

LADDER-BRIDGE OF FAITH



Truth in Love Communications, An Auxiliary Ministry of
Truth in Love Fellowship • PO Box 5281
Vancouver, WA
Printed and bound in
The United States of America

**A Supplemental Saturation Tool For
“Unbound”**

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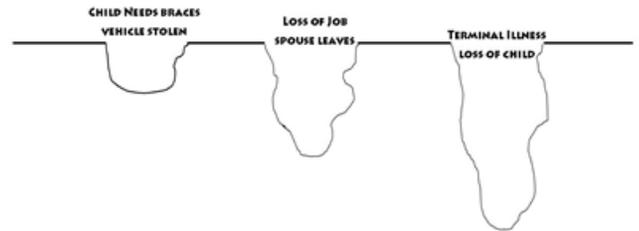
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NOTES

THE LADDER-BRIDGE OF FAITH

God's Word teaches us that mankind is born into a fallen and troubled world. We are given to rebellious sin-choices and so is everyone else in the world. This means we can count on trouble in this life. We all know that life is never without difficulties, large and small, and they can become overwhelming. There are too many things we simply *cannot* control.



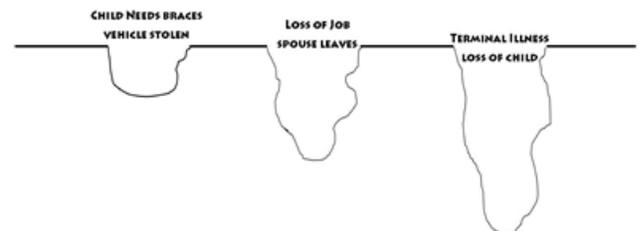
We know that life has “Pits of Gloom” with varying degrees of depth and darkness—and we very often find ourselves in the bottom of one with little or no warning.

God has a “Ladder-Bridge” we can use to both climb out of and cross over these Pits. We stand it on end and climb out when we are unable to avoid the

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God has a “Ladder-Bridge” we can use to both climb out of and cross over these Pits. We stand it on end and climb out when we are unable to avoid the

Pits; we lay it down and cross over the Pits when we see ourselves coming up on one. Since we are more accustomed to finding ourselves in the “Pits,” we first need to learn to climb out of them. Once we have that down a bit, we’ll turn to working on avoiding them.

If we are unprepared when trouble comes - as we know it will - we can easily end up feeling fearfulness, anxiety, anger, misery, and find ourselves in bleak despair. Hopelessness often follows. If we don’t know how to climb out of those Pits of Gloom, we can end up stuck there for years.

As we will learn later in this program, when we are depressed and hopeless, our likelihood of making wise decisions is doubtful, at best.

It is also important to understand that it is during these times of trouble and difficulty that we need to make the wisest choices. So, we need something that can get us out of those dark places when we have nose-dived into them.

Unfortunately for many of us, the pattern that we have best perfected is the one of making our most

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GOD’S OMNISCIENCE						
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GOD’S DELIVERANCE						
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SELF-ASSESSMENT: Score using 0 thru 5, then saturate (100x a day) with appropriate verses from the booklet.

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Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! **Psalm 27:14**

But those who wait for the Lord's help find renewed strength; they rise up as if they had eagles' wings, they run without growing weary, they walk without getting tired. **Isaiah 40:31**

Remember what I accomplished in antiquity! Truly I am God, I have no peer; I am God, and there is none like Me, who announces the end from the beginning and reveals beforehand what has not yet occurred, who says, "My plan will be realized, I will accomplish what I desire." **Isaiah 46:9-10**

But when the appropriate time had come, God sent out His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we may be adopted as sons with full rights. **Galatians 4:4-5**

You will keep in perfect peace and safety those who maintain their faith, because they trust in You.
Isaiah 26:3

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important, life-impacting decisions when we are in the Pit of Gloom. Emotions are not truth, so emotion-driven decisions are often defective and counterproductive.

The enemy of our souls (Satan) makes a shovel readily available to us in the form of doubt about God. We grab hold of that shovel with both hands, and we dig the Pit even deeper.

We all know that there is no real escape from having to face troubles in this life. Even if we could somehow create a trouble-free life, it would not even be in our best interest (James 1:2-4). It is vital that we learn to navigate through life's problems in wise, healthy, and godly ways.

It is in this place of struggle that we begin to become mature in dealing with life's troubles; that we begin to grow strong emotionally and spiritually. God knows that our ability to deal well with problems is important in shaping a healthy and abundant life, but He never intended that we deal with these difficulties alone (Matthew 11:28-30).

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This leads us to two key questions: 1) how do we climb out of “Pits of Gloom” we so often find ourselves in? And 2) how do we learn to cross over those pits and avoid falling into them in the first place?

CONSTRUCTING OUR “LADDER-BRIDGE OF FAITH”

The two main supports for our Ladder-Bridge of Faith are:

God’s Word. There is nothing in the human experience that God’s Word does not address (2 Peter 1:2-4);

Prayer. Openly and authentically surrendering to God everything that is on our hearts and minds, no matter what it is (Philippians 4:6-7).

Once we have the main supports in place, we begin to lay down the treads that will make up the rungs of the Ladder and the deck of the Bridge. The rungs are what we climb; the deck is where we stand. In both cases, they are where we put one foot after the other as we climb out of, or cross over, the Pits of Gloom.

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God has so ordered the universe and made provision for every choice every human being will ever make, that His best will is ultimately going to be accomplished, and His Timing & Trajectory that cause it all to flow together are *flawless*.

This is the same God who created you, who loves you, who sent His Son to take your eternal punishment in your place—and who created you for the purpose of loving you and one day inviting you to share in His glory.

VERSES

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

For the message is a witness to what is decreed; it gives reliable testimony about how matters will turn out. Even if the message is not fulfilled right away, wait patiently; for it will certainly come to pass – it will not arrive late. Habakkuk 2:3

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Make me understand Your ways, O Lord! Teach me your paths! Guide me into Your truth and teach me. For You are the God who delivers me; on You I rely all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

12. GOD'S TIMING & TRAJECTORY

These two go together; they are “two sides to the same coin,” as it were. One of the best examples can be found in the first half of Jonah 2: “The Lord had arranged for a huge fish to swallow Jonah...” We see it once again in Jonah 4:6-8, where God “arranged for” a little plant to grow up and shade Jonah, then sent a worm to attack the plant so that it dried up, then ensured that Jonah experienced a hot east wind and

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If our Ladder-Bridge is to be strong, the rungs and planks must be strong. A rung or plank is strong if our faith and trust in that aspect of God's character is strong. If our faith and trust are weak, then that rung or plank will be weak.

We need to learn what these rungs and planks are. Then we need to assess which rungs and planks are the strongest, and which are the weakest in our life. Strengthening our “Ladder-Bridge of Faith” will require us, through saturation, to strengthen our weakest rung or plank first.

Look through your “Ladder-Bridge of Faith” booklet and read the descriptions of the aspects of God's character that constitute our rungs and planks. There is a “Faith Assessment” on the last page of the booklet that will show you where to begin your

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11. GOD'S GUIDANCE

God knows what His best will is for each of us and He has provided us with everything we need to know how to live in harmony with His will. His Word is filled with all manner of descriptions about how He thinks about every aspect of the human condition and experience.

VERSES

*His divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness through the rich knowledge of the one who called us by His own glory and excellence. **2 Peter 1:3***

*Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2***

I will instruct and teach you about how you should live.

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*Your Word is a lamp to walk by, and a light to illumine my path. **Psalm 119:105***

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God's Grace: Ephesians 2:4-9
God's Love: Romans 5:6, 8, 10
God's Omnipotence: Revelation 19:6
God's Omniscience: Psalm 139:1-16
God's Goodness: Psalm 106:1

Each of the twelve **treads** has seven passages of Scripture that specifically relate to that particular attribute of God. The goal is to begin with the weakest tread first and use the verses corresponding to that tread to **saturate** on every day for several weeks until that tread becomes a great deal stronger than it was.

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Look, God is my deliverer! I will trust in Him and not fear. For the Lord gives me strength and protects me;

*He has become my deliverer. **Isaiah 12:2***

*The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the Day of Judgment. **2 Peter 2:9***

The godly 30 cry out and the Lord hears; He saves them from all their troubles. The Lord is near the brokenhearted; He delivers those who are discouraged.

Psalm 34:17-18

*The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever! Amen. **2 Timothy 4:18***

*And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. **1 Thessalonians 1: 10***

*But I trust in your faithfulness. May I rejoice because of Your deliverance! **Psalm 13:5***

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- Select one of the seven verses for that weak tread and **saturate** on that verse every day for 1 week; then switch to a second of the seven and saturate on that verse for a week. Repeat this process until you have saturated on at least five of the seven verses for that tread; OR

- Use a different verse each day for a week, making sure to use all seven verses for the week, and repeating this process for five to seven weeks;

At the end of the 5-7 weeks, retake the “Faith Assessment” and evaluate the strength of your faith and confidence in each of the twelve “treads.” Whichever one is the weakest, do as you did before and saturate with the Scriptures in this booklet (or others you find that fit) that relate specifically to the attribute and characteristic of God that you are doubting or struggling to see in your life.

This is how we take the weak parts of our Ladder-Bridge of Faith and make them strong. Once you have constructed a strong “Ladder-Bridge of Faith,” you will find that, your faith in God is now stronger and your

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life is now more settled and your besetting sin patterns has weakened. You may even find that your life is now more stable than a person who has never been in the kind of bondage you were once in.

Keep in mind that we start with the bottom “rung” of the Ladder, because it is also the first plank in the Bridge we will need to step out on to avoid the Pits of Gloom.

1. GOD’S GOODNESS

God is not only the Greatest of all beings, but the Good-est. When you think of someone who is a “good person,” what do you think is true about them? They are kind; they are considerate of others; they are humble; they are joyful; they are never mean or unkind; they think of others first; they are never shady or dishonest in any way; they are dependable and trustworthy; that they have integrity; that they do all they can to stay away from evil.

Someone who is “good” is decent, ethical, upright, blameless, safe, benevolent, reliable, well-

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from the hand of the wicked. He preserves them from famine, death, and the grave. The most striking example of deliverance is the exodus from Egypt. Here God is defined as the Deliverer of Israel who rescues His people, not because they deserve to be rescued, but as an expression of His mercy and love.

The descriptions of deliverance in the Old Testament serve as symbolic representations of the spiritual deliverance from sin which is available only through Christ. He offers deliverance from mankind’s greatest peril—sin, evil, death and judgment. By God’s power, believers are delivered from this present evil age and from the power of Satan’s reign. All aspects of deliverance are available only through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

VERSES

The Lord is my high ridge, my stronghold, my deliverer. My God is my rocky summit where I take shelter, my shield, the horn that saves me, my stronghold, my refuge, my savior. You save me from violence!

2 Samuel 22:2-3

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The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever! Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Indeed, who is God besides the Lord? Who is a protector besides our God? The one true God is my mighty refuge; He removes the obstacles in my way.

2 Samuel 22:32-33

No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way of escape so that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

10. GOD'S DELIVERANCE

Deliverance in the Bible is the acts of God whereby He rescues His people from peril. In the Old Testament, deliverance is focused primarily on God's removal of those who are in the midst of trouble or danger. He rescues His people from their enemies, and

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Deliverance in the Bible is the acts of God whereby He rescues His people from peril. In the Old Testament, deliverance is focused primarily on God's removal of those who are in the midst of trouble or danger. He rescues His people from their enemies, and

mannered, righteous, pleasant, able, competent, just, and helpful. Would you say that is a pretty good summary of "good?" That's a suitable place to start thinking about God's Goodness; but His goodness goes beyond that.

Apart from Him, nothing would be good; nothing could be good. The quality of His character and love is totally, completely, and fully good!

VERSES

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and for forever His loyal love endures! Psalm 106:1

But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works. Psalm 73:28

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and His loyal love is everlasting! 1 Chronicles 16:34

The Lord is good – indeed, He is a fortress in time of distress, and He protects those who seek refuge in Him.

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Taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in Him! Psalm 34:8

You are good and You do good. Teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:68

The Lord is good to all, and has compassion on all He has made. Psalm 145:9

2. GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

Being "omniscient" means that He has always known everything and only what is true - including all true potentialities. By this it is meant that, even if something did not actually take place, He has always known the truth of whether or not it could take place and what the result would have been had it happened.

The reason this matters is that, instead of us having to be anxious about potentialities (those pesky not-now's and non-realities), we can fully surrender them to God because He knows (and has always known) whether or not they can or will take place, and He is fully prepared for whichever of those is true.

We can also always trust and depend on the fact

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circumstances.

God' Protection is not always a protection *from*; it is often a protection *through*. God will always protect us through each and every circumstance, no matter how grim, no matter how difficult. NOTHING can befall you that will be too much for you—even if it seems too much at the time. God knows what you are made of, and He knows what it will take for Him to finish making you into Christ's image (Romans 8:28-29).

VERSES

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1

He will shelter you with his wings; you will find safety under His wings. His faithfulness is like a shield or a protective wall. Psalm 91:4

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage – I have conquered the world." John 16:33

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"While the earth continues to exist, planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

Genesis 8:22

Everything looks to You in anticipation, and You provide them with food on a regular basis. You open Your hand, and fill every living thing with the food they desire. Psalm 145:15-16

So do not be overly concerned about what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not worry about such things. For all the nations of the world pursue these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, pursue His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Luke 12:29-31

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This is so closely related to the previous two treads that they are best understood together. Psalm 91 is perhaps one of the clearest expressions in all of Scripture by someone who knows and understands God's Protection in some of the direst of

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VERSES

Your knowledge is beyond my comprehension; it is so far beyond me, I am unable to fathom it.

Psalm 139:6

Our Lord is great and has awesome power; there is no limit to His wisdom. Psalm 147:5

For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths. Proverbs 5:21

The Lord watches from heaven; He always sees all people. From where He lives He looks carefully at all the earth's inhabitants. He is the one who forms every human heart, and takes note of all their actions.

Psalm 33:13-15

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how fathomless His ways!

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Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is immeasurable. Isaiah 40:28

And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must render an account.

Hebrews 4:13

3. GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

God is able in every respect for every action that is possible for Him. He has unlimited ability to be, and to do, all that He has said He is and will do. He is all-powerful; almighty. There is nothing God cannot do that is in keeping with His own nature and character.

For example, God cannot lie. He is Himself the Truth, so lying is not in His character or ability. If God could do anything contrary to His nature or character, He would cease to be God at that point, and He can never *not* be God!

This matters because it means that we can count on there being *nothing* that is impossible for God:

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being always involved in the affairs of His creation, even those things that are evil (Jeremiah 18:1-6).

This is not to say that God creates or causes evil; it simply means that in spite of evil, God's best will is going to be accomplished and He is always going to supply for our every true need, no matter what.

VERSES

You are the source of wealth and honor; You rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:12

For the Lord promotes justice, and never abandons His faithful followers. They are permanently secure, but the children of evil men are wiped out. Psalm 37:28

He provides rain for the earth; he sends water on the countryside. Job 1:5

Now to Him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

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8. GOD'S PROVIDENCE

This word, derived from the word "provision" (which means "to see ahead"), refers to God's sovereign oversight of not only each one of our lives, but over all of time and creation as well. Think of settlers getting ready to head West in the wagon trains of long ago. They had to "see ahead," and make plans and "provision" for what they would need throughout the journey.

As this applies to the nature and character of God, since He has always known everything that is or could possibly be true (Psalm 33:13-15); He has always known everything you or I could ever need, every situation any and all of us would ever face, each and every choice every one of us would make, and He has always known what His best plan is for "providing" for those needs and what His best remedies for every situation will be (Psalm 139:4, 16); and even seemingly chance events are known by and involve God (Proverbs 16:33).

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It also means that we can count on Him to provide us with everything we need to live as He has asked us to live and do all He has given us to do.

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Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a vast throng, like the roar of many waters and like loud crashes of thunder. They were shouting: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the All-Powerful, reigns!"

Revelation 19:6

I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Job 42:2

I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

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Now to Him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. **Ephesians 3:20**

This power He exercised in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms far above every rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:20-22

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. **John 14:13-14**

4. GOD'S LOVE

Love—Biblically—as it flows from God's nature and character, is "a passionate desire for God's best for someone else, even at great cost to oneself." The greatest example of this is spelled out in Philippians 2:5-8.

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The Lord is near all who cry out to Him, all who cry out to Him in truth. **Psalm 145:18**

For He has said, "I will never leave you and I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" **Hebrews 13:5b-6**

The Lord is indeed going before you – He will be with you; He will not fail you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged! **Deuteronomy 31:8**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38

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“everywhere present.” The literal meaning, however, does not really capture what the doctrine of God’s Omnipresence entails. A better way to explain it is, “everywhere is in God’s presence.” This is because God is not in someone’s cupboard, or inside someone ear, or in the back of a pickup truck.

If God is present, we ask, why does He let so many horrible things happen? This is, of course, the wrong question to be asking.

A better question to ask (building on the first six treads from the last lesson) would be, “Since God is Good, All-Knowing, All-Powerful, Faithfully Loving, Gracious, and Merciful, what does that tell me about where He is as I face this situation that has me in this Pit of Gloom?”

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The Lord who commands armies is on our side! The God of Jacob is our protector! Psalm 46:7

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God desires His best will for us and for everyone else. But He never forces us to accept His best - He always leaves that up to us to decide. And that too, is love. God is not some cosmic stalker, chasing us around, forcing us to “love” Him, because that isn’t love at all, is it? In His Goodness, He cannot and will not do that.

Yet, God’s love never ends and is far greater than any human love we can imagine. He extended His love to us when we were not only ignorant of Him and His love, but when we were in open rebellion against Him. For Him to seek and to save those who were His enemies truly *is* love! Now it is up to us to love others.

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But God demonstrates His own love for us in that, while

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Romans 5:8

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by His life?

Romans 5:10

*For this is the way God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16***

*By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent His one and only Son into the world so that we may live through Him. **1 John 4:9***

*In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10***

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But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

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*If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should boast that they understand and know me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, the Lord, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the earth and that I desire people to do these things," says the Lord. **Jeremiah 9:24***

7. GOD'S PRESENCE

There is so much that happens in life that we don't understand, don't want to have to face, that we think is unfair, or that seems too difficult and overwhelming.

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He is the one who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, who delivers your life from the Pit, who crowns you with His loyal love and compassion, who satisfies your life with good things, so your youth is renewed like an eagle's. Psalm 103:3-5

And the Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass before your face, and I will proclaim the Lord by name before you; I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." Exodus 33:19

However, due to your abundant mercy You did not do away with them altogether; You did not abandon them. For You are a merciful and compassionate God.

Nehemiah 9:31

The Lord has heard my appeal for mercy; the Lord has accepted my prayer. Psalm 6:9

5. GOD'S GRACE

Grace is the undeserved kindness, support, and help God extends to all - especially His Children. Apart from God's grace, no one would stand a chance. But as it applies to those who are His by surrender to Christ, His Grace is an active and powerful force in our lives. Whenever we do not receive the punishment that we deserve for our willfulness and sin, THAT is "grace."

There is an old acronym that can be helpful to keep in mind: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. It is because of His grace that He asked Jesus to die in our place; it is because of His grace that Christ said, "Yes;" it is because of His grace that we have any hope at all, let alone a great hope.

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John 1:14

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23-24

For we have all received from His fullness one gracious gift after another. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17

Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory. Romans 5:1-2

And, after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 1 Peter 5:10

But He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." So then, I will

only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.

John 1:14

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23-24

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boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

6. GOD'S MERCY

Mercy means that God, in His Grace, instead of giving us what we do deserve - an immediate outpouring of His wrath on each and every sinner for each and every sin - in His Mercy, is patient and long-suffering, not wanting anyone to perish, but wanting instead for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Again, He will not force us, but He delays His punishment for our sins, giving us every possible opportunity to willingly turn from our sin and back to Him. If we do, Christ has taken our punishment in our place, and we will never have to bear it.

It is in God's Mercy that His forgiveness is found. While we are undeserving of any good thing, He created us worthy of His Love, His Grace, and His Mercy (Lesson One). It is through His Son Jesus that these have been bought for and made available to us

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