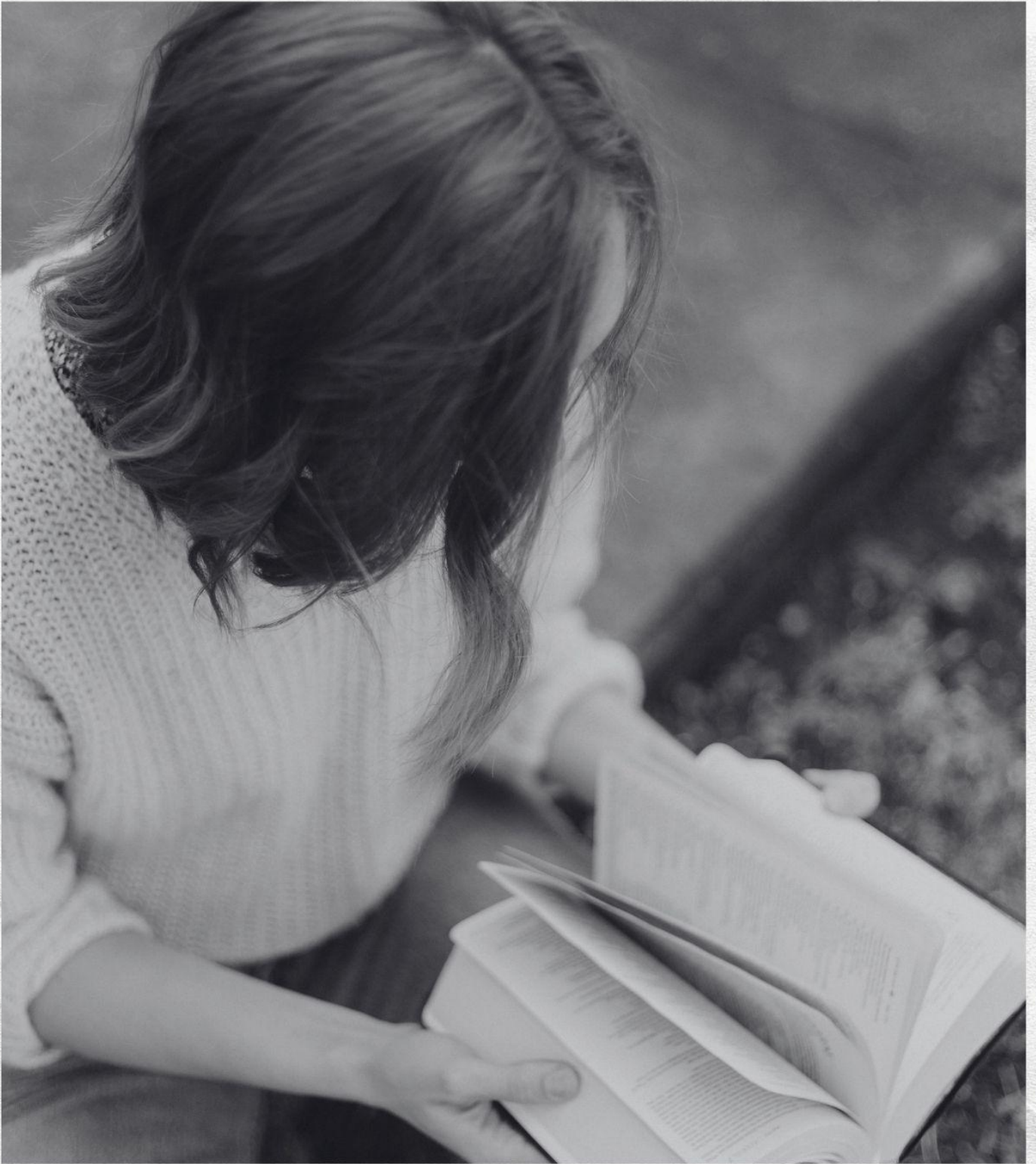
This word usually refers to a direct communication between God and an individual; to a word spoken by God to man. For example, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every WORD (rhema) that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).



JESUS AND THE USE OF THE LOGOS AND RHEMA

Jesus lived according to both. In other words He accepted the Word of God, the Scriptures (the logos) as authoritative, and in addition to this He was constantly in contact with His Father, from whom He received a flow of instructions (rhema words). Not only did He live like this, He also taught us to do the same.





Listen to this statement of Jesus to His Father in His prayer in John 17:6-8" "I have manifested thy Name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (logos: most like a reference to the Scriptures). 7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou has given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words (rhema: the words spoken directly to Jesus by His Father) which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."

Obviously God expects US to live according to the Scriptures (logos) as well as hear and be obedient to His voice - His spoken word (rhema).



In John 15:26, Jesus says, "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me." The Greek word translated as "Advocate" (John 15:26) could also be rendered "Helper," "Comforter," or "Counselor." This term refers to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, along with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus when He bears witness to Him.

**WHAT DOES IT
MEAN WHEN
JESUS SAYS
THAT**

THE HOLY SPIRIT

**WILL TESTIFY
OF HIM
(JOHN 15:26)?**

BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG



The context of the verse sheds light on its meaning. The major theme of John 15:18-25 is the hatred of the world; specifically, the unbelieving world's hatred toward Jesus and his disciples. Following Jesus' departure, hatred toward the disciples will increase. Yet Jesus assures them that they will receive God's help to continue the work He began on earth, saying, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Holy Spirit did not come to the disciples on his own accord but was sent by Jesus and went out from the Father (John 15:26). In fact, at Pentecost, both the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). Here, then, is a clear picture of the Trinity: The Spirit proceeds from the Father at the Son's request. As Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever" (John 14:16).

The Holy Spirit did not bring a new or different revelation but testified to the truth clearly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In John 16:13-14, Jesus says, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you."

The Holy Spirit's primary role, then, is to bear witness to Jesus and continue His work. This implies that the Spirit's work is Jesus-centred, seeking to reveal and glorify Christ. For this reason, the Spirit does not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak (John 16:13), ensuring continuity between Jesus' earthly ministry and the ongoing work of the Spirit within the church.

Despite fierce opposition from the world, the disciples continued to bear witness to the truth they learned from Jesus, which the Spirit reminded them. For example, after Stephen died as the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:54-60), the authorities started imprisoning Christians: "But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison" (Acts 8:3). Yet, believers continued to preach the gospel: "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" (Acts 8:4).





Ultimately, John 15:26 is a profound revelation of the Holy Spirit's identity and role as an advocate for believers. He is the third person of the Trinity who is responsible for guiding believers unto all truth, comforting them amidst persecution, and empowering them for gospel ministry in a hostile world. This verse, therefore, is not a collection of words that have no practical importance but is a call to boldly "proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).



In His Hands

BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

Life has its seasons. At times everything seems to be going well, and at other times we can face unexpected challenges and uncertainty. Every day brings new opportunities, but it can also bring difficulties we never anticipated. In the middle of it all, there is one truth that never changes: our lives are in God's hands. There is no safer place to be than in His hands. His hands are hands of love, compassion, strength, and faithfulness. We can find security, peace, and confidence in knowing that He is holding us securely. Nothing takes Him by surprise, and nothing is beyond His ability to handle. He knows what is best for us, He knows the plans He has for us, and He promises never to leave us. Whatever you may be facing today, you can rest in the assurance that you are in His hands.

*Your whole life is
in his hands*

Psalm 139:16

*'Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me
were written in Your Book before one of them came to be.'*

Before anyone else knew you existed, God knew you. From the moment of conception, His loving eyes were upon you. Your life has never been an accident or an afterthought. Every day of your life is known to Him. He sees the beginning, the middle, and the end all at once. Even when life feels uncertain to us, nothing is uncertain to Him. You can trust the One Who already knows every chapter of your life.



He made you and He
knows you.

Psalm 119:73

'Your hands made me and formed me.'

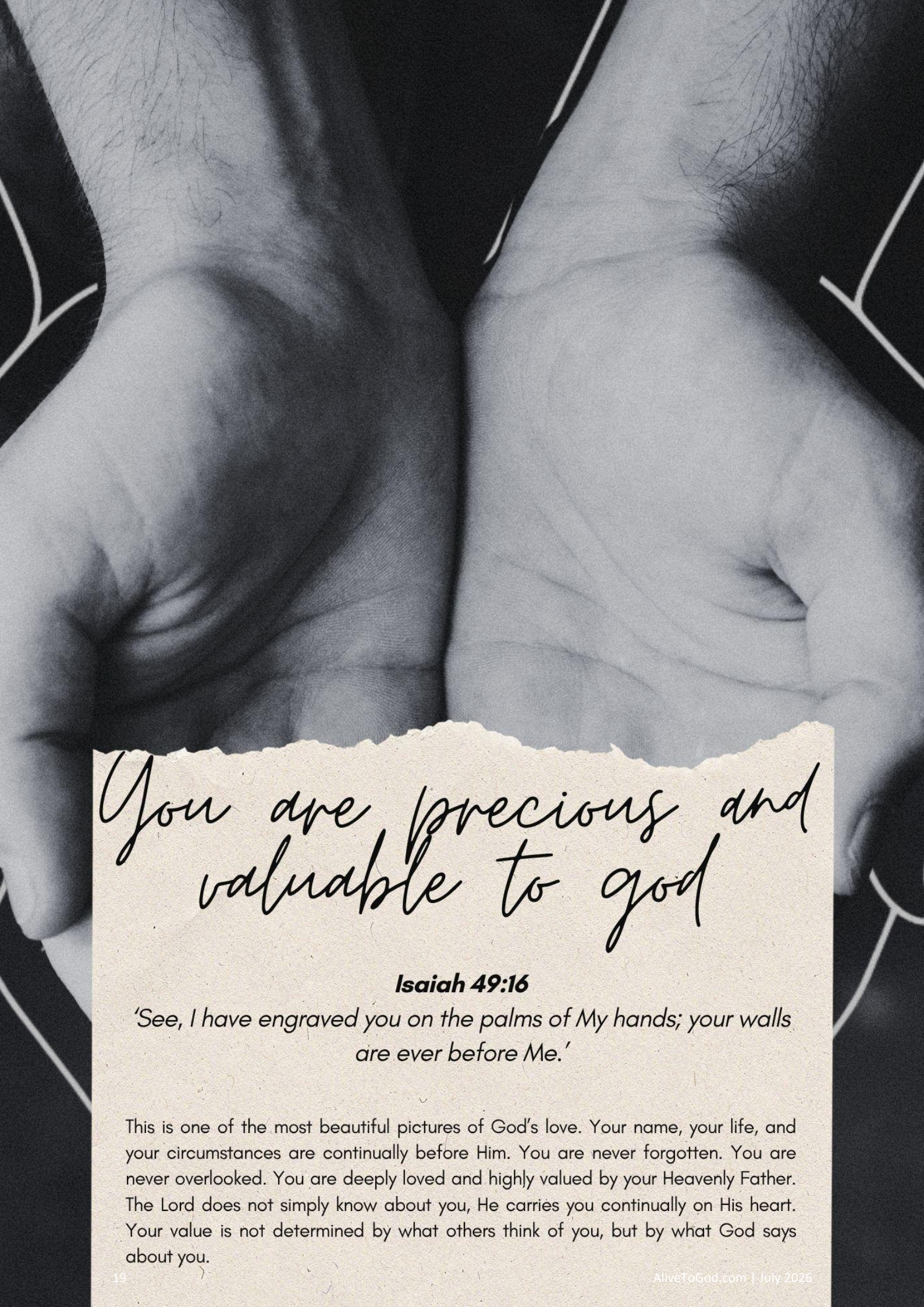
You are God's workmanship. He designed you with purpose, intention, and care. Every gift, every ability, every part of your personality was known by Him. Because He made you, He understands you completely. He knows your strengths and your weaknesses. He knows your fears, your hopes, and your dreams. The One Who created you knows exactly how to care for you.

His hands hold
everything you need

1 Chronicles 29:12

'In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.'

Everything we need is found in God's hands. When we are weak, His hands provide strength. When we lack wisdom, His hands provide direction. When we are discouraged, His hands provide encouragement. When we are weary, His hands provide renewed strength. He is never limited by our circumstances. Whatever you need today, His hands are more than sufficient.

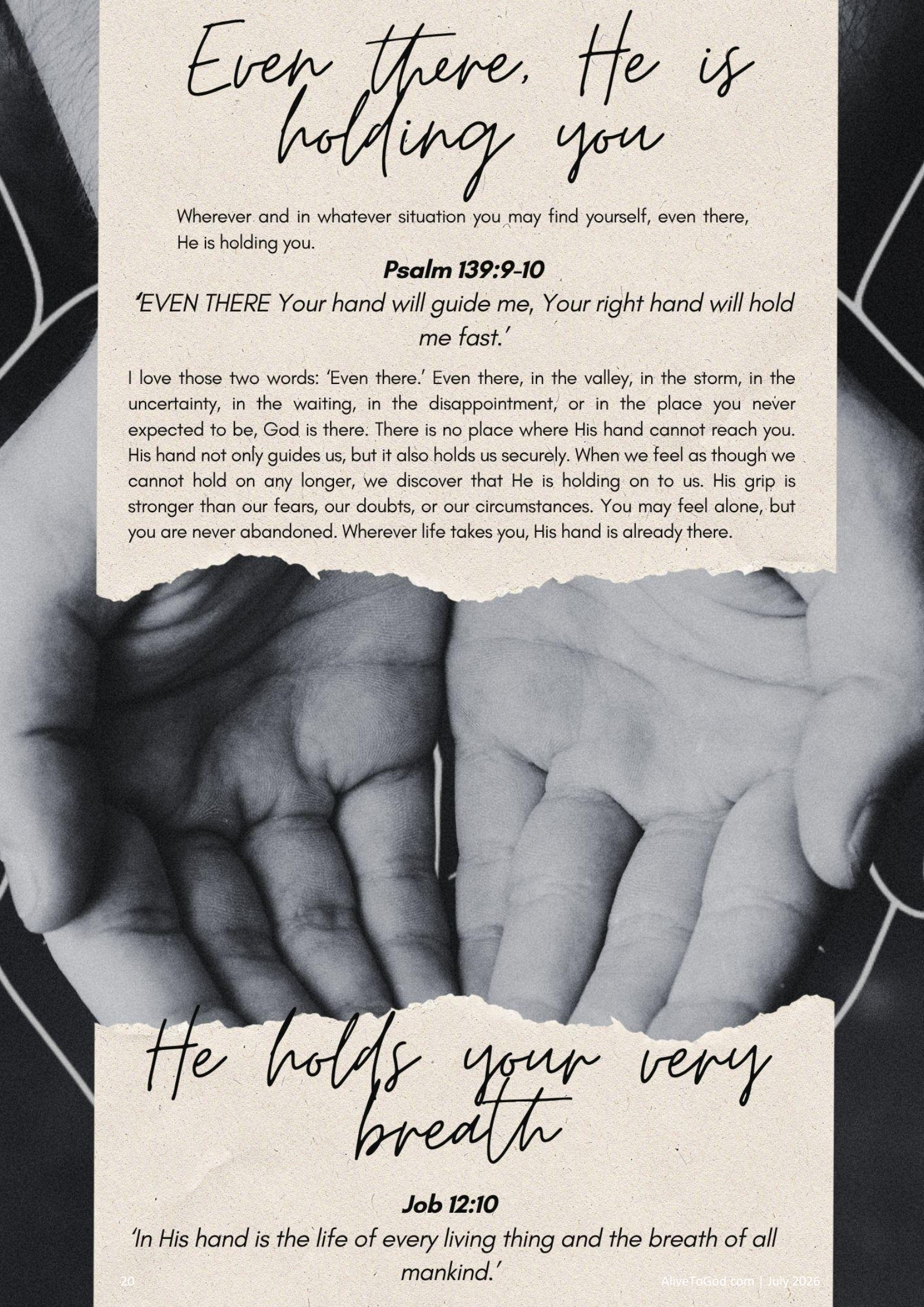


You are precious and
valuable to God

Isaiah 49:16

*'See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands; your walls
are ever before Me.'*

This is one of the most beautiful pictures of God's love. Your name, your life, and your circumstances are continually before Him. You are never forgotten. You are never overlooked. You are deeply loved and highly valued by your Heavenly Father. The Lord does not simply know about you, He carries you continually on His heart. Your value is not determined by what others think of you, but by what God says about you.



Even there, He is
holding you

Wherever and in whatever situation you may find yourself, even there,
He is holding you.

Psalm 139:9-10

*'EVEN THERE Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold
me fast.'*

I love those two words: 'Even there.' Even there, in the valley, in the storm, in the uncertainty, in the waiting, in the disappointment, or in the place you never expected to be, God is there. There is no place where His hand cannot reach you. His hand not only guides us, but it also holds us securely. When we feel as though we cannot hold on any longer, we discover that He is holding on to us. His grip is stronger than our fears, our doubts, or our circumstances. You may feel alone, but you are never abandoned. Wherever life takes you, His hand is already there.

He holds your very
breath

Job 12:10

*'In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all
mankind.'*



Every breath we take is a gift from God. Our lives are sustained by His power and His goodness. We often take our next breath for granted, but each breath reminds us that God is sustaining us moment by moment. The One Who holds your breath also holds your life. If He is faithful to sustain you with every breath, He will also be faithful to sustain you through every challenge. Our lives do not depend merely on our own strength or ability; they rest in His loving hands. Every new day and every new breath is another reminder of His faithfulness.

Your future is in His hands

Psalm 31:14-15

'I trust in You, LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hands...'

We do not know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow. Our future is not determined by chance or circumstance; it rests securely in God's hands. He knows the road ahead long before we begin to walk it. He is already in every tomorrow we will ever face. When uncertainty tries to produce fear, we can choose to trust. The safest place for our future is in the hands of our faithful Heavenly Father. Because our times are in His hands, we can face the future with confidence instead of fear.

He will carry you

Isaiah 46:4

'I have made you, and I will carry you; I will sustain you and deliver you.'

What a wonderful promise this is- God does not simply create us and leave us to find our own way. He remains actively involved in every stage of our lives. He knows every burden we carry and every battle we face. There are seasons when we feel strong enough to walk, and there are seasons when we simply do not have the strength. During those difficult times, God does not ask us to carry ourselves, but He promises to carry us.- Look at the progression of His promise:

He made you. He will carry you. He will sustain you. He will deliver you.

- He is your Creator, your Sustainer, your Strength, and your Deliverer. His hands will never grow weary, and His love will never fail. You can safely place your life into His hands, knowing that the One Who has carried you this far will continue to carry you all the way home.

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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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