

Shayne B. Holesgrove

*Discover the foundation  
for a fulfilled life.*



# THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION

A MEDITATIVE DEVOTIONAL





Dear Partners,

GraceLife Ministries exists to reveal Jesus, His finished work, and the transformative power of the gospel to every individual, empowering them to live in the fullness of God's grace. Our vision is to see believers discover their true identity in Christ, walk in freedom, and fulfill their God-given purpose. Through our media ministry—television, radio, and online platforms—we aim to make the message of grace accessible to people worldwide. By focusing on teaching the uncompromised truth of the gospel, we help people renew their minds, experience lasting transformation, and grow in their relationship with God. We are passionate about discipling believers who will carry the mission of Christ into the rest of the world, equipping them to live victoriously in Christ and share His love and message of grace with others.

We are deeply grateful for you, our partners, who generously support us and are an integral part of our team. You are actively helping to take the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Your partnership enables us to reach countless lives with the life-transforming message of grace and empowers believers to live in victory and purpose. As a token of our appreciation, we provide our partners with a monthly electronic book designed to help them grow in their relationship with God.

This December to January period, we are thrilled to share this special eBook gift with you: *The Joy of Our Salvation*. This meditative devotional is aimed at helping you explore the beauty of a relationship with God that goes beyond rituals, rules, or striving to earn His love. It is an invitation to experience the fullness of life and intimacy that Jesus offers—a life marked by peace, joy, and transformation. Within its pages, you'll learn how to prioritize communion with God, embrace His grace, and live with a deeper awareness of His presence in your everyday life. Whether you're feeling distant from God or longing to deepen your connection with Him, this book will inspire you to sit at His feet, just like Mary, and choose the better part. Ready to uncover the joy that can never be taken away? Dive in and rediscover the heart of your faith!

Thank you for standing with us in this mission to reveal Jesus to the world!

For the King and His Kingdom,

Shayne Holesgrove  
[www.gracelife.co/tv](http://www.gracelife.co/tv)

Ps. As you go through this study we invite you to listen to the audio series to enhance your journey: <https://soundcloud.com/gracelifeministries/sets/the-joy-of-our-salvation>

## Chapter 1: It's All About Relationship

Salvation is so much more than just getting saved from hell. Many see it as a "rescue operation," but if that's all we see it as, we're missing out on something beautiful. Salvation is the Spirit of God coming to dwell in us, forever. This union with God enables us to have a life-giving relationship with God Himself. It's about knowing Him, becoming like Him, and living for Him in a way that reflects His love to the world around us. The ultimate purpose of salvation is transformation - it's about letting God's love change us from the inside out, so that we can be the people He designed us to be.

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17). This isn't just a promise of heaven; it's an invitation to live a new life *now*. When we step into salvation, God gives us a new identity: His Spirit comes to live within us, and we are changed. But the transformation doesn't happen by accident. It requires being devoted - fully committed - to this relationship with Him.

### Key Ideas:

- Salvation isn't only about escaping punishment but entering into a relationship with God.
- This relationship is life-changing and impacts how we live our everyday lives. It brings us joy, peace, and purpose.
- God's invitation (through salvation) is to know Him deeply and let Him transform us.

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. When you think of salvation, what comes to mind?

2. How has your understanding of this lesson shaped your approach to your faith?

3. If you see salvation as an invitation to relationship - rather than simply a rescue mission – how might this change the way you live?

4. In what areas of your life can you invite God to bring more transformation?

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### **Salvation Is All About Knowing God**

At its core, salvation is a relationship. It's a personal, intimate connection with God. It's not about just believing in a set of doctrines, and it's not about attending church services. When we enter into this relationship, we experience the fullness of life that God has for us. Jesus says, *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent"* (John 17:3). Eternal life isn't simply about living forever; it's about knowing God and walking with Him.

This relationship changes everything. When we walk with Jesus, our joy and our purpose don't come from external circumstances; they come from Him. Psalm 16:11 says, *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* Fullness of joy comes from being in God's presence and from knowing Him personally - not from anything we could gain from the world. That's why we need to guard this relationship above everything else.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- The heart of salvation is a personal relationship with Jesus, not just religious rituals or rules.
- Eternal life, as Jesus defined it, is about knowing God intimately and walking with Him daily.
- True joy flows from experiencing this friendship with God, beyond anything the world can provide.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to you to "know" God personally?

2. How is this different from just knowing about Him?

3. Has your relationship with God brought you joy or peace in difficult times? How?

4. How can you deepen your relationship with God in practical ways each day?

### **Living Like Jesus**

Through salvation, God calls us to be transformed into the image of His Son. *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”* (Romans 8:29). This doesn’t mean that we try to follow a list of rules or be “good enough.” It means that we let Jesus’s love work in us so deeply that we begin to reflect Him naturally in our daily lives. This means that we slowly become more patient, more loving, and more forgiving.

Imagine someone in a challenging situation - a car accident, for example. Instead of reacting with frustration or anger, they respond with compassion, checking on the other person and offering to pray with them. That response could change lives, showing those around them a glimpse of God’s love. When we live out of our connection to Jesus, people experience Him through us.

Transformation also comes through renewing our minds. As Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* As we grow closer to God, our thoughts and actions change. We start to see things through His eyes, and we begin to respond to life differently.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Through salvation, and our friendship with God, Jesus can reveal Himself in our actions and responses - even in difficult situations.
- Transformation happens as we allow God’s Spirit to work within us and through us, making us more loving, patient, and forgiving.

- Our lives can become testimonies of God’s love as others experience Jesus through us.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. Think of a recent challenging situation - how might you have responded differently if you were focused on letting Jesus show Himself through you?

2. How has God changed the way you interact with others since you began your faith journey?

3. What’s one area of your life where you feel God inviting you to show His love more?

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**Worship as a Lifestyle**

Worship is another key part of our relationship with God. And worship isn’t just singing songs at church! Worship is about trusting Him with our lives, and so surrendering our lives to Him. It’s about saying, “God, I am Yours,” and living in a way that shows your love for Him and honours Him. Romans 12:1 says, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”* Worship is a life of gratitude and devotion. It’s saying: “Thank you for what did you did for me, Jesus. I love you.”

Worship, in this sense, means reflecting God’s love in everything we do. When we show kindness, when we forgive, when we walk humbly, when we put Him first, when we love others, we are worshipping. We are honouring God not only with our words but with our lives. Worship becomes a response to the love we’ve received from Him, and it flows naturally from our relationship with Him.

**Key Ideas:**

- Worship isn't limited to singing songs or being in church; it's about living a surrendered life, honouring and loving God in everything we do.
- True worship flows from a heart connected to God. That makes our whole life an act of worship.
- Our actions - kindness, forgiveness, humility, thankfulness - are part of how we worship God and reflect Him to others.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How can you make worship a daily part of your life beyond Sundays or church services?

2. In what ways do you see your daily actions as acts of worship? How could they be more so?

3. What does "living a surrendered life" mean to you, and how might it impact your focus and decisions?

**The Power of True Fulfilment**

True fulfilment isn't about living a problem-free life. Jesus said, *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). We don't find joy by avoiding challenges; we find it by staying anchored in our relationship with God. When we look for fulfilment in people, success, or possessions, we set ourselves up for disappointment. But in Jesus, we can have a joy that nothing can take away.

Paul explains this well in Philippians 4:12-13, when he says *"I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ"*

*who strengthens me.*” Paul’s strength, his joy, and his purpose - all of it came from his relationship with Jesus. This joy is what carries us through every season of life.

**Key Ideas:**

- True fulfilment comes from our relationship with God, not from a problem-free life.
- Jesus knows that we will face challenges – but He assures us of His presence and peace.
- When we are rooted in Jesus, we can find joy, contentment, and purpose - regardless of our circumstances.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some things you’ve looked to for fulfilment that have left you disappointed?

2. How does knowing Jesus bring peace and joy into your life, even during difficult times?

3. Can you think of any practical ways you can use to stay focused on God’s continuous presence, especially when life gets tough?

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**Living in Purpose**

God saved us for a reason. He didn’t save us to live ordinary lives. He saved us so that we could live a life of purpose, a life that reflects His love, kindness, and compassion to those around us. *“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).

In this new life, God’s love isn’t just something we receive; it’s something we share. We’re here to show others the joy, hope, and freedom that come from knowing Him. As



we walk with Jesus, we begin to fulfil the purpose for which we were created - living in relationship with God and letting His love transform us, and then letting it flow through us.

**Key Ideas:**

- God saved us with a purpose: to live a life that reflects His love and goodness to others.
- Salvation gives us a new identity and purpose, empowering us to share His love in unique ways.
- Our purpose is to glorify God through our lives, making His love known in the world around us.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you view your purpose in light of your relationship with God? Has this changed since you began following Jesus?

2. What are some ways you can share God’s love and joy with others in your everyday life?

3. How can you grow in understanding and fulfilling the unique purpose God has given you?

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Salvation is the beginning of a journey - a journey into a deep, personal relationship with God that changes us and fills us with His love. It’s about knowing Him, becoming like Him, and living each day with Him and for Him. This is the joy of our salvation: that through knowing God, we experience fullness of life. The life we were always meant to live!

## Chapter 2: The true source of lasting joy and fulfillment

Our relationship with God is at the heart of our salvation. It is the true source of lasting joy and fulfillment. Yet, many of us live far below the richness that God desires for us. We often miss His perspective and, in turn, find ourselves pursuing goals and versions of success that will not satisfy us and don't align with His heart. True success isn't measured by worldly achievements or numbers, but by a life rooted in knowing and becoming more like Christ. Let's explore what it means to pursue God's goals for us, grow in spiritual maturity, and experience the joy of a life lived in alignment with His purpose.

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### Realigning Our Goals with God's Vision

One of the first steps toward living a truly fulfilled life is examining our goals. Often, what we aim for in life is based on our own desires, not on what God wants for us. *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”* (Romans 12:2). God invites us to see life through His lens, reshaping our idea of success around His values. When we prioritize His goals, our lives take on a deeper meaning and purpose, moving us from mere “attendance” in faith to true discipleship - a life of following Jesus wholeheartedly.

#### Key Ideas:

- Our goals in life often differ from God's goals for us.
- Success, in God's eyes, isn't about numbers or achievements but about deepening our relationship with Him.
- Spiritual success focuses on growth, maturity, and discipleship rather than outward measures.

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. What goals are you currently pursuing? How do they align (or not) with what you believe God desires for you?

2. How does shifting your view of success to God’s perspective change your outlook on your life and career?

3. What steps could you take to pursue “God-sized” goals in your spiritual life?

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### **Finding True Fulfilment in Knowing Him**

Our deepest fulfilment comes from knowing God, not from our circumstances or accomplishments. Jesus tells us, *“This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”* (John 17:3). Eternal life is not just about simply living forever; it’s about a relationship with God. Many Christians endure their faith, rather than enjoy it, because they are more focused on self-centered goals than on God. When we look to Him as our ultimate source of joy, we experience a level of peace and contentment that the world can’t provide.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- True fulfilment is found in a relationship with God, not in worldly success or material wealth.
- Eternal life starts *now*, as we grow in knowing God intimately and enjoying His presence.
- Self-centered goals can leave us feeling dissatisfied, but God-centered living brings joy and purpose.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How much of your daily sense of fulfilment is based on knowing God, and how much is based on external accomplishments?

2. What would it look like to “enjoy” your salvation rather than just “endure” it?

3. How might your approach to life change if you fully embraced God as the true source of your joy?

### **Maturity and Transformation Through Discipleship**

Salvation is only the beginning of a journey toward spiritual maturity, where we are continually transformed into the likeness of Christ. God desires that we grow into His image, showing His character in all we do. Paul reminds us, “*He chose them to become like His Son*” (Romans 8:29). Maturity isn’t about doing things perfectly; it’s about allowing God’s Spirit to shape us daily. This growth happens as we walk closely with Him, submit our lives to His will, and actively pursue His truth.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Spiritual maturity is a process of becoming more like Jesus.
- True discipleship requires commitment to God’s Word and intentional growth.
- Transformation is a result of walking closely with God and submitting to His guidance.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. In what areas of your life do you feel God inviting you to grow and mature?

2. How can you prioritize discipleship and spiritual growth in your daily routine?

3. What does it mean to you to be “transformed into the likeness of Christ”?

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### **Living Out the Fruit of the Spirit**

The evidence of a life aligned with God’s goals is the fruit we bear. Galatians 5:22-23 reminds us of the characteristics that naturally flow from a life filled with the Holy Spirit: *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”* These aren’t traits we strive to produce on our own; they are the natural outcome of a life deeply connected to God. As we grow in our relationship with Him, we reflect His love, patience, and kindness, impacting those around us.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of our walk with God and our transformation.
- These traits aren’t achieved through our efforts, but through relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- True fruitfulness in our lives brings God’s love and truth to others, fulfilling His purpose for us.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you see the fruit of the Spirit at work in your life today?

2. Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you feel called to focus on cultivating more intentionally?

3. How might your relationships with other people change if you consistently displayed the fruit of the Spirit?

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As we focus on God’s goals, seek fulfilment in knowing Him, and grow in spiritual maturity, we experience the joy of our salvation. This journey is about allowing God to transform us, aligning our hearts and actions with His purposes. True joy, success, and fulfilment come not from what we accomplish, but from a life that increasingly reflects God’s character and love. This is the joy of our salvation - the gift of a life fully rooted in Him, bearing fruit for His kingdom.

## Chapter 3: Intimacy with God

At the core of our salvation is an invitation to intimacy with God. It's not about rituals or a list of dos and don'ts; it's about knowing Him deeply and allowing that relationship to transform every part of us. Christianity is unique because it offers direct, personal communion with God: a relationship that is vibrant, close, and life-changing. Through knowing Him, we experience the joy, security, and strength that only He can provide.

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### Salvation as a Relationship, Not a Ritual

Christianity is all about relationship. Many other religions see God as distant, someone to appease or impress. But in the Christian faith, God invites us into a friendship with Him from the very moment we're born again. John 3:16 tells us, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Eternal life isn't just about living forever; it's about knowing God, as Jesus says in John 17:3: *"This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* This relationship with God brings us joy, peace, and a secure place in His love.

#### Key Ideas:

- Christianity is a relationship with God, not just a set of beliefs or practices.
- Eternal life starts now as we grow in our relationship with Him.
- God desires intimacy with us, welcoming us into His presence.

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. How does viewing Christianity as a relationship with God, rather than a religion, change your approach to faith?

2. What areas of your life might God be inviting you to bring closer to Him?

3. How can you cultivate a sense of closeness with God in your everyday life?

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### Knowing God’s True Nature

Intimacy with God is built on truly understanding who He is. Many people have misconceptions about God, seeing Him as angry or distant. But Scripture reveals a God who is forgiving, patient, and full of grace. The more we know His true nature, the closer we feel to Him. Psalm 103:12 reminds us, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”* Reflecting on God’s forgiveness and grace will always deepen our relationship with Him.

#### Key Ideas:

- Intimacy with God grows as we understand His true character: He is forgiving, loving, and gracious.
- Misunderstandings about God creates a feeling of distance, but knowing His true nature helps us feel closer to Him.
- Reflecting on God’s love and forgiveness opens our hearts to experience a deeper connection with Him.

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. How has your view of God’s character influenced your relationship with Him?

2. In what ways can reflecting on God’s forgiveness and grace draw you closer to Him in your heart?



3. How does knowing God’s true nature encourage you to trust Him more fully?

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### **Fruitfulness from Intimacy**

Spending time with Jesus transforms us. The closer we are to Him, the more we begin to reflect His love, kindness, and boldness. Acts 4:13 shows this transformation in Peter and John: *“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.”* Just like Peter and John, the time we spend with Jesus impacts how we live, giving us boldness and love for others.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Intimacy with Jesus produces fruitfulness in our lives, like boldness, love, and patience.
- The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we reflect His nature.
- Knowing God deeply changes our responses to life’s challenges.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some “fruits” you’ve noticed in your life - results of growing closer to Jesus?

2. How does spending time with Jesus change the way you handle difficulties or interact with others?

3. What's one way you can prioritize time with Jesus to cultivate more of His nature in your life?

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### **A Life of Transformation**

True intimacy with God is not about trying harder but about letting Christ live through us. Galatians 2:20 says, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”* In surrendering to His life within us, we no longer have to strive for perfection. Instead, we trust Him to transform us as we spend time in His presence, resting in His love and guidance.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Christianity is about surrendering to Christ's life within us, not striving for perfection.
- Transformation happens as we let go of control and allow God's Spirit to work within us.
- True joy and strength come from trusting Christ to live through us.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How does letting Christ live through you change your approach to personal growth?

2. Are there areas where you're trying to “do it all” instead of surrendering to God's work in you?

3. What does “surrendering” to God look like practically in your daily life?

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### **Enjoying Friendship with Jesus**

Friendship with Jesus should be enjoyable, not a duty or a task. God wants us to delight in His presence, experiencing the joy of His companionship. 1 John 1:3-4 tells us, “*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.*” When we understand God’s love and are filled with His joy, we’re able to show that love to others.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- God desires for us to enjoy our relationship with Him, not just go through the motions.
- Joy in God’s presence fills us and overflows into how we interact with others.
- Knowing Jesus deeply brings lasting joy that nothing else can offer.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How often do you find yourself enjoying time with Jesus, rather than seeing it as a duty?

2. What’s one way you can make your time with God more personal and meaningful this week?

3. How does experiencing joy in your relationship with Jesus affect your interactions with others?

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The joy of our salvation is rooted in a deep, genuine relationship with God. This intimacy with Him transforms us, aligns us with His love, and brings forth the fruits of His Spirit in our lives. As we grow closer to Him, we begin to live more like Christ, not through effort but through connection. This is the essence of our faith: a joyful relationship with God that overflows into every area of our lives. Let's make intimacy with Him our highest priority, knowing that everything else will flow from that place of connection and love.

## Chapter 4: Knowing Him

Intimacy with God is at the very core of our salvation. God doesn't call us to perform for Him; He calls us to know Him, to be in a relationship that transforms us from the inside out. Knowing God isn't a one-time event or an emotional moment; it's a continual journey of discovery, learning to live in the awareness of His presence. As Christians, we have the privilege of knowing God personally, not only for eternal life, but also for a fulfilled life, here and now.

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### The Foundation of Relationship Over Religion

Many people see faith as a set of duties—rules to follow, things to accomplish. But Christianity is unique because it's about a relationship. Salvation introduces us to God as our Father, inviting us to know Him as a friend, not just a deity. Psalm 73:28 says, *“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good.”* This verse reminds us that closeness to God is the greatest good in our lives. It's what gives meaning, joy, and stability, surpassing everything else we could pursue.

#### Key Ideas:

- Christianity is a relationship, not a set of rituals or rules.
- God's presence is our “highest good” and the source of true satisfaction.
- Religion can feel empty, but relationship brings life and transformation.

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. How would you describe your relationship with God: is it based on duty or on closeness?

2. In what ways can you shift from a routine faith to a relationship-focused faith?

3. How does knowing God as a friend and Father change the way you view Him?

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### **Building Trust Through Knowledge**

Our relationship with God is built on trust, and trust grows as we get to know Him better. Knowing God accurately requires studying His Word, understanding His nature, and discerning truth from misconceptions. Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Intimacy with God starts with renewing our minds to see Him as He truly is: gracious, loving, and just.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Knowing God requires understanding His true nature, not relying on assumptions.
- Misconceptions about God (e.g., seeing Him as distant or harsh) hinder intimacy.
- The more we understand His character, the easier it is to trust and draw close to Him.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some of your current beliefs about God’s nature? Are they based on Scripture or assumptions?

2. How does learning more about God’s character help you grow in trust?

3. What can you do this week to deepen your knowledge of God?

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### **Embracing Intimacy Over Performance**

Intimacy with God can't be earned through performance. It's a gift of grace, given freely through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not of works."* God's love and presence are not rewards for good behavior; they're a constant gift. Our part is simply to accept this gift and live in awareness of it, letting go of striving and resting in His love.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- God's love and intimacy are not based on the things we do, but on His grace.
- Striving to "earn" God's favour and love leads to frustration; resting in His love brings peace.
- When we embrace grace, we experience closeness with God as He intended.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever felt like you need to "earn" God's love? How does grace change that mindset?

2. How can you rest in the assurance of God's presence rather than striving for it?

3. What would change if you focused more on God's love for you than on your efforts?

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## Living in Constant Awareness of His Presence

Knowing God isn't just about occasional spiritual highs; it's about walking in constant awareness of His presence. Romans 5:1-2 says, "*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*" As believers, we are always in His presence; we don't need to reach for it or perform to enter it. True intimacy comes from living in this awareness, trusting that He is always with us.

### Key Ideas:

- God's presence is constant; we're never "far" from Him.
- True peace and intimacy with God come from a mindset rooted in His grace.
- Living with awareness of His presence transforms our daily life.

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. How often are you aware of God's presence in your day-to-day life?

2. What practical ways can you remind yourself of God's presence throughout your day?

3. How does knowing that God is always with you affect the way you approach challenges?

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## Deepening Our Relationship Through the Word

Our relationship with God grows as we spend time in His Word. The Bible isn't just a book of instructions; it's a revelation of God's heart, showing us who He is through Jesus. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus is "*the exact representation of God's being.*" By



studying the life and words of Jesus, we learn about God’s nature, His love for us, and His desire for a personal relationship.

**Key Ideas:**

- The Bible reveals God’s nature, especially through the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Understanding the Word helps us see God clearly and avoid misconceptions.
- Regular time in Scripture deepens our relationship and anchors us in truth.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How often do you read the Bible to know God, rather than just for information or instruction?

2. What insights about God’s character have you gained recently from Scripture?

3. How can you approach the Bible this week with a focus on relationship rather than duty?

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**Cultivating a Heart of Worship and Thanksgiving**

As we come to know God more deeply, our response is naturally one of worship and gratitude. Worship isn’t only about singing; it’s about living in appreciation for who God is and what He’s done for us. Psalm 27:4 expresses a longing to live in God’s presence: *“One thing I ask from the Lord... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord.”* Worship keeps us connected to God, reminding us of His goodness and our place in His family.

**Key Ideas:**

- Worship flows from knowing God deeply and appreciating His character.

- Gratitude anchors us in God’s presence, fostering a continual sense of intimacy.
- Worship is about focusing on God’s goodness and letting that inspire how we live.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How does gratitude for God’s presence change your outlook on life?

2. In what ways can you incorporate worship into your daily routine, beyond church?

3. What is one thing about God’s character that fills you with gratitude today?

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Knowing God is the heart of our salvation, the reason we were created. This intimacy cannot be earned or deserved. But it is freely given, and as we grow closer to Him, we experience the fullness of joy, peace, and purpose. Let’s make it our priority to know Him, living each day in the awareness of His presence and responding in worship and gratitude. This is the joy of our salvation: knowing God, walking with Him, and experiencing life to the fullest in His love.

## Chapter 5: Walking in Communion

In the journey of faith, one of the greatest joys we experience is walking in daily communion with God. This relationship isn't about feelings or momentary spiritual highs - it's about a steady, abiding friendship with Him. Walking in communion means recognizing that God's presence is constant. As believers, we don't need to chase after God's presence because He's already here, dwelling within us. Our task is to grow in that awareness, to live in constant fellowship with Him, and to allow this relationship to shape every part of our lives.

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### Communion: Experiencing God's Presence Within

Christianity isn't about rituals or intellectual exercises; it's about a relationship. The Bible reminds us that God's Spirit now dwells within us. As it says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"* From the moment of salvation, we're filled with God's Spirit, and we carry His presence with us wherever we go. Walking in communion is living in this truth daily, letting it remind us that we're never alone.

#### Key Ideas:

- God's Spirit lives within us, making His presence a constant reality.
- Communion with God isn't about trying to "get closer" to Him; it's about recognizing He's already here.
- Living with this awareness brings peace, joy, and security, no matter what we face.

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing God's presence is constant, even in difficult times, impact you?

2. In what ways can you remind yourself throughout the day that God is with you?

3. What might change if you lived each day in awareness of His presence within?

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### **Letting Go of Performance and Embracing Relationship**

So many people approach faith with a mindset of “earning” God’s approval, focusing on what they must do to stay close to Him. But Jesus already bridged that gap; we’re united with Him. God calls us to friendship, not to performance. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, *“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.”* Walking in communion means embracing this grace, resting in the reality of our relationship with Him rather than striving for it.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Our relationship with God is based on His grace, not our efforts or “performance.”
- Communion with God flows from resting in His love and grace, rather than trying to “earn” His favour.
- God desires a friendship with us that is genuine and free from striving.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. Are there any areas where you feel you have to “earn” God’s approval?

2. What does it look like to rest in God’s love rather than striving for it?

3. How would your relationship with God change if you let go of performance and embraced friendship?

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### **Walking by Faith, Not by Feelings**

Feelings can often lead us astray. Feelings are important - but they're not the foundation of our relationship with God. God's Word is the source of our truth and stability, teaching us that God's presence is with us regardless of what we feel. Hebrews 13:5 assures us, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" Walking in communion with God means choosing to trust this promise, even when we don't "feel" His presence. Faith in His Word, not fleeting emotions, sustains our relationship with Him.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Walking with God is about trusting in and relying on His Word, and not relying on our feelings.
- God's presence doesn't come and go based on our emotions; it's constant.
- Faith is choosing to believe God's promises, even when we don't feel them.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How have feelings affected your relationship with God in the past?

2. What steps can you take to build your relationship on faith in God's Word rather than emotions?

3. How does knowing that God never leaves you, regardless of how you feel, strengthen your faith?

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### **Staying Focused on Truth and Avoiding Distractions**

The enemy often distracts us with things that pull us away from God. Sometimes, we can become so focused on outward signs, manifestations, or miraculous experiences that we lose sight of Jesus Himself. Romans 10:17 reminds us, *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* Our faith isn’t built on experiences but on God’s Word. Walking in communion means keeping our focus on Jesus and staying grounded in Scripture, allowing it to guide and shape our relationship with Him.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- True communion is built on God’s Word, not on experiences or manifestations.
- Miraculous signs are valuable, but they shouldn’t become the focus of our faith.
- Staying rooted in Scripture helps us avoid distractions and keeps us focused on Jesus.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. Are there any areas in your faith where you’ve focused more on experiences than on the Word?

2. How can you cultivate a habit of returning to Scripture as your foundation?

3. What steps can you take to avoid distractions and keep your focus on Jesus?

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### **Living in the Reality of Our Identity in Christ**

Walking in communion with God also means embracing our identity as His beloved children. Romans 8:15 says, “*The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’*” Knowing that we are God’s children frees us from fear, guilt, and striving. We can live with confidence and joy, knowing that He loves us and will never leave us. Communion with God means living out this identity every day, letting it shape how we see ourselves and others.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- Our identity as God’s children is central to our relationship with Him.
- Communion with God brings confidence, freedom from fear, and security in His love.
- Embracing our identity in Christ allows us to live with peace and joy, no matter the circumstances.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding your identity as God’s child change how you approach your relationship with Him?

2. What are practical ways to remind yourself of this identity each day?

3. How can you share the joy of this identity with others in your life?

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Walking in communion with God is a daily, life-giving experience that brings us joy, peace, and a deeper understanding of our identity in Him. This journey isn't about striving or chasing after momentary experiences; it's about cultivating a steady, abiding friendship with God. As we embrace His presence, stay grounded in His Word, and live out our identity as His beloved children, we find the true joy of our salvation—an unshakeable, everlasting communion with our Creator.



## Chapter 6: Choosing the Better Part

Walking in daily communion with God is the ultimate joy and strength of our salvation. In the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42, Jesus teaches us a powerful truth about intimacy with Him. Martha is busy, “distracted with much serving,” while Mary sits at Jesus’ feet, listening to His words. When Martha complains, Jesus responds, *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”* Mary’s choice represents a crucial lesson: the most important part of our walk with God is knowing Him intimately and resting in His presence.

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### Prioritizing Relationship Over Serving

It’s easy to get so busy with life - even with good things - that we forget the relationship we’re called to have with God. Many of us, like Martha, become distracted with tasks, even well-meaning ones, and miss the joy of simply being with Jesus. Serving and doing things for God have their place, but they should never take precedence over time spent in communion with Him. Jesus reminds us that, like Mary, we should choose the “better part”—to sit at His feet and receive from Him.

*“Be still, and know that I am God.”* (Psalm 46:10)

### Key Ideas:

- God values our time with Him above our works or service.
- True strength and joy come from resting in God’s presence.
- Even good things, like serving, can distract us from the better part if we let them.

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you find yourself “distracted with much serving”?

2. How can you incorporate more “sitting at His feet” moments into your daily routine?

3. What would choosing the “better part” look like in your relationship with God?

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### **Recognizing the Gift of His Presence**

One of the great truths of our faith is that we have God’s Spirit living within us. When we believe, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is our constant helper, friend, and guide. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”* This means God’s presence is not something we need to strive for or earn; it’s a gift we’ve already received. Our role is to recognize and rest in this incredible gift, living each day in awareness of His presence within us.

#### **Key Ideas:**

- God’s Spirit dwells within us permanently; we are His temple.
- We don’t have to “earn” His presence; it’s a gift we receive through salvation.
- Walking in communion means living with a constant awareness of His presence.

#### **Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. How often do you remind yourself that God’s Spirit is within you?

2. What helps you stay aware of His presence throughout your day?

3. How does recognizing this gift change the way you approach challenges?

## Embracing Intimacy Over Performance

Many believers feel pressured to “do” things for God to earn His approval, but the truth is that we are already fully accepted in Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, *“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.”* God doesn’t want us to focus on our performance; He desires our heart. Mary’s choice to sit at Jesus’ feet shows us that intimacy with God is not achieved through performance but through rest and relationship.

### Key Ideas:

- We are fully accepted in Christ and don’t need to “earn” God’s love.
- True intimacy with God grows from grace, not from striving or performance.
- Resting in God’s love frees us from the pressure of trying to “prove” ourselves.

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. Do you sometimes feel like you need to earn God’s approval through your actions?

2. What would it look like to rest in God’s acceptance instead of striving for it?

3. How does knowing you’re already accepted change the way you serve God?

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## Choosing the Better Part

Mary’s decision to sit at Jesus’ feet, despite the demands around her, teaches us about the importance of priorities. Jesus describes this choice as “the better part,” a part that “will not be taken away.” In a world full of distractions, we’re called to choose what’s most important—our relationship with God. John 16:33 reminds us, *“In this world you*

*will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*” By focusing on Jesus, we find peace and strength that can withstand any trouble.

**Key Ideas:**

- We face a daily choice between distraction and communion with God.
- Jesus encourages us to prioritize our relationship with Him as “the better part.”
- Communion with God equips us to face life’s challenges with peace and confidence.

**Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some distractions that keep you from spending time with God?

2. How can you make intentional choices to prioritize communion with Him?

3. What does it mean to you that this relationship “will not be taken away”?

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Walking in communion with God is a continual choice to recognize, value, and rest in His presence. Like Mary, we’re invited to sit at Jesus’ feet, enjoying His love and receiving His Word. This intimacy with God is the heart of our salvation and the true source of joy and strength in our lives. Let’s commit to choosing the better part, growing in our awareness of His presence, and allowing our relationship with Him to transform every part of our lives.