



THE TREASURE OF
PEACE

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THE TREASURE OF
PEACE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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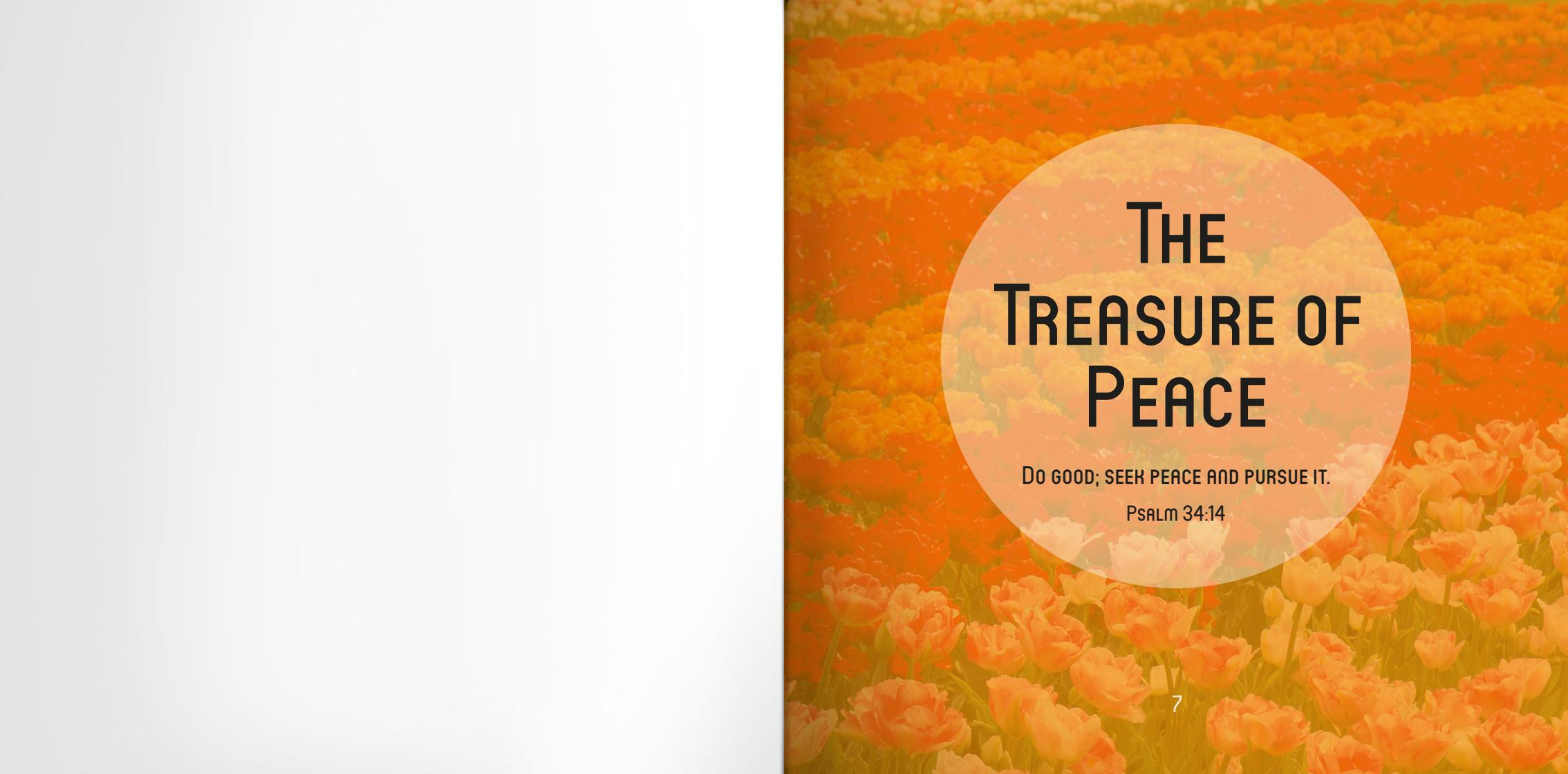
FOREWORD

Modern technology has brought incredible advances to mankind. It would be unfair to assert that our lives have not been improved in countless ways. Nevertheless, within this whirlwind of progress, industrialization, and development, we are losing that noble, almost imperceptible, essence that we had often taken for granted. We are becoming estranged from one of the essentials elements of happiness—peace.

How often we wish for a few crumbs, scraps of peace in our frenzied, uncertain, fast-paced world, filled with tensions between our nations, within our borders, our cities, our neighborhoods, our families, and even our own souls. We cry out “Peace!” but it seems to evade us. We search for it frantically, but it is elusive. Often we search in all the wrong places. And our very lack of peace brings on even more tribulation.

Is it possible to once again find peace in this turbulent modern world? Beyond the shadow of a doubt! We have little hope *within* the framework of today’s realities, but if we go *beyond* this reality, it is possible to find a peace that is impervious to tribulations. Peace that is greater than our human reasoning and is not dependent on external conditions. God is greater than all circumstances and is capable of changing them around to work for our benefit. He can intervene in our lives and give us the solutions that we are looking for. God’s power is so strong that He can transform a tragedy into a triumph. The God of peace can give us the peace that we long for. It is entirely within our reach, if we ask Him. God can shine His peace into our being, enabling us to reflect His light to others who, like us, clamor for tranquility.

As Nehru said, “Peace is brought about by a serenity of soul.” Our prayer is that the writings, stories, quotes, and poems in this book will draw you closer to the great treasure that is peace.



THE TREASURE OF PEACE

DO GOOD; SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

PSALM 34:14



DEAR restless heart, be still,
For peace is God's own smile,
His love can every wrong and sorrow reconcile;
Just love, and love, and love,
And calmly wait awhile.

Edith Linn

WE shall find peace. We shall hear angels. We
shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds.

Anton Chekhov

FIRST, keep peace with yourself, then you can
also bring peace to others.

Thomas à Kempis

WHERE peace is, God is.

Spanish saying

IF you yourself are at peace, then there is at
least some peace in the world.

Thomas Merton

ALL works of love are works of peace. Peace
begins with a smile.

Mother Teresa

WE look forward to the time when the power
of love will replace the love of power. Then
will our world know the blessings of peace.

William Gladstone

THE meek shall inherit the earth, and shall
delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalms 37:11 NKJV

THE followers of Jesus have been called to
peace. When He called them, they found their
peace, for He is their peace. But now they are
told that they must not only have peace, but
make it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

OUR daily lives can easily become filled with
stress, pressure, and confusion. But we can stop
at any moment and slip away into the presence
of God's Spirit through prayer and meditation,
and there find peace and refreshing.

Mottos for Success

IF we have not quiet in our minds, outward
comfort will do no more for us than a golden
slipper on a gouty foot.

John Bunyan

PEACE comes not from the absence of
trouble, but from the presence of God.

Author unknown

SAFE in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast.
Here no fears alarm me,
Here can my soul find rest.

Fanny Crosby

WHEN we put our worries in
God's hands, He puts peace in
our hearts.

Author unknown

GOD is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth give way and
the mountains fall into the heart
of the sea, though its waters roar
and foam and the mountains
quake with their surging.

Psalms 46:1–3 NIV

THERE is no need to be nervously
pacing the deck of life's ship when
the Great Pilot is at the helm.

Author unknown

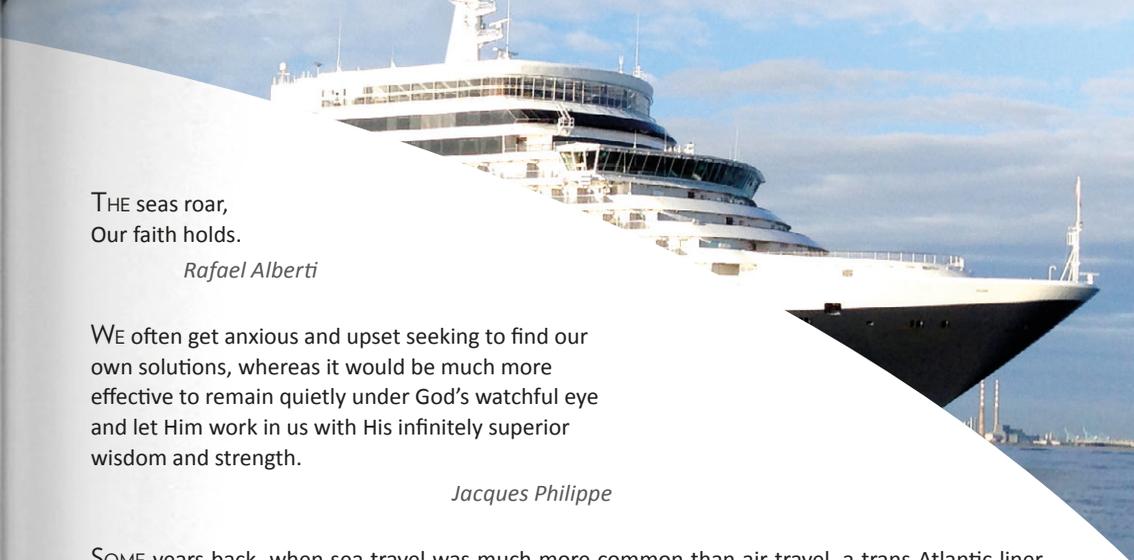
IN the Bible, the word *peace* means much more than the absence of conflict. It carries with it the connotation of health and well-being. In the Old Testament, two Hebrew words, *shalom* (peace) and *shalem* (health or full), contained this concept of the word. Peace included inner (spiritual, emotional) peace, health, abundance, harmony with life on every level, even when life's problems seem to snuff out any kind of peace.

In the New Testament, the word *eirene* in the original Greek means *peace*, both figurative and literal, and it is used over 100 times. For example, the expression "go in peace" in James 2:16¹ means *stay warm and eat well*. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus said to His disciples: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."²

As in the Old Testament, peace means much more than the mere *absence of conflict* in society. It means a very real inner sense of well-being that originates with God and is given as a precious commodity to each of us who receive the *Prince of Peace*, Jesus, without whom there simply is no peace. This means peace for you personally, both in your personal life and in your relations with others. The peace of God which passes all understanding is very real and practical. You can receive it today; there's no need to wait for man's fragile ephemeral peace.

Activated

1. NIV
2. John 14:27 NKJV



THE seas roar,
Our faith holds.

Rafael Alberti

WE often get anxious and upset seeking to find our own solutions, whereas it would be much more effective to remain quietly under God's watchful eye and let Him work in us with His infinitely superior wisdom and strength.

Jacques Philippe

SOME years back, when sea travel was much more common than air travel, a trans-Atlantic liner was caught in a storm. The wind had been raging for two days already, and the passengers were frightened. At last, an anxious passenger climbed to where he could see the pilot. Returning to his fellow-passengers, he spread glad tidings. "We're all right!" he said. "The ship will make port. I have seen the pilot, and he is smiling." With the great Pilot directing our life, we can smile on through every storm and, smiling, be at peace.

Author unknown

TWO painters were commissioned to illustrate the concept of peace. The first chose for his scene a still, lone lake among far-off mountains. The second drew on his canvas a thundering waterfall, with a fragile birch tree bending over the foam; at the fork of a branch, wet with the cataract's spray, a robin sat in its nest, cheerfully singing. You can have peace in the midst of a storm. Peace is not real peace until it has withstood the storms of adversity.

Author unknown

ALL the peace and favor of the world cannot calm a troubled heart; but where this peace is which Christ gives, all the trouble and disquiet of the world cannot disturb it.

Robert Leighton

DEEP peace of the running waves to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,
Moon and stars always giving light to you,
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace, to you.

Traditional Gaelic blessing

WILLIAM Wadsworth Longfellow, one of America's most-loved poets, wrote the moving Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," as words that flowed from a wounded heart. It was written on Christmas Day, 1864, as the American Civil War was ending.

His wife, Fanny, had died a few years before in an accidental fire. Longfellow had also been burned trying to save her. His 17-year-old son, Charlie, had enlisted in the Union Army without his father's knowledge. Though he eventually gave his permission, it was with a heavy heart that he later had to retrieve his son from the army hospital, wounded in the back and having missed paralysis by only an inch.

As King David of old often poured out his heart in the Psalms—ending with a proclamation of faith in God's goodness and care—Wordsworth does the same, proclaiming the words of the angels' chorus in Luke chapter 2, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The Editors

I HEARD the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men! ...

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow





I OFFER you faith in place of fear, hope in place of doubt, joy in place of sorrow, and peace in the midst of a world that is tumbling down around you. I offer you a love that will never fail you. I offer you peace that knows no boundaries; that is not limited by race, religion, or nation; that is not repressed by force of arms. My love and peace are for now and forever.

Even when there is destruction all around you, you don't need to fear. If you have My love in your heart, then no matter what happens, I will take care of you. No matter how dark the night, My light will shine.

You can talk to Me any way you want—out loud, in a whisper, or even in your heart and mind. Won't you give Me a try? Simply say: "Please, dear God of heaven, if there is peace to be found, I want it. I am weak and weary and frightened. Please help me! Take away my fear. Give me Your peace that no one and no war can take away. Fill me with Your love. Help me to learn how to talk to You and to listen, so You can guide me through this darkness."

It's that simple! That's all you have to do, and I will give you peace in your heart that never fades, a love that will cast out your fear. If you will only ask Me, I will give you My gift of eternal life: a promise of a life beyond your own, full of love and peace; more wonderful than your grandest dreams. I will reserve a place for you in My heavenly kingdom, where there is no war, pain, or suffering, where evil and darkness cannot reach. It is yours for the asking.

Here is My hand; I'm reaching out to you now. Won't you take My love? I love you, and I long to give you My gift of peace.

Jesus

LET nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

Teresa of Ávila

WHOEVER listens to me will dwell safely, and
will be secure, without fear of evil.

Proverbs 1:33 NKJV

INNER PEACE

THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL
UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS
AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7 ESV



HOW can you find peace of mind and relief from discouragement? Simple. It is within My power to override the negative thoughts that drag you down, and that power is released through prayer and praise. When you turn whatever is bothering you over to Me and praise Me for taking care of it, your focus shifts from your problems to My power to solve them, and that puts your mind at ease. It's a three-step process:

First, hand your heart full of worries, problems, doubts, and fears over to Me.

Second, thank Me for taking care of them, even before you see the answers to your prayers.

Third, let the negative feelings dissolve and My peace fill your being.

Your praises will create a force field that will help shield you from further negativity. I can even give you the oomph you need to get started praising. Call out to Me in prayer, and I will answer. That's a promise!

Jesus

WHENEVER you are overcome with anxiety and discouragement, make a temple of your heart. Shut your eyes and contemplate the heavenly realms. Retreat to your inner being—where your spirit dwells—breathe deeply, and view the heavenly scenes. Inhale the peaceful air that comes from Above. Refresh your mind, take strength. Listen to the heavenly music that will clear your thoughts. Pay attention to that still small voice that whispers words of love to you. Leave your fear and turmoil and refresh your spirit with a few moments of peace in the temple of your heart where God abides.

The Editors

ACQUIRING and maintaining inner peace, which is impossible without prayer, should consequently be considered a priority for everybody. Otherwise, more often than not, we would simply be communicating our own restlessness and distress. Often, we cause ourselves to become agitated and disturbed by trying to resolve everything by ourselves, when it would be more efficacious to remain peacefully before the gaze of God.

Jacques Philippe

KEEPING God in the picture is another way of saying that we should give Him an active role in our daily lives, which we do by acknowledging His presence and power, and by asking for His counsel and help in matters big and small.

Keeping God in the picture enables us to survive life's tribulations with our faith and peace of heart and mind intact. Take the way of peace: Praying for the day ahead when you wake; pausing to pray when things get hectic or a decision or problem arises; taking a few minutes for quiet reflection in the evening—these are all ideal times to find peace in God's presence.

Abi May

DO not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds.

Philippians 4:6–7 NIV

THE fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ...

Galatians 5:22

YOU keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

THE Lord will bless his people with peace.

Psalms 29:11

LET Me lead your thoughts to a quiet place, to a place of peace and meditation. Think about My love. Think about the many times that I've shown My love to you through others—through a friend, a loved one, a workmate, a child, or even a stranger that crossed your path. Think about the ways that you've felt My love manifested through a happy unexpected moment, the answer to a prayer, a heart's desire granted, a moment of tranquility.

In this time of quiet meditation, reflect on these things that perhaps you had not recognized as a touch of My love. Take heart and be touched and encouraged.

Jesus

MEDITATE on My strength and power, how I am God above all. And then think about how I care for you, how your times are in My hands, and how I have a perfect and wonderful plan for your life. Think about how there is no need to carry your burdens on your own, or to be in such a spirit of hurry.

I was here before you ever got to earth, and I'll still be here when you leave. I have a far-reaching plan that stretches beyond the bounds of eternity, and I am well able to take care of My creation, My work, My plan, and you as well.

Jesus

WHEN someone opens his inner being to God in faith and prayer; when he feels that his solitude has been inundated by His divine presence; when he realizes that his utter despair and loss has been eradicated by the power and richness of God; when someone experiences fully how this Lord, who satisfies and stabilizes, is all-powerful and at the same time is gentle; and that his Father loves him, embraces him, abides in him, and accompanies him ... then, tell me this, what is he afraid of?

Ignacio Larrañaga

I PRAYED for peace, and dreamed of restless ease,
A slumber drugged from pain, a hushed repose.
Above my head the skies were black with storm,
And fiercer grew the onslaught of my foes.
But while the battle raged and wild winds blew,
I heard His voice, and perfect peace I knew.

Annie Johnson Flint

PEACE I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 14:27; 16:33

WHAT lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE soul that gives itself wholly and without reserve to God is filled with His own peace; and the closer we draw to our God, so much the stronger and more steadfast and tranquil shall we become.

Jean Nicolas Grou

THINK about Me, just Me, and everything else will fade. When you think about Me, it's impossible to frown. When you think about Me, I bring love to your heart, and you will always smile. When you think about Me, a peace will always surround you. The secret is thinking about Me. The ultimate peace is found in thinking about Me. When you think about Me, no other thoughts can inhabit your mind or haunt or taunt you at the same time. When you think about Me, angels surround you. When you think about Me, My mind can possess you. When you think about Me, you bring heaven to earth; you fill your earthly mind with heaven itself.

Jesus

In NATURE

**YE SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY, AND BE LED
FORTH WITH PEACE: THE MOUNTAINS AND THE
HILLS SHALL BREAK FORTH BEFORE YOU INTO
SINGING, AND ALL THE TREES OF THE FIELD
SHALL CLAP THEIR HANDS.**

ISAIAH 55:12

NATURE is the art of God.

Dante Alighieri

THE little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday,
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play,
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what might pass
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the rustling of the corn
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born
—Out in the fields with God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

IF the daily grind becomes unbearable and you are breaking under the tensions and the loads, take a pause and learn to find pleasure in the marvels of My creation and the works of My hands.

Take a stroll in the park and observe the trees; watch the figures that I draw in the clouds; let your eyes rest on the still waters in the pond; let your ears find delight in the melodies of the birds; let the breeze caress your face and the wind blow your hair; enjoy the hues of color displayed in the garden flowers; lose your gaze in the distance between the mountains or on the far-off horizon.

All this and much more will bring peace to your troubled spirit. Remember that I created all this for you. I made this world and its marvels for your enjoyment, and to bring tranquility and peace to your soul.

All of My creation is a gift of peace for you.

Jesus

NATURE is too thin a screen; the glory of the omnipresent God bursts through everywhere.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

NEVER pass by the opportunity to enjoy something beautiful. Beauty is God's trademark.

Author unknown

GOD writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

Martin Luther

THE earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Psalms 33:5

THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalms 23

I LOVE to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.

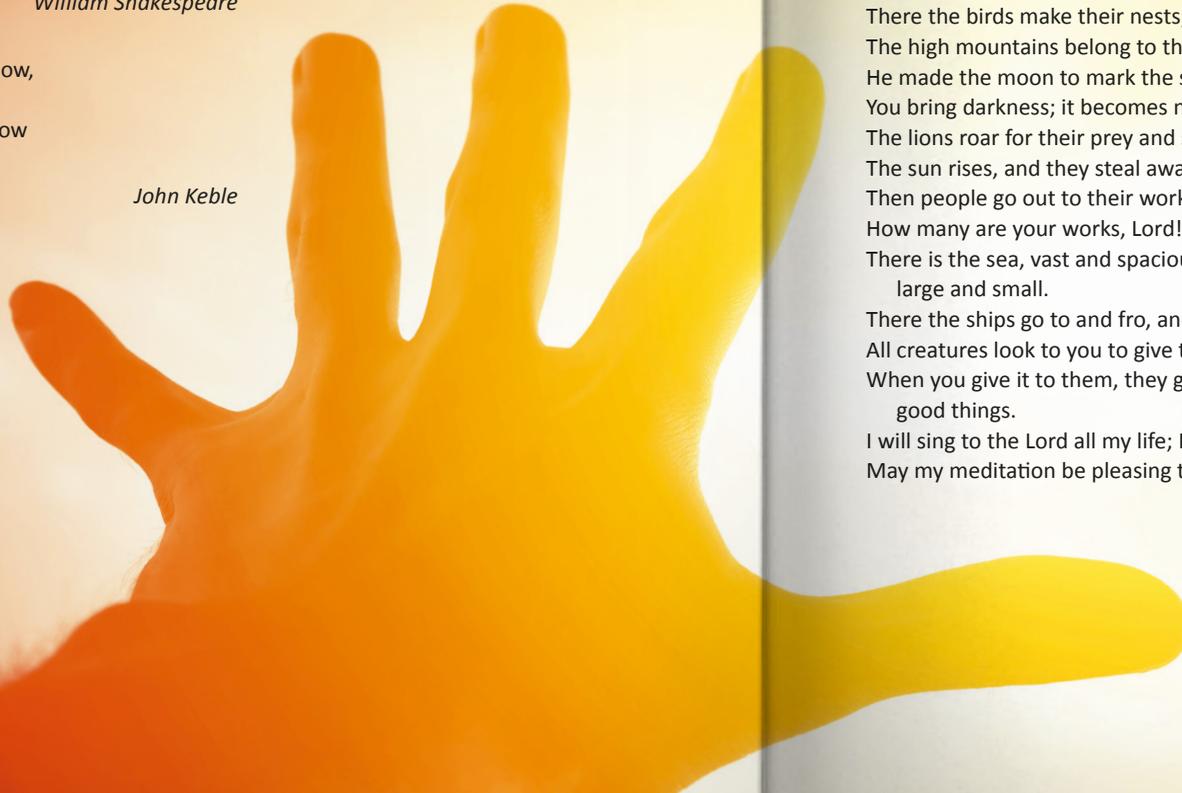
George Washington Carver

AND this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

William Shakespeare

THE works of God above, below,
Within us and around,
Are pages in that book, to show
How God himself is found.

John Keble



HE makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.
They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.
He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.
He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth:
wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine and bread that sustains their hearts.
The trees of the Lord are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers.
The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.
He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.
You bring darkness; it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.
The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.
Then people go out to their work, to their labor until evening.
How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small.
There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.
When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.
I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.

Psalm 104:10–28,33–34 NIV

GO outside, preferably to a natural setting. Take long, deep breaths. Imagine that you are inhaling God's energy, light, love, and peace. Then exhale slowly and imagine that you are expelling stress, worries, negative feelings, or whatever may be troubling you. Look around at God's creation, and continue to breathe deeply as you think about His infinite love and care. Turn your worries and concerns over to Him, and thank Him in advance for working everything out.

Abi May

THE best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature, and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

Anne Frank

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Davies

HOW brief is our span of life compared with the time since You created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of Your universe. How trivial are our concerns compared with the complexity of Your universe. How stupid we are compared with the genius of Your creation.

Yet during every minute and every second of our lives You are present, within and around us. You give Your attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are Your concerns. And You are infinitely patient with our stupidity. I thank You with all my heart, knowing that my thanks are as nothing compared to Your greatness.

Fulbert of Chartres

THE wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:6–7,9 NIV

THE Bible is best read and understood outdoors. Passages that within walls seem improbable or incredible, outdoors seem merely natural. That is because outdoors we are confronted everywhere with wonders; we see that the miraculous is not extraordinary, but the common mode of existence. It is our daily bread. Whoever really has considered the lilies of the field or the birds of the air, and pondered the improbability of their existence in this warm world within the cold and empty stellar distances, will hardly balk at the turning of water into wine—which was, after all, a very small miracle. We forget the greater and still-continuing miracle by which water (with soil and sunlight) is turned into grapes.

Wendell Berry

○ Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him?

Psalm 8:1,3–4

TIME can seem to stand still while out in nature—at least until my kids excitedly holler, “Ladybug!” or “Spider!” But even such sudden alerts are okay, because just a few minutes of peace is usually all I need to clear my head. When Jesus said that unless you become as little children you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven, maybe He wasn’t just talking about heaven to come, but also about the peace and little bit of heaven we experience in our hearts here and now when we put our cares aside, quiet our minds and spirits, and tune in to His voice speaking to us through creation.

Children seem to do that naturally. They’re not worried about work that needs to get done, or the bills that need to be paid; they’re simply full of energy and excited about life, and happy to have a big guy along to watch out for them and take snapshots of their activities. How much more should we have peace, knowing that we have the ultimate Big Guy looking out for us and, I’m sure, taking snapshots of our lives too?

Jay Phillips

THE PEACEMAKERS

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS: FOR THEY
SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD.**

MATTHEW 5:9

LOVE as thought is *truth*.
Love as action is *right conduct*.
Love as understanding is *peace*.
Love as feeling is *non-violence*.

Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

PEACEMAKING is a healing process,
and it begins with me, but it does not
end there.

Gene Knudsen Hoffman

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

Lao Tzu

IF you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work
with your enemy; then he becomes your partner.

Nelson Mandela

WE who work for peace must not falter. We must continue to
pray for peace and to act for peace in whatever way we can,
we must continue to speak for peace and to live the way of
peace; to inspire others, we must continue to think of peace
and to know that peace is possible.

Peace Pilgrim

ALL men desire peace, but very few desire those things that
make for peace.

Thomas à Kempis

THERE are times when no amount of willpower can overcome deep-seated and long-term
resentment or hatred. So how can prejudice, fear, and distrust be overcome when we have
them ingrained in our hearts and minds? The answer is summed up in one word: love.

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”¹ If you hate somebody, your interactions
with them are likely to breed disagreement and conflict. But if you truly love them, even
if they have wronged you, it’s possible to look beyond their faults and accept and forgive
them. The way we can love our neighbors and do our part to bring peace to the world is
to ask the Prince of Peace, Jesus,² to give us the love we need for others. The supernatural
love of God is what brings genuine peace, unity, and mutual respect between us.

Michael Roy

1. Proverbs 10:12 NKJV

2. See Isaiah 9:6.

IT is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Proverbs 20:3 NIV

IF we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace.

Thich Nhat Hanh

A HOT-TEMPERED person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

Proverbs 15:18 NIV

STARTING a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

Proverbs 17:14 NIV

LIVE in harmony with one another. ... Do not repay anyone evil for evil. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:16–18,21 NIV

LET us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 14:19

THE peace of God passes all understanding and misunderstanding.

Author unknown

PEACE is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely an absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.

Jawaharlal Nehru

THE inner peace that emanates from the Gospel not only frees us from ourselves, but makes us more sensitive towards others and more apt to help our fellowman.

Jacques Philippe

PEACE is not made at the council tables, or by treaties, but in the hearts of men.

Herbert Hoover

YOU can only have peace if you make peace.

Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

TO be at peace with yourself is the most sure way to be at peace with others.

Luis de León

FAITH AND TRUST

HE IS A SHIELD UNTO THEM THAT PUT
THEIR TRUST IN HIM.

PROVERBS 30:5

WHY should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Civilla Martin



ARE not two sparrows sold for a
copper coin? And not one of them
falls to the ground apart from your
Father's will. But the very hairs
of your head are all numbered.
Do not fear therefore; you are of
more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31 NKJV

I'm only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree;
My life is of little value,
But the dear Lord cares for me.

I know there are many sparrows,
All over the world they are found;
But our heavenly Father knoweth
When one of us falls to the ground.

Though small, we are never forgotten;
Though weak we are never afraid;
For we know that the dear Lord keepeth
The life of the creatures He made.

I just fold my wings at nightfall,
Wherever I happen to be;
For the Father is always watching,
And no harm can happen to me.

Author unknown

You say, "It's impossible."

God says, "All things are possible with Me" (Luke 18:27).

You say, "I'm so tired."

God says, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28–30).

You say, "Nobody really loves me."

God says, "I love you" (John 3:16 and 13:34).

You say, "I can't go on."

God says, "My grace is sufficient and I will always be there to help you" (2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15).

You say, "I can't figure things out."

God says, "I will direct your steps" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

You say, "I can't do it."

God says, "You can do all things through My strength" (Philippians 4:13).

You say, "I'm not able."

God says, "I am able" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

You say, "It's not worth it."

God says, "It will be worth it" (Romans 8:18).

You say, "I can't forgive myself."

God says, "I forgive you" (1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1).

You say, "I can't manage."

God says, "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

You say, "I'm afraid."

God says, "Be not afraid, for I am with you" (Jeremiah 42:11).

You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated."

God says, "Cast all your cares on Me" (1 Peter 5:7).

You say, "I don't have enough faith."

God says, "I've given everyone a measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

You say, "I'm not smart enough."

God says, "I give you wisdom" (James 1:5 and 1 Corinthians 1:30).

You say, "I feel all alone."

God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Activated

BEING confident in how much Jesus loves you won't just make you happier; it will be a stabilizing force in your life. When you are assured of His love for you, when you are aware that He is intimately concerned about your welfare and happiness, then that knowledge will give you peace in your heart and steady you, even when you face disappointments, heartbreaks, difficulties, or anything else that life sends your way.

His love is the only thing in the world that is absolutely perfect and unailing. There are a lot of things that are nice, beautiful, and wonderful, but nothing is perfect like His love. He is perfect, and so is His love. It's durable, dependable, and forever!

Maria Fontaine

BE Lord...
within me to strengthen me;
without me to preserve me;
over me to shelter me;
beneath me to support me;
before me to direct me;
behind me to bring me back;
around me to fortify me.

Lancelot Andrews

HAVE you ever come across a construction site where the workers were laboriously laying a tile floor—one of those mosaic floors with thousands of tiny tiles that create a picture when finished? While it's being put in place, the picture isn't clearly visible because the workers use grout to fill the spaces between the tiles, and the grout leaves a heavy gray film over their work that hides the beauty of what they've done. But then, once the grout between the tiles is dry, the film is washed off and the picture is revealed.

That's similar to how God works in our lives. In His infinite wisdom and all-encompassing love, He understands exactly what we need and goes to great lengths, with intricate detail, to provide those things.

Often He uses the troubles of life, such as economic difficulties, personal struggles, and mistakes, to work in ways we aren't expecting. We don't always realize how He's preparing us, or understand why He has allowed something "gray" to cloud our lives, like the grout on the mosaic as it is being fashioned. But that only makes His loving and attentive care all the more profound and beautiful when it's finally revealed.

Maria Fontaine

FEAR NOT

BE QUIET; FEAR NOT, NEITHER BE
FAINTHEARTED.

ISAIAH 7:4

A POOR woman city complained to the sultan that while she slept all her possessions had been stolen by thieves. "Wherefore did you sleep?" asked the sultan.

"My lord," was the response, "I slept because I thought *you* were ever awake."

The sultan, pleased with her simple faith in his care of his people, restored to her more than she had lost. How calmly may one with faith both lie down and sleep, knowing that his God is ever guarding him, for He slumbers not, neither is He weary of watching.

Middle Eastern legend

HE who watches over you will not slumber. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life.

Psalm 121:3,7 NIV

WHEN thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Proverbs 3:24

IN peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8 NIV

THE only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Franklin Roosevelt

TO him who is in fear, everything rustles.

Sophocles

THE enemy is fear. We think it is hate, but it is fear.

Gandhi

FEAR: False Evidence Appearing Real.

Author unknown

DO not let your fears choose your destiny.

Author unknown

WHERE fear is, happiness is not.

Seneca

COURAGE is fear that has said its prayers.

Dorothy Bernard

WHEN your fears grow mountain high
And would block your pathway,
Wait, oh wait upon the Lord,
Believing while you pray.

Then your eagle wings will grow,
Upward, upward, up you'll go
Over, over, with the mountains far below.

Robert Hughes

THIS planet has become a frightening and stressful place to live. Sometimes you wish you could find a hideaway, nail the windows and doors closed, and keep the world out.

It doesn't do any good to pretend the problems aren't there, but you don't have to be afraid, because I'm looking out for you. When fears overwhelm you, hide away in Me. When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, call on Me for help and then rest assured that I will be there to protect you. When you can't watch over your loved ones, commit them to My care. When a national or international crisis erupts, I will provide a safe haven for you and yours.

And even if the unthinkable happens—if you or your loved ones are taken from this life—know that a better life awaits on the other side. Heaven is where all this world's wrongs are made right.

So you see, although there's plenty you could worry about, you don't have to worry about a thing. I'm taking care of you.

Jesus



VASCO de Gama, the famous Portuguese navigator and explorer, was on his last transatlantic voyage when he was surprised by a violent sea storm. When panic overtook his crew he reassured them with a bellowing roar, "Be not afraid, ye Portuguese! It is the sea that is trembling in fear before us!"

The Editors

THE brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Nelson Mandela

WHOEVER dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord,
"He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command His angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

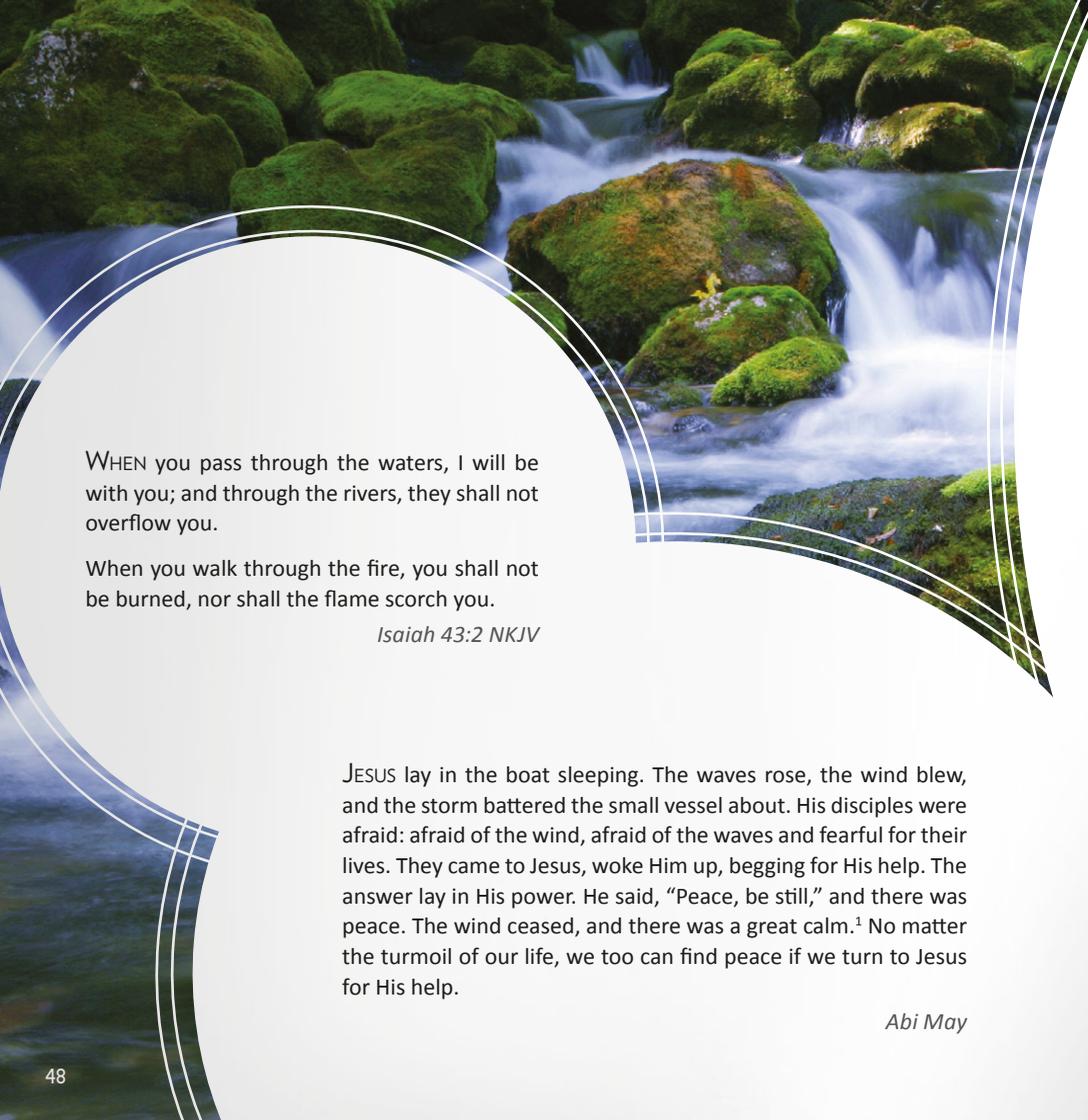
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord,
"I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Psalms 91 NIV



WHEN you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

Isaiah 43:2 NKJV

JESUS lay in the boat sleeping. The waves rose, the wind blew, and the storm battered the small vessel about. His disciples were afraid: afraid of the wind, afraid of the waves and fearful for their lives. They came to Jesus, woke Him up, begging for His help. The answer lay in His power. He said, "Peace, be still," and there was peace. The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.¹ No matter the turmoil of our life, we too can find peace if we turn to Jesus for His help.

Abi May

GOD offers us peace and tranquility in the midst of anxiety and tribulation: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."²

In the midst of catastrophes, God can be our refuge: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."³

And when we are exhausted, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."⁴

The Editors

EVERYONE who loves God has omnipotence as his guardian, and God will sooner empty heaven of angels than leave His child without defense.

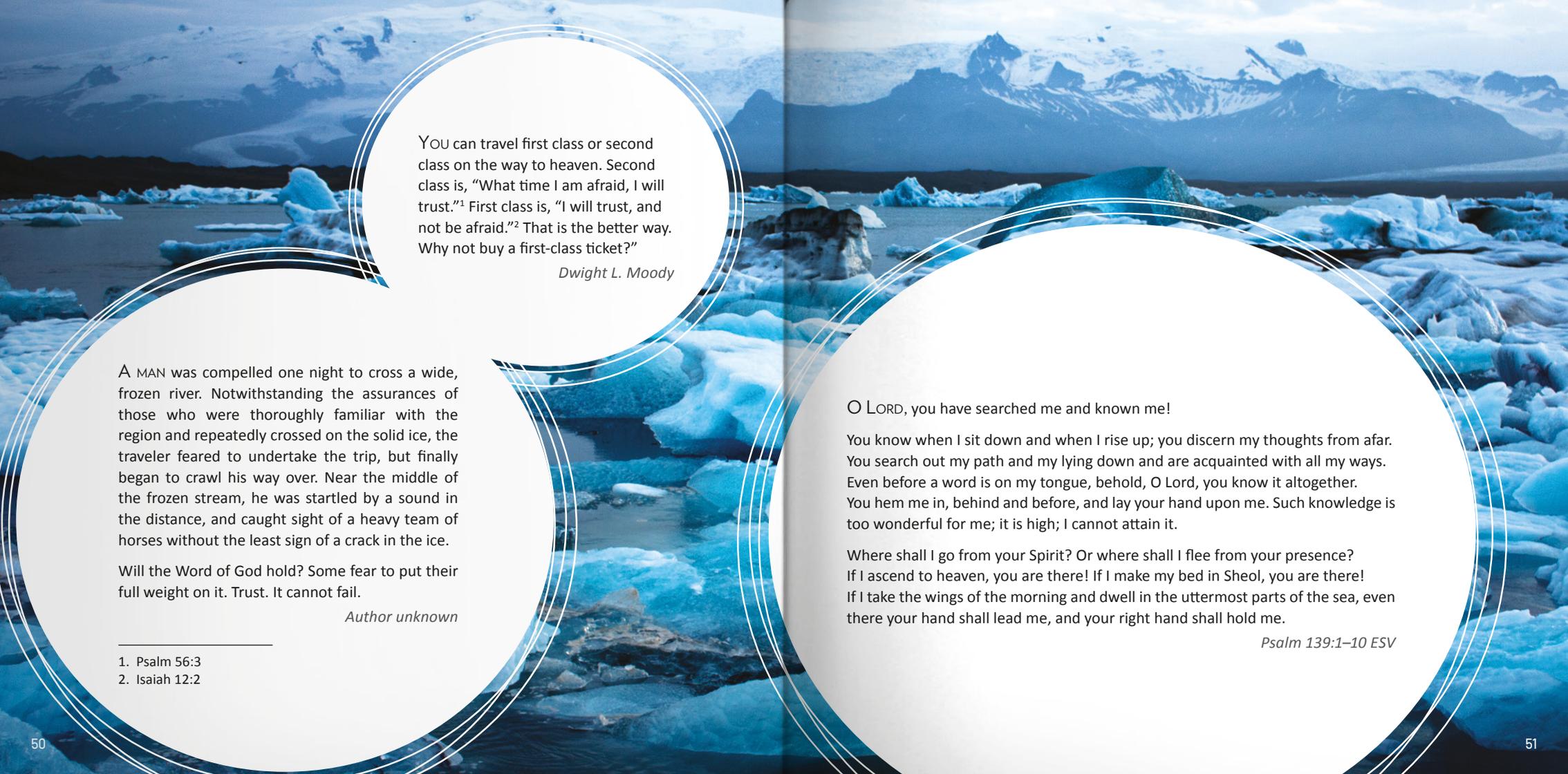
Author unknown

THEY heard, I say, strokes falling with a measured beat, and a certain rattling of iron and chains that, together with the furious din of the water, would have struck terror into any heart but Don Quixote's. The night was, as has been said, dark, and they had happened to reach a spot in among some tall trees, whose leaves stirred by a gentle breeze made a low ominous sound; so that, what with the solitude, the place, the darkness, the noise of the water, and the rustling of the leaves, everything inspired awe and dread; more especially as they perceived that the strokes did not cease, nor the wind lull, nor morning approach; to all which might be added their ignorance as to where they were.

But Don Quixote, supported by his intrepid heart, leaped on Rocinante, and bracing his buckler on his arm, brought his pike to the slope, and said, "Friend Sancho, know that I by heaven's will have been born in this our iron age to revive in it the age of gold, or the golden as it is called; I am he for whom perils, mighty achievements, and valiant deeds are reserved."

Miguel de Cervantes

1. See Mark 4:35–41. 3. Psalm 46:1–2
2. John 16:33 4. Hebrews 4:9



YOU can travel first class or second class on the way to heaven. Second class is, “What time I am afraid, I will trust.”¹ First class is, “I will trust, and not be afraid.”² That is the better way. Why not buy a first-class ticket?”

Dwight L. Moody

A MAN was compelled one night to cross a wide, frozen river. Notwithstanding the assurances of those who were thoroughly familiar with the region and repeatedly crossed on the solid ice, the traveler feared to undertake the trip, but finally began to crawl his way over. Near the middle of the frozen stream, he was startled by a sound in the distance, and caught sight of a heavy team of horses without the least sign of a crack in the ice.

Will the Word of God hold? Some fear to put their full weight on it. Trust. It cannot fail.

Author unknown

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1. Psalm 56:3
 2. Isaiah 12:2

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:1–10 ESV

THERE are times when it takes willpower to resolve to not worry or give in to fear. It is a decision that you make in your heart and mind. You have to *make* yourself stop thinking about the worries and fears, and step into the realm of faith.

In each case where you feel overwhelmed and over-pressured, you have a choice, and the decision that you make determines whether you are strengthened and whether you put your faith to use or not.

Put Me to the test and see if I will not come through for you. I will never give you more than you can bear.

Jesus

GOD hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

HE will not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Psalms 112:7 NKJV

GEAT peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Psalms 119:165

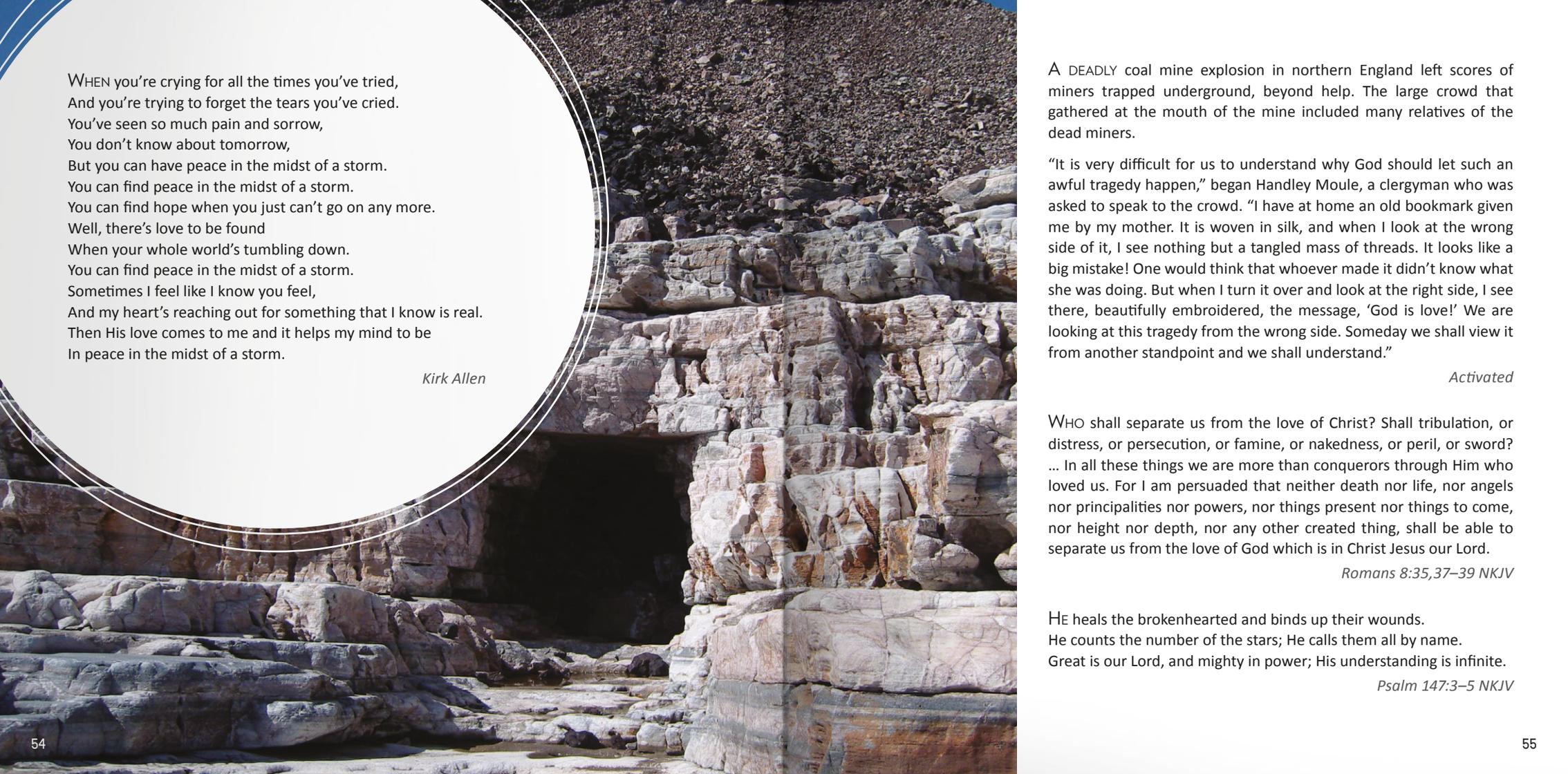
IF God has shown us bad times ahead, it's enough for me that He knows about them. That's why He sometimes shows us things, you know—to tell us that this too is in His hands.

Corrie ten Boom

COMFORT

**GOD, WHO COMFORTS THE
DOWNCAST, COMFORTED US.**

2 CORINTHIANS 7:6 NKJV



WHEN you're crying for all the times you've tried,
And you're trying to forget the tears you've cried.
You've seen so much pain and sorrow,
You don't know about tomorrow,
But you can have peace in the midst of a storm.
You can find peace in the midst of a storm.
You can find hope when you just can't go on any more.
Well, there's love to be found
When your whole world's tumbling down.
You can find peace in the midst of a storm.
Sometimes I feel like I know you feel,
And my heart's reaching out for something that I know is real.
Then His love comes to me and it helps my mind to be
In peace in the midst of a storm.

Kirk Allen

A DEADLY coal mine explosion in northern England left scores of miners trapped underground, beyond help. The large crowd that gathered at the mouth of the mine included many relatives of the dead miners.

"It is very difficult for us to understand why God should let such an awful tragedy happen," began Handley Moule, a clergyman who was asked to speak to the crowd. "I have at home an old bookmark given me by my mother. It is woven in silk, and when I look at the wrong side of it, I see nothing but a tangled mass of threads. It looks like a big mistake! One would think that whoever made it didn't know what she was doing. But when I turn it over and look at the right side, I see there, beautifully embroidered, the message, 'God is love!' We are looking at this tragedy from the wrong side. Someday we shall view it from another standpoint and we shall understand."

Activated

WHO shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35,37-39 NKJV

HE heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.
Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Psalms 147:3-5 NKJV

I CANNOT look, I cannot see,
I cannot understand.
I lay myself down helplessly
In the hollow of Your hand.
The clouds that now encompass me
And seem to block my view,
Are sent by You, unfailing Love,
To draw me close to You.
I cease from all my struggling,
I rest from all the strain.
I only live to love You, Lord,
And glorify Your name.
There is no great achievement now,
No great works done for You,
But somehow in the stillness sweet,
My spirit is renewed.
When pain has overtaken me
And human strength is gone,
Emotions cloud all over me
And days and nights are long,
I look up into Your eyes
And find strength within Your smile.
Your Spirit gently comforts me
And holds me through each trial.

Misty Kay

GOD comforts us so that we may become comforters. He doesn't comfort us with the end of relieving us from all our griefs, but rather to give us empathy with those who suffer and to be touched with the pains of others, so that we are better equipped to lend a hand and to comfort those who need us.

PRAISE be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 NIV

BLESSED are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

WHEN you dig another out of their troubles, you find a place to bury your own.

Author unknown

IF you do a good job for others, you heal yourself at the same time, because a dose of joy is a spiritual cure.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

LIFE can be rough, and it's not always easy to understand why things happen the way they do. When everything seems to be going wrong, it's natural to question My love, but it's during those very times that I want to be closer than ever to you.

Unconditional love in its purest form comes from Me. Even when you blame Me for the troubles that have befallen you, I love you and don't condemn you. Even when you question My love, I still love you and I'm not going to give up on you. I'm still going to be right there beside you when you need counsel, when you need some company, when you are desperate for a listening ear, or when you need a friend.

That love will see you through anything. It will be a light in dark places, a compass when you are lost, an anchor to hold you fast in the storm, and a warm blanket to comfort you when you are alone and cold. And it doesn't cost you anything, but is freely given by someone who loves you to the core.

Jesus

THERE are trying times when the only thing we can do is turn to Jesus and His Word for comfort. I can speak from experience. I know that in spite of the loss, in spite of the tears, in spite of the heartache, in spite of the questions, you can have peace knowing that Jesus loves you.

And He doesn't give His love stingily. He doesn't mete it out a little bit here or a little bit there as you earn it, and then get angry with you and withdraw His love if you are not good enough or make mistakes. He never turns His back. He never closes His eyes or His ears to your needs or your cries for help and comfort.

When you feel the most desperate and the situation is darkest, when you feel the most confused and hardly even know how to pray, then God will pour forth His love even more abundantly—not less! He knows you need it even more to wash away the pain and wipe away the tears and comfort your broken hearts.

Maria Fontaine



DOES Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress
And the way grows weary and long?
Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?
Does Jesus care when I've said "goodbye"
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks,
Is it aught to Him? Does He see?
Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

Frank Graeff

WHEN the whole world forgets, Jesus remembers.

Author unknown

MANY times in moments of great anguish and despair, there is nothing better than to go to our Father and rest on His bosom. Tell Him your sorrows, your concerns, your failings. Spill it all out. He always listens and is ready to hold you. A little time alone with Jesus can restore your peace and tranquility. Open your heart to Him. God is your refuge!

Trust in him at all times ... pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.¹

Times of suffering are a part of this life, but we can have the assurance that Jesus is by our side in our grief and will give us the serenity and peace that we need.

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.²

The Editors

I CAN'T promise to spare you from the storms of life, but I can promise to be with you through them. My help comes in a variety of forms. It may not always come in the form you expect, but it will come. I will never leave you to struggle on your own.

When you ask for My help, I will answer your prayer. When you are fearful, I will give you faith to trust Me, peace of mind, and courage to go on. When you are weak and weary, lean on Me and I will give you strength like you've never known. When your heart is broken, I will mend it.

I can't keep you from all hardships and sorrows, but I can make the troubles of life bearable and bring about good in the end. I can help your spirit rise above the storms of life. Above the clouds the sun is always shining. I am sunshine on a rainy day, the rainbow after the storm. The present storm will pass. In the meantime, let Me keep you through the storm.

Jesus

-
1. Psalm 62:8 ESV
 2. Hebrews 4:15 NIV

It's certainly comforting to know that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."¹ In fact, in order to come through life's trials, it is imperative that we make this promise a vital part of our life.

If we fail to constantly view our disappointments, hurts, tests, illnesses, battles, etc., through the perspective that Romans 8:28 gives us, we will tragically miss many valuable lessons God might be trying to teach us. And we will rob ourselves of the peace that comes from absolute trust in this precious promise and principle.

If you learn the simple equation, "Troubles equal good," your life will be richer, your lessons greater, your mind more tranquil, and you will more easily recognize God's hand in the events of your life. It makes all the difference in the world whether you look at a flood of problems, trials, battles, and tribulations just waiting to see the worst happen, or if you look at them with the excitement and challenge that comes from waiting to discover all the good you know the Lord will bring out of them.

Maria Fontaine

1. Romans 8:28 NKJV

On THE MORROW

THIS I CALL TO MIND, AND THEREFORE I HAVE HOPE:
THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES;
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END; THEY ARE
NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS
YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23 ESV

I DO not know
What the future holds
Of joy or pain,
Of loss or gain,
Along life's untrod way.
But I believe
I can receive
God's promised guidance
Day by day,
So I securely travel on.
And if, at times,
The journey leads
Through waters deep
Or mountains steep,
I know this unseen Friend
—His love revealing,
His presence healing—
Walks with me
To the journey's end,
So I securely travel on.

Mary Selleck

I SAID to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

Minnie Louise Haskins

THE future is as bright as the promises of God.

William Carey

WE may not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future.

Stuart Hamblen

TO wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So, too, is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. That, indeed, is a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control.

Henri Nouwen

FAITH isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future. It's simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step.

Joni Eareckson Tada



DON'T take tomorrow to bed with you.

Norman Vincent Peale

THOSE who fear the future are likely to fumble the present.

Author unknown

I AM not afraid of tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday and I love today!

William Allen White

FOLLOW the path on which I set your feet. It is a path that leads to the best life that you could possibly have. There is no greater security than is found when you invite Me to go with you day by day and involve Me choice by choice. Together, we can make more of your future than you ever could on your own. Watch as I unfold the mysterious and beautiful canvas of your life.

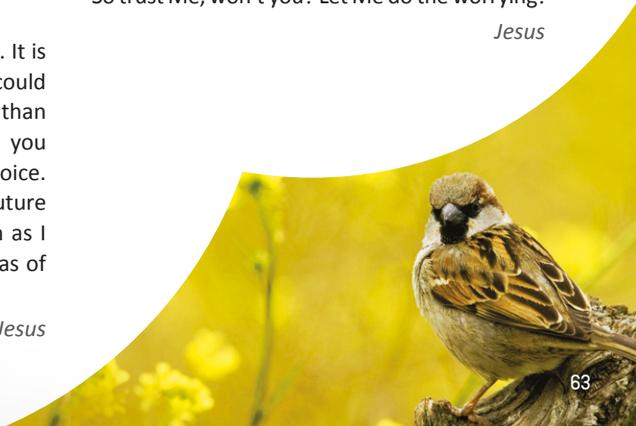
Jesus

MY eye is on the sparrow as she flutters about in search of food and a place to nest. I guide her to a resting place, and she trusts Me. She doesn't worry about what she doesn't have. She just goes about her day and trusts that I will provide her needs. How small and numerous are the sparrows, and yet I know and watch over them all. I remember and care for each one.

You, My child, are far more precious to Me than all the sparrows combined, and if I show such concern for these small and seemingly insignificant birds, will I not also care for you?

My eye is on you too, and I stand ready to help. So trust Me, won't you? Let Me do the worrying!

Jesus



THEFORE I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

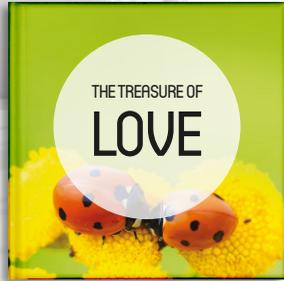
Matthew 6:25–33 ESV

AFTERWORD

Fear freezes us—faith frees us. Today more than ever, we need faith to overcome our fears, and peace to quiet our troubled souls. Knowing that God loves and cares for us gives us this security. If we put our cares in His hands, He will give us that peace we long for.

Open your heart to the Prince of Peace, Jesus, and invite Him to become a part of your life. You can do it right now with the following prayer:

Jesus, I know that through You I can find the peace that I am looking for. Please come into my heart and fill me with Your love, Your peace, and Your light. Forgive me for my wrongs, and get me started on a new life that begins now and goes on to eternity with You. Amen.



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