

# **My God, My God**

# God's Love

**“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. ... Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” (Isaiah 43:4; 49:15)**

**“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalms 46:1).**

The Bible declares that God loves each one of you. What does the Bible say about this love of God towards you?

Firstly, the Bible states that God esteems you as precious. In Isaiah 43:4, God testifies, "Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you ...." All of you are considered precious in the sight of God. How did we, as sinners, become esteemed in God's sight? The reason is that we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus.

Secondly, the Bible affirms that God will never forget you eternally. Consider Isaiah 49:15: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you." Even if a mother might forget her nursing child, God promises not to forget you.

Thirdly, the Bible asserts that God is our refuge, strength, and ever-present help in times of trouble. Look at Psalms 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Seek refuge in God, who is our shelter, strength, and significant help in times of trouble. He will protect us.

# God's Word

**“Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning” (Exodus 20:20).**

Are you living a life of faith, listening to the voice of God? Are you attuned to the voice of God, conveyed through the Bible, by the indwelling Holy Spirit? The reason God speaks to us is to test us and to instill in us a reverence for Him, preventing us from sinning, as Exodus 20:20 states. However, a serious issue is the multitude of deaf Christians who cannot hear the voice of God. Moreover, even among those who hear the word, many are committing the sin of disobedience because genuine reverence does not arise in their hearts.

Despite living amidst the deluge of God's Word, Christians experiencing this ironic spiritual deafness need to ask: What should we do to overcome this spiritual numbness? To resolve this spiritual numbness, we must run towards God's Word (Ps. 119:32). Recognizing that apart from God's Word, there is no way to overcome this numbness, we must devote ourselves wholeheartedly to hearing and obeying the commandments of the Lord.

# God's Wrath

**“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not**

## **to be done” (Romans 1:18-28).**

Whom does the wrath of God manifest against? The wrath of God is revealed against those who suppress the truth with unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). Here, those who suppress the truth with unrighteousness refer to people who, despite having knowledge sufficient to know God, suppress that knowledge with their own unrighteousness and ungodliness. They are described as people who "knew God, but neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him; their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (v. 21). The wrath of God is revealed against those who exchange the truth of God for a lie (v. 25). These individuals, even though they acknowledge the existence of God through the revelation of nature, suppress that knowledge, leading their thinking to become futile and darkened, rejecting the truth, and pursuing falsehood instead. The wrath of God is revealed against those who dislike keeping God in their hearts (v. 28). It occurs against those who consider the knowledge of God impractical and worthless, as they do not value having practical knowledge of God (Yoon-seon Park).

# God's Mercy

**“So you handed them over to their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time. You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God” (Nehemiah 9:27-31).**

Our merciful God is a God who warns us. Even though we commit sins, His warnings are meant to lead us to repentance and obedience to His commandments. Those who heed the warning may experience "great reward," as described by the psalmist in Psalms 19:7-13. However, like the Israelites, we often stiffen our

necks and refuse to heed the Lord's warnings. In those times, God may use the rod of love to discipline us. He faithfully blesses us when we obey His commandments, but He also faithfully disciplines us when we persist in disobedience. The reason we may find His faithful discipline unfamiliar is that it doesn't appear joyful but rather sorrowful at the time (Heb. 12:11). It is only in the moment of discipline that we cry out to the Lord. At that point, God hears our crying prayers, showers us with great mercy, and rescues us. Despite obtaining peace, we often return to sin. Nevertheless, God continues to forgive and deliver us because He is a God of great mercy.

# God's Forgiveness

**“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust” (Psalms 103:8-14).**

Our God, who delights in forgiving our prideful hearts, and our forgiving God who pardons our constantly betraying ways as we stubbornly turn away from listening to the Father's words, avoiding the remembrance of the astonishing works of God in the past, and persistently returning to our old ways—this is our God who forgives. His character is gracious, rich in mercy, slow to anger, and He does not forsake us. He loves us, even when we were His enemies, sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and declaring us righteous. Truly, He is a God who loves His enemies.

In response to such love, He commands us, who enjoy His love, to love our enemies. It is only natural and fitting for us, as His children, to manifest the character of our Heavenly Father. However, are we truly revealing and living out the character of this God of forgiveness? As we pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us," are we genuinely forgiving those who have sinned against us?



# God's Touch

**“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty’” (Isaiah 6:1-5).**

To experience the touch of God, we must first understand the being of God, the God of gods. And then, we must experience the holy touch of that God. Within it, we see our true selves. In other words, through the holy touch of God, we can't help but realize our sins and humbly repent. Just as Isaiah confessed, "Woe to me! I am ruined!" (Isa. 6:5) when he experienced the holy touch of God, our response should also be one of humble repentance. When we genuinely repent, God touches and restores us. Only then can we respond to God's call to serve. May such a transformation manifest in our lives through the touch of God.

# God's Guidance

**“For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end”  
(Psalms 48:14).**

In the maze of life, we earnestly seek the guidance of God, the merciful God who leads us. He is the God who guides us with abundant mercy. However, we should reflect on whether we acknowledge God's guidance or live our daily lives without recognizing it. Just as the Israelites, after crossing the Red Sea, made a golden calf while Moses went up to Mount Sinai to meet God, calling the calf the 'God' who led them out of Egypt, we often live lives that deny God's guidance despite receiving it. Nevertheless, God, in His great mercy, continues to illuminate our path and guides us through the indwelling Holy Spirit, who teaches us all the good teachings of Jesus. Moreover, Jesus, our shepherd, nurtures us, ensuring that we lack nothing and empowering us to run vigorously toward the promised land, the heavenly kingdom. We express gratitude for the guidance of our Triune God.

# God's Salvation

**“The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt’” (Exodus 3:7-10).**

In many instances when we feel overwhelmed by suffering, we may wonder why God does not seem to be helping us, leading to a sense of abandonment. However, Exodus 3:7, 9 in the Bible declare that our God is indeed certainly aware of our suffering. So, what is the issue? It lies in our frail faith. When we receive blessings from God, He appears great, but when we face hardships, the same unchanging God seems small, and our suffering appears disproportionately significant. God remains unchanged, but our faith in Him often fluctuates. Despite this, God, upon seeing the suffering of the Israelites, responded to their prayers, defeated their adversary Egypt, and saved them, leading them to the promised land of Canaan. Similarly, God, while witnessing the agony of His only begotten Son Jesus on the cross, considered Him an enemy and allowed Him to be crucified, providing salvation to us through His death on the cross.

# God Who Fulfills His Word

**“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth” (Hebrews 11:13).**

Our God is the God who gives the promise of His word. When God gave the promise to Abraham, assuring him the land of Canaan, the fulfillment of that promise involved suffering and hardship. In the midst of these challenges, Abraham experienced the power and provision of God. Although Abraham did not witness the fulfillment of the promise, he welcomed it by faith from afar (Heb. 11:13). The reason was that the fulfillment of the promise took about 400 years. This emphasizes the fact that the patience of faith is earnestly required until the promise is fulfilled. When God made a covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15), it was a unilateral promise from God. In other words, even if Abraham were unfaithful, God expressed His strong determination to fulfill the promise directly. This promise points to Jesus Christ. Within the unilateral covenant of God, we have received salvation through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross.

# **The God Who Bestows Great Blessings**

**“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” (Ephesians 1:3).**

There is likely no one who would refuse the blessings bestowed by God. Even the Israelites, who received abundant material and spiritual blessings from God, rejoiced greatly after receiving these great blessings. However, the issue lies in what happens after receiving blessings. Without a mature character that can discern how to enjoy received blessings properly, one may end up wasting life, selfishly indulging in the blessings given by God, as happened with the Israelites. So, how can one possess a mature character that knows how to enjoy blessings? It should come from a heart that is guided by God's commandments rather than being led by the blessings. Like the Israelites, disregarding God's laws and becoming prosperous in this land can lead to committing a grave sin of disrespecting God. When guided by God's commandments and led by His word, we can glorify God through the great blessings He bestows upon us in this land. We are already individuals who have received every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (Eph. 1:3). In the blessed Jesus Christ, we should humbly and wisely enjoy all these blessings, giving great glory to God.