



SUBMIT Your Way to a Joyous Life

A Devotional Exploring Six Principles for
Living a Life Submitted to Christ

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**TOTALLY
SUBMITTED
TO YOU**

SUBMIT Your Way to a Joyous Life

I want to live my life fully and completely for Christ. I want to go where He leads. I want to forsake all and follow Him. But how do I know where God wants me to go? How do I give up everything, while continuing to live comfortably in this world?

God in His infinite wisdom has given us answers to every question we might have, every dilemma we may encounter, and every situation that we may experience.

This devotional will provide you Biblical support for the six principles of submission.

The principles are:

Surrender

Unconditional Love

Beholden

Motivate

Intimacy

Trust



“So that Christ may ***dwell in your hearts*** through faith; and that you, being ***rooted and grounded in love*** , may be able to ***comprehend*** with all the saints what is the ***breadth and length and height and depth*** , and to know the ***love of Christ which surpasses knowledge*** , that you may be ***filled up*** to all the ***fullness of God.*** ”

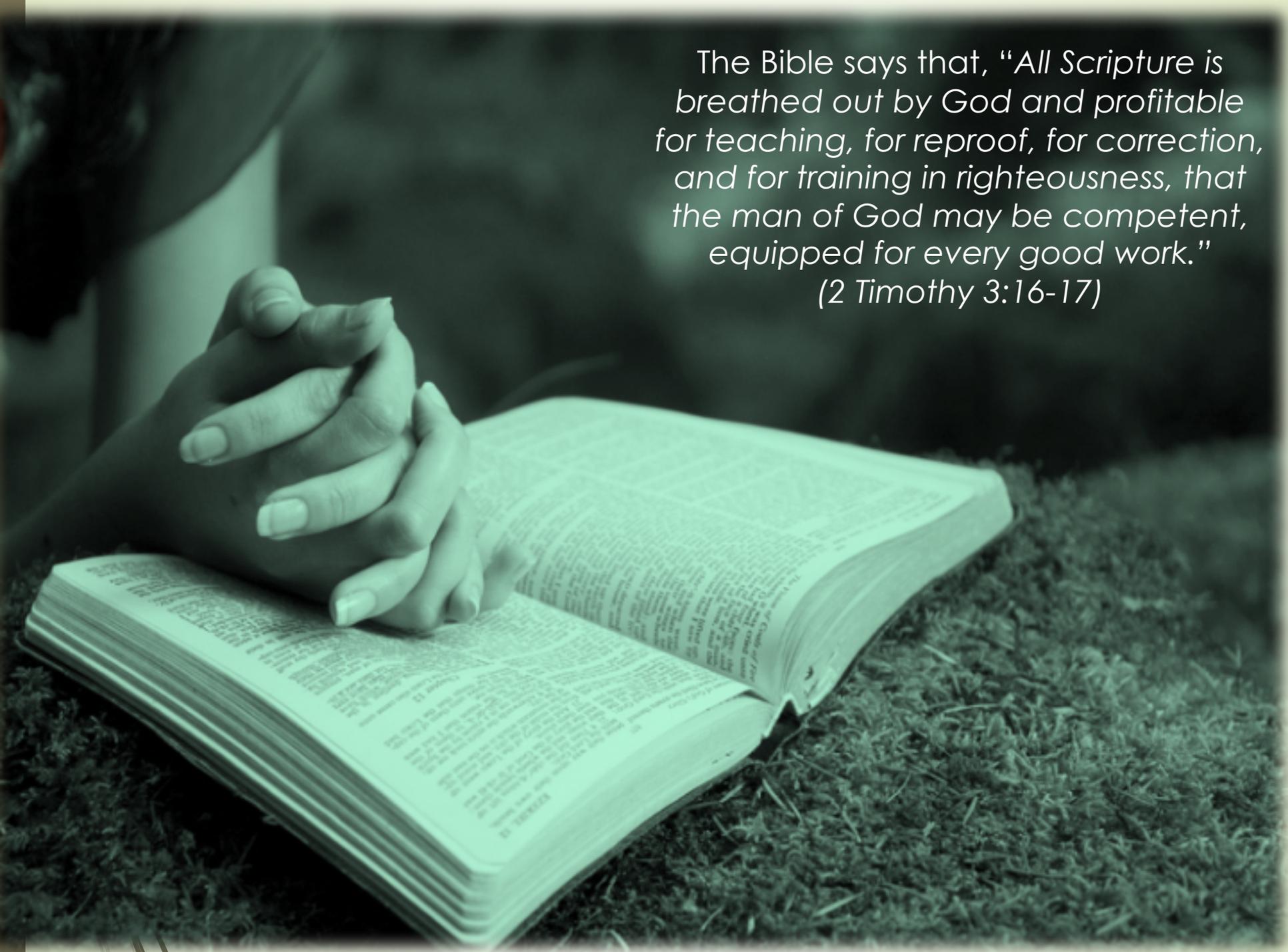
Ephesians 3:17-19

Dig a Little Deeper

For each of the six principles, an **overview of the principle** will be provided, followed by **supporting scriptures** of the corresponding principle. I will also share **original photographs** from my travels around the world, as well as a **prayer of encouragement** as you strive to live your life completely submitted to God, your Father.

The Bible says that we should grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Knowledge is acquiring facts and information. Making sense of that information is understanding. Applying the information to your daily life is wisdom.

After you've read through the devotional once, you should have a better understanding of what it means to live a submitted life to God. Then read it again, seeking to better understand the principles and the supporting Biblical texts.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together, resting on an open Bible. The Bible is lying on a grassy surface. The person's hands are positioned over the text of the Bible, with fingers interlaced. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the person's hands and the grass. The overall tone is peaceful and contemplative.

The Bible says that, "All Scripture is
breathed out by God and profitable
for teaching, for reproof, for correction,
and for training in righteousness, that
the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work."
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Dig a Little Deeper

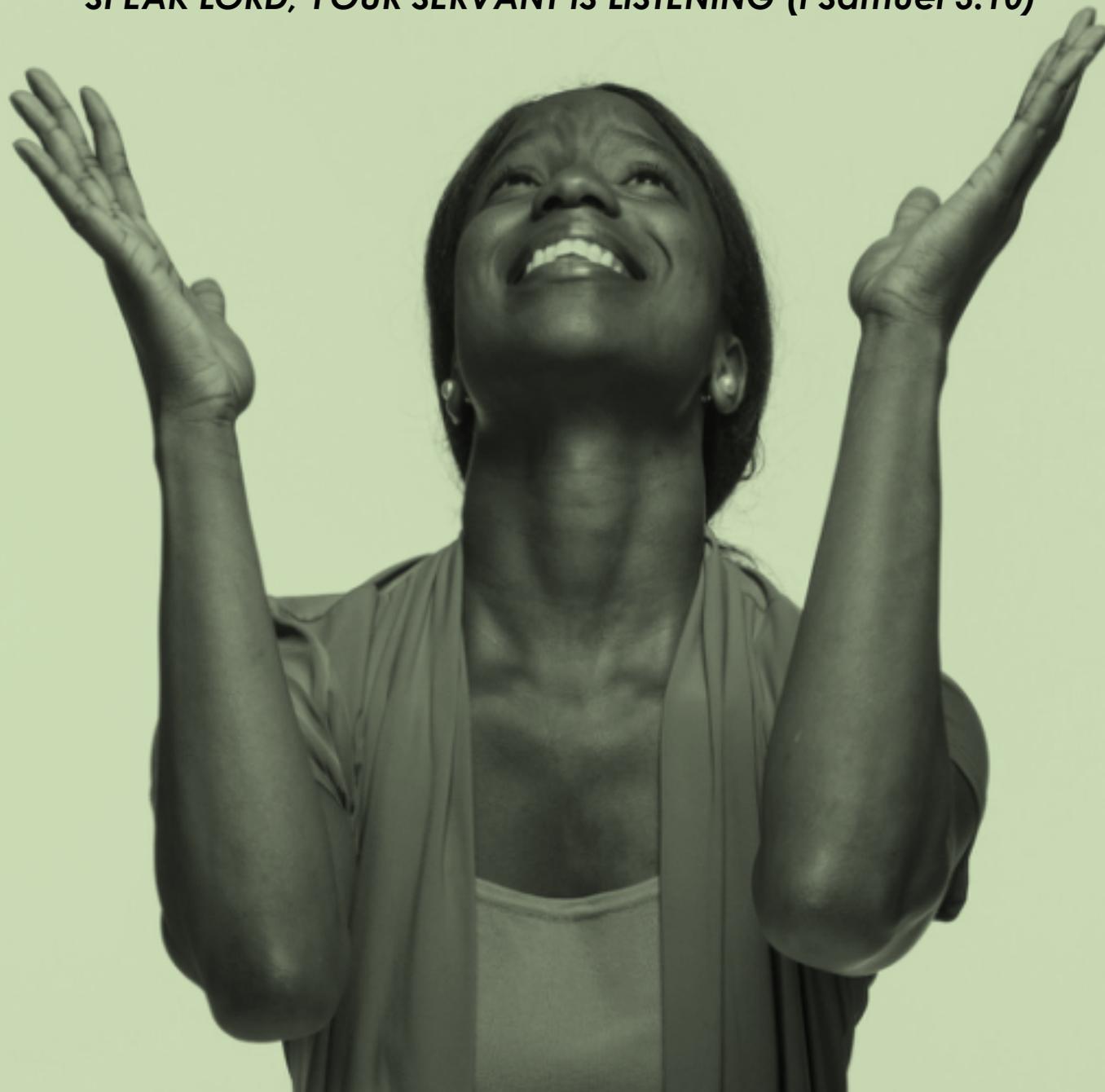
One method for reading, understanding and meditating on scripture is described by Pastor Damein Johnson out of Seabrook, MD as a simple method in which you read passages of Scripture thoroughly and meditate on it guided by the Holy Spirit.

He describes **four steps for unpacking scripture**:

Receive: Pray to God to prepare your heart and mind to receive the right message as you read the Word

Read: Don't just browse the Bible, read to gain more knowledge, understanding and wisdom

SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING (1 Samuel 3:10)



Dig a Little Deeper

Reflect: Allow the passage to speak to you by meditating on the words. Here's one questioning technique that you can use as you reflect upon the Word. Ask the following **SPACES** questions:

Is there **Sin** in my life to confess?

Is there a **Promise** to claim from the text?

Is there an **Attitude** to change?

Is there a **Command** for me to obey?

Is there an **Example** to follow?

What do you **See** and how does it apply to your life?

Record observations and application:

Record your insights and questions and record how you will apply what you've learned to your life.



His Word in Your Heart

*Fix these words of Mine in
your hearts and minds; tie
them as symbols on your
hands and bind them on
your foreheads
(Deuteronomy 11:18 NIV).*

His Word in Your Heart

Can you recall the words to the songs “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” or “Jesus Loves Me This I Know”? Most likely you do remember the words, even if you haven’t sung these songs in more than 20 years. That’s because information repeated over and over becomes imprinted in our memory.

God knew this, He after all created us, and so He instructed us to bind His words in our hearts and in our minds. There is power in the word of God and being able to recall God’s word and live God’s word requires that we know God’s word. We should be so familiar with God’s word that it comes to our mind immediately, when needed. When you internalize God’s word in your heart and in your mind, you will reap the benefits of God’s promise of extended days
(Deuteronomy 11:21).



Here are some tips for
memorizing scripture:



His Word in Your Heart

Start Small: Either choose a short passage of scripture or take a larger passage and break it down into chunks

Pray the scripture: Incorporating the scripture to be memorized into your prayers is another way to “bind the scripture” in your heart. Also Ask God to help you be able to retain the scripture text in your mind and live out the text in your daily walk.

Write it down: Write down the text to be memorized word for word. Consider posting the written text in all the places you’ll most likely see it---on your bathroom mirror, in your office cubicle, on the refrigerator door, etc. This will give you the opportunity to repeat it over and over again.

Use music: Make up a tune or sing the scripture to the tune of another song, like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”.

Share your goal: Having an accountability partner helps you better keep your commitment and having a “memorization partner” makes it more fun.

Experience the Joy

Most people believe that to live a submitted life means you've given up or given in and you've completely lost all sense of self, yielding to the will of someone else. Words that generally come to mind include slave, ball and chain, repression, defeated.

But I'm here to share with you a new way of thinking. For as I've learned (well actually, I'm still learning) to live my life in submission to my Heavenly Father, I've come to experience His

Joy!



**A submitted life is one of freedom, of
peace of mind, of balance and of
joy!**

**Grow in knowledge and
understanding, then live wisely day-
by-day, fully submitted to our
Sovereign Lord!**



SURRENDER

***“All to Jesus I
surrender. All to
Him I freely give.
I will ever love
and trust Him. In
His presence
daily live. I
surrender all. I
surrender all. All
to Thee, my
blessed Savior, I
surrender all.”***

I Surrender All –
Judson DeVenter

I SURRENDER ALL

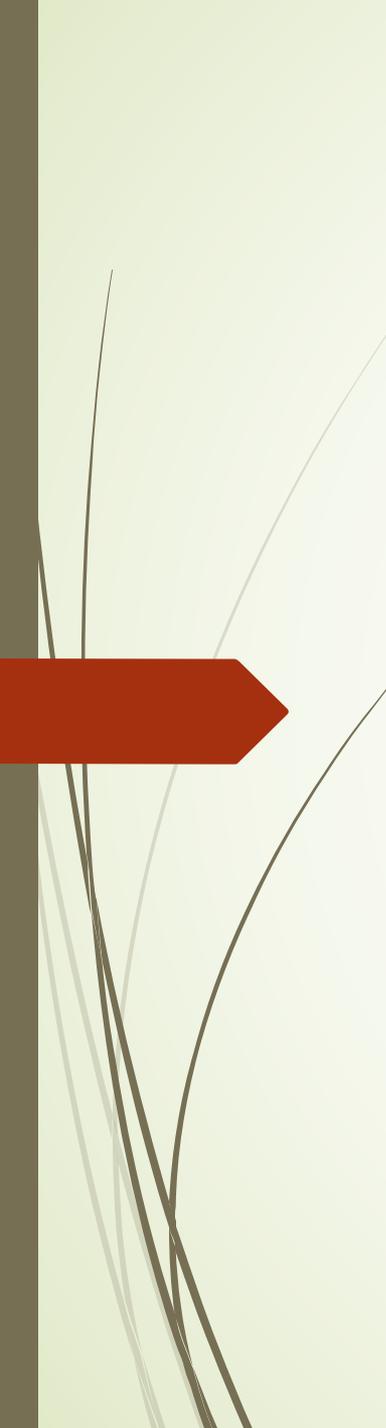
A ***Surrendered Heart*** - That's what God wants from you and from me and surrendering your all to God is as easy as calling out to Him:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come before You today full of fear and uncertainty. I've been in control, or so I've thought, for so long, and the very idea of surrendering all to You is terrifying. But I coming to You in faith, albeit the faith of a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20), believing that a surrendered life to You is far more satisfying than anything this world could ever offer (Romans 12:2). In Your word, You said that if I follow You and deny myself, I will be saved (Matthew 16:24-27).

So today I will trust You with all my heart, knowing that my own understanding is faulty (Proverbs 3:5-6). Today I commit myself to You as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). Help me to be like Peter, leave everything behind to follow You (Mark 10:28).

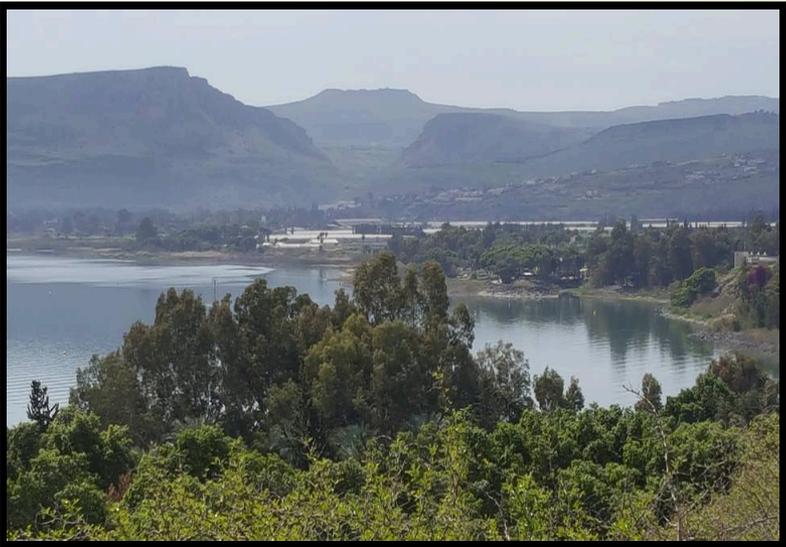
In Your most Holy Name I pray, Amen.



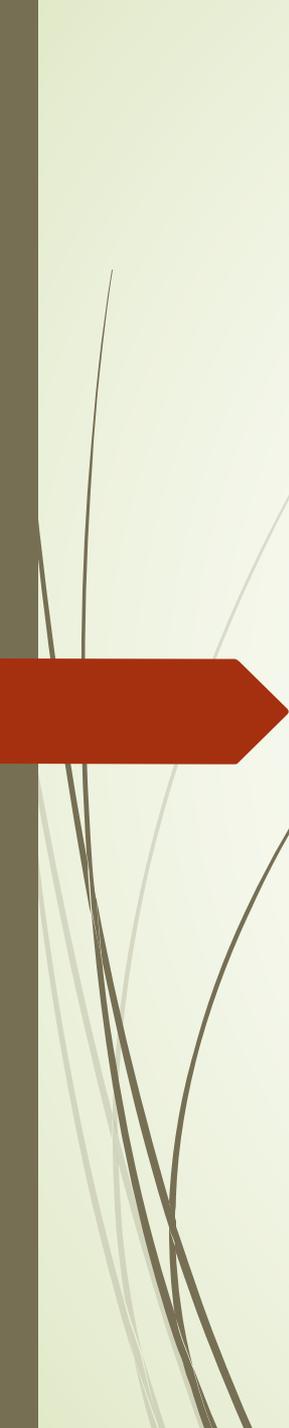
When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?”

John 21:15

Do you love Me more than these?



The Sea of Galilee, Israel



“But now, Oh Lord, you are
our Father; we are the clay,
and You are our potter; we
are all the work of Your
hand.”

Isaiah 64:8



Jeweler in China



Children of Ebeye,
Micronesia Island



People of Ghana

We are all the work of Your hand.



“And going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Mark 14:35,36



“Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”



The Garden of Gethsemane, Israel



“My child, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe My ways.”

Proverbs 23:26

Santorini, Greece



Yap, Micronesian Islands



Kauai, Hawaii

My child, give me your heart.



Palmerston North, New Zealand

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

***“Falling in love
with Jesus.
Falling in love
with Jesus.
Falling in Love
with Jesus was
the best thing
I’ve ever, ever
done.”***

Falling in Love With Jesus –
Jonathan Butler

FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS

A **Heart in Love** - That's what God wants from you and from me. He wants us to **Love Him** more than anything because He is Love; to **Love Ourselves** because we are God's masterpiece; and to **Love Others** because we are His hands and feet. Ask God to help us love unconditionally, like He loves us.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come before You today an empty vessel, longing to be filled with Your Holy Spirit. Teach me to love as You have loved me. Help me to keep Your Word so that I may experience the love of the Father for evermore (John 14:23). Thank you for the gift of forgiveness, for even a sinner like me (Romans 5:8) and I pray that nothing— not 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 – separate me from your love (Romans 8:38).

In Your Most Holy Name I pray, Amen.



“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

1 John 4:16



***Perfect love casts
out fear...***

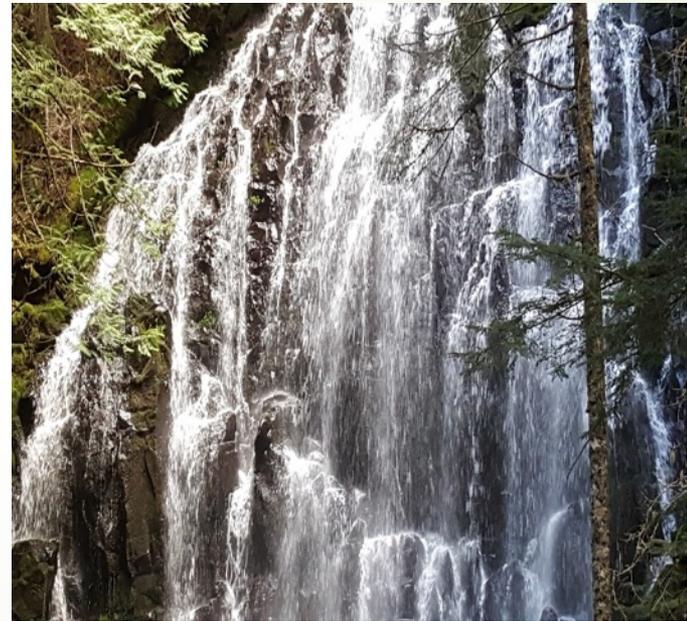
Sydney, Australia



“The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”

Jeremiah 31:3

I have loved you with an
everlasting love.



Ramona Falls, Oregon



“Above all, keep loving
one another earnestly,
since love covers a
multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8

Keep loving one
another earnestly.



Amsterdam



“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

I Timothy 1:5

Love from a pure heart...



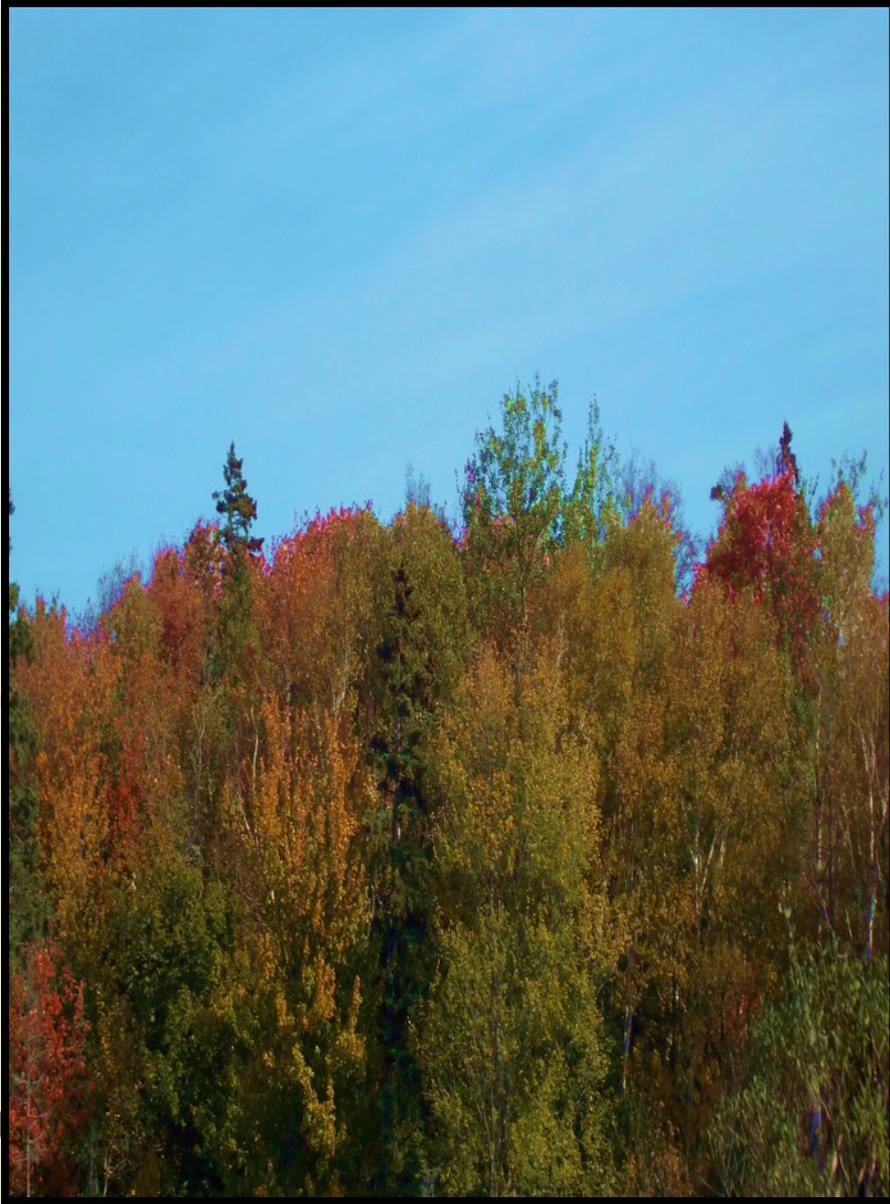
Costa Rica



Cherry Blossoms,
Washington, DC



Asheville, NC



Prince Edward Island, Canada

I AM FOREVER BEHOLDEN

“I called Your name, You heard my cry. Out of the grave and into life. My heart is Yours my soul is free. Thank You God for saving me.”

Thank You God for Saving Me –
Chris Tomlin

ALL TO HIM I OWE

How can I adequately thank God for Who He is and for all that He's done for me?

I am so unworthy, yet He forgives me over and over again.

I am a sinner, yet He died so that I might live.

I have nothing to give, yet He blesses me exceedingly and abundantly beyond what I could hope or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come before You today filled with praise and thanksgiving! I enter Your gates with thanksgiving, and into Your courts with praise! (Psalm 100:4)

I thank you my great God for being in my midst for You are a mighty one who can and will save me. Although I'm not worthy, thank you for rejoicing over me with gladness and when I am out of sorts, thank You for quieting me with Your love (Zephaniah 3:17). Thank you for wiping all my debt clean and for offering me eternal life (Romans 3:24).

In Your most Holy Name I pray, Amen.



“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:3



***Greater love has
no one than this...***

Arenal, Costa Rica



“Give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you.”

I Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances unto the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever



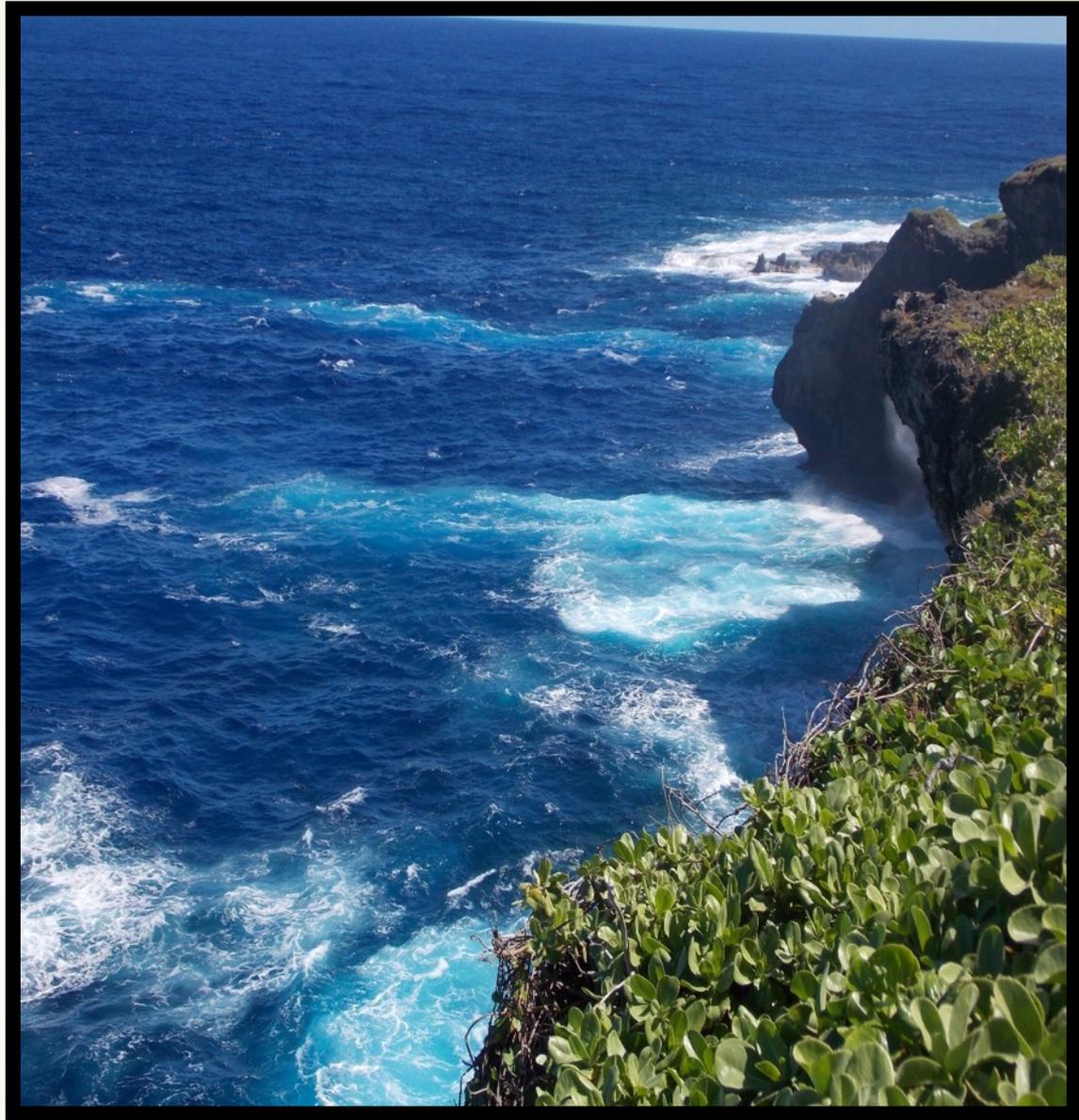
Assateague Island, Virginia



“Oh give thanks to
the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love
endures forever!”

Psalm 107:1

Oh give thanks
unto the Lord.



Saipan, Micronesia Islands



“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Colossians 3:17

***Do everything in the name
of the Lord...***



A MOTIVATED LIFE



Picture of Nelson Mandela at
Robben Island, Capetown, South Africa

“I was born with a purpose, perfectly designed. When God breathe life into me, He had a purpose in mind. And although I do not know the future or what tomorrow will bring, the one thing I am sure of, is that I am a child of the King.”

Purpose, Angela Brown-Bryant

LIVING A LIFE OF PASSION

Live Your Passion, For His Purpose!

DREAM BIG!

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help me to never give up on my hopes and dreams, for without a vision, I will perish (Proverbs 29:18). And even when my dreams seem out of reach and I am filled with doubt and fear, help me to remember that any dream from You will last (Galatians 6:9). Langston Hughes in his poem, 'Dreams', writes: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly".

So help me to remember that with You all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Help me to place my dreams in Your hands so that they may flourish and grow, expand and rise, fill and consume, multiply and increase, and ultimately overflow (John 10:10). Help me to mount on wings on eagles and **SOAR** (Isaiah 40:31).

In Your most holy name I pray, Amen.



“For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared
beforehand, that we should
walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10



***For we are His
workmanship...***

Beijing, China



“For I know the plans I have
for you, declares the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for
evil, to give you a future and
a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you...to
give you a future and a hope.



Wilmington, NC



“But, as it is written,
“What no eye has seen,
nor ear heard, nor the
heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared
for those who love Him!”

I Corinthians 2:9

...What God has
prepared for those
who love Him



Bermuda



“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

Colossians 3:23

***Whatever You do, work
heartily for the Lord...***



Rose Garden
Portland, Oregon

INTIMACY



Barbados

**“I don't need my
name in lights
I'm famous in my
Father's eyes
Make no mistake
He knows my name
I'm not living for
applause
I'm already so
adored
It's all His stage
He knows my name.”**

He Knows My Name –
Francesca Battistelli

TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN

God knows us more intimately than anyone ever could. He knows the number of hairs on our heads, our thoughts before we think them, and He even knew us before we were conceived.

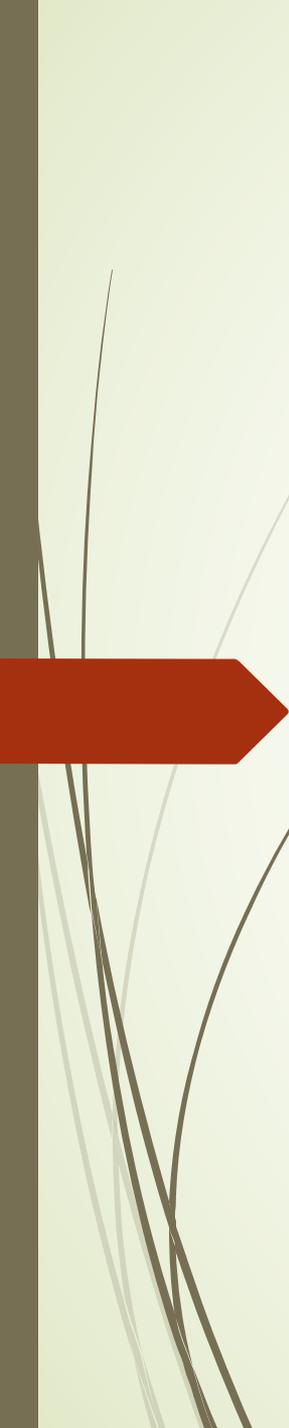
And just as He knows us, He wants us to know Him.

Know Him as you are known.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help me to always be mindful that You are God (Psalm 100:3). Help me to seek You continually, striving to know you better (Isaiah 55:6). Help me to keep my eyes upon You (Psalm 16:8), and please align my thoughts and my ways with Yours (Proverbs 16:9). I want to spend more time with You, so please help me to keep our daily appointment. (Matthew 6:6). I love You with my whole heart, body, mind, and soul (Luke 10:27). Thank you for knowing and loving me.

In Your most Holy Name I pray, Amen.



“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Psalm 139:23, 24



***Search me O God,
and know my
heart.***

Chaing Mai, Thailand



“Abide in me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear
fruit by itself, unless it abides
in the vine, neither can you,
unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:24

Abide in me and I in You.



Victoria, British Columbia



“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15:15

...For I have called
you friends.



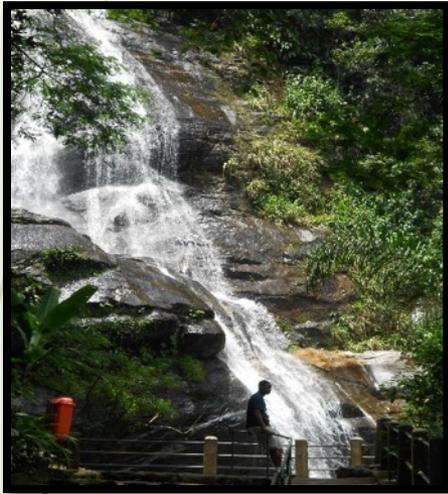
Turks and Caicos



“But grow in the grace
and knowledge of our
Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ. To Him be the glory
both now and to the day
of eternity. Amen.”

II Peter 3:18

To Him Be the Glory!



Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil

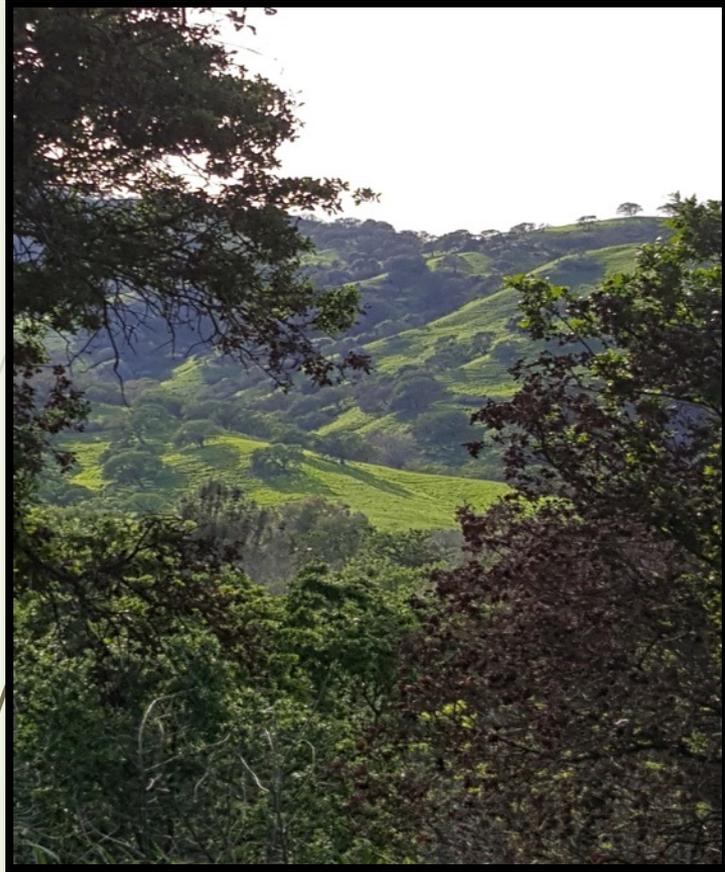


Grand Cayman
Islands



Ochos Rios,
Jamaica

I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU



Napa Valley, CA

**“When You don’t
move the mountains
I’m needing You to
move
When You don’t part
the waters I wish I
could walk through
When You don’t give
the answers as I cry
out to You
I will trust, I will trust, I
will trust in You!”**

Trust in You –
Lauren Daigle

I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU

When the sun shines brightly, and the wind blows lightly. When the moon is perfectly round and the birds fill the air with a melodious sound. My spirits are anew and this is when it's easiest to trust You. Trusting when my heart is broken and no words of comfort or hope have been spoken. Trusting when I can't see my way clear or when I am consumed with doubt and fear. When my thoughts and feelings I cannot readjust, I know this is when I need to **TRUST**.

Dear Heavenly Father,

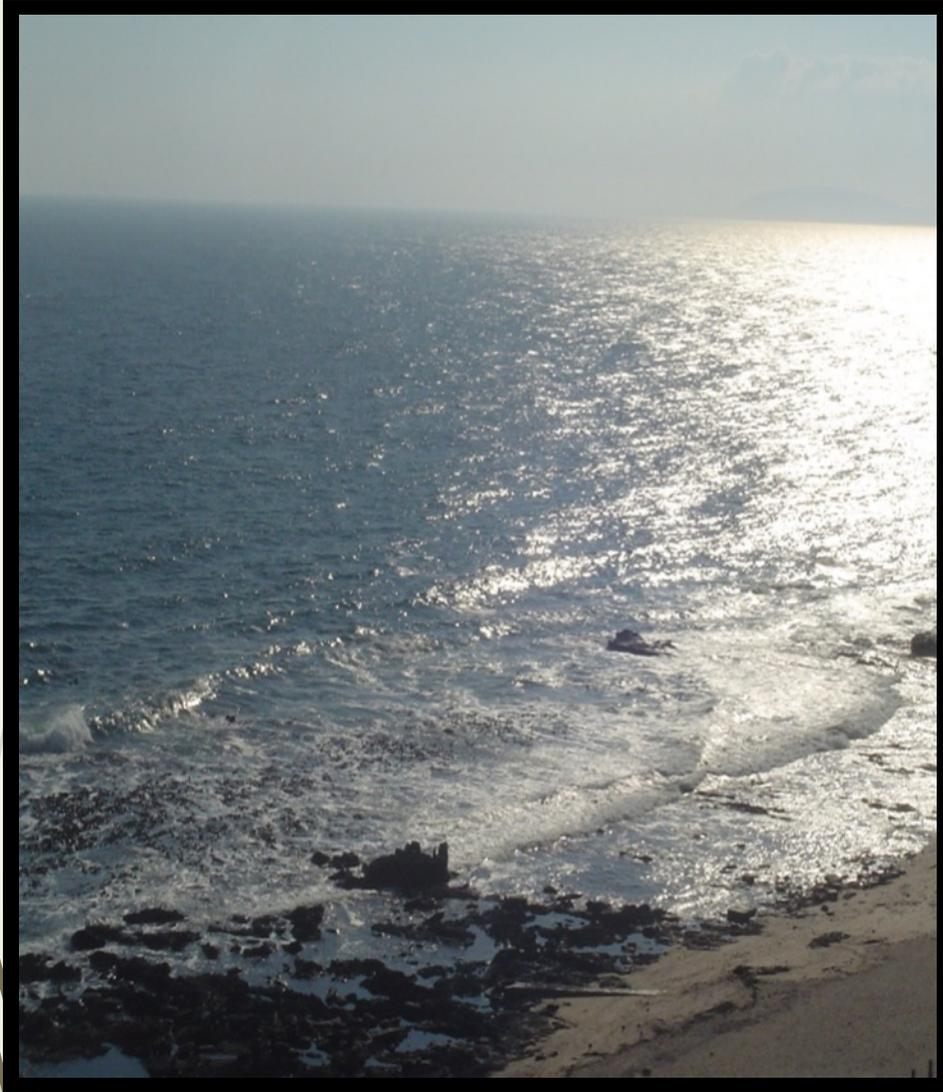
I know that you are God, and your words are true (Revelation 21:5), and you have promised good thing to me, your servant (2 Samuel 7:28). But sometimes, I feel so far away from You and I can't see my way clear. Please help me, to put my trust in You, even when I am afraid (Psalm 56:3,4). I have all confidence in you, and I know that whatever I ask in prayer, You have received it, and You will hear and answer my prayers (Mark 11:24). Lord I seek shelter under the shadow of Your wings (Psalm 57:1) and come what may, I **TRUST** You.

In Your most Holy Name I pray, Amen.



“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart, and do not lean
on your own
understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5-8



Cape town, South Africa

***Trust in the Lord
with all your heart.***



“And those who know Your
name put their trust in You,
for You, Oh Lord, have not
forsaken those who seek
You.”

Psalm 9:10

...and those who know You, put their trust in You.



Mackinaw Island, MI



“Commit your way to
the Lord; trust in Him, and
He will act.”

Psalm 37:5

...Trust Him and He
will act.



Prince Edwards Island, Canada



“You keep Him in perfect
peace whose mind is
stayed on You, because
He trusts in You. Trust in
the Lord forever, for
the Lord God is an
everlasting rock.”

Isaiah 26:3,4

Trust in the Lord forever, for He is an everlasting rock!



San Diego, CA



Fiji Island



Maui, Hawaii

SUBMIT Your Way to a Joyous Life

May God richly bless you as you **SUBMIT** your time, your talents, as well as your heart and soul to **HIM**.

Surrender

Unconditional Love

Beholden

Motivate

Intimacy

Trust

From my submitted heart to yours,

Davenia 