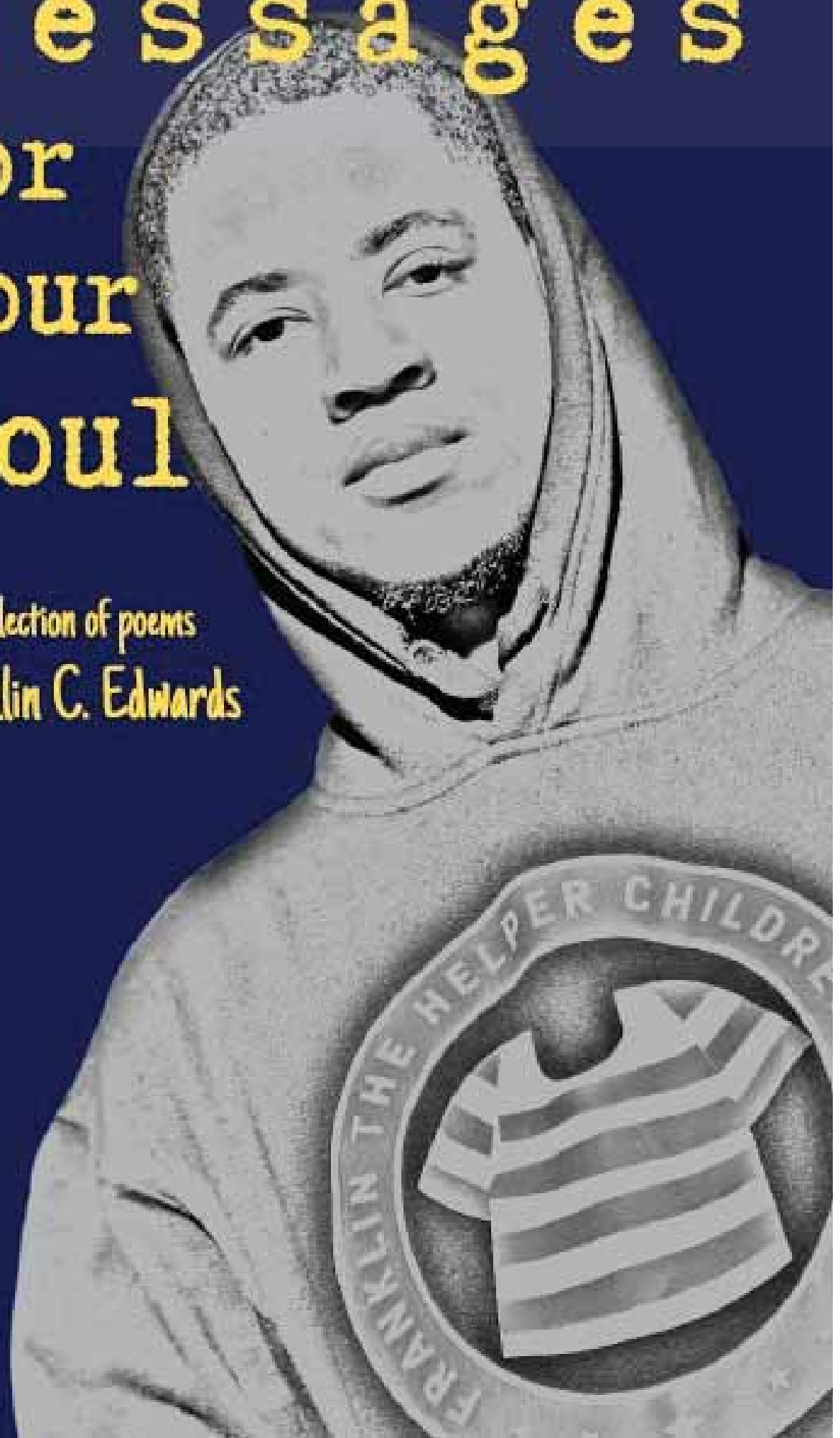


Messages for Your Soul

a collection of poems
Franklin C. Edwards



Messages for Your Soul
by
Franklin C. Edwards

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Published by:

Franklin the Helper Children's Books, LLC

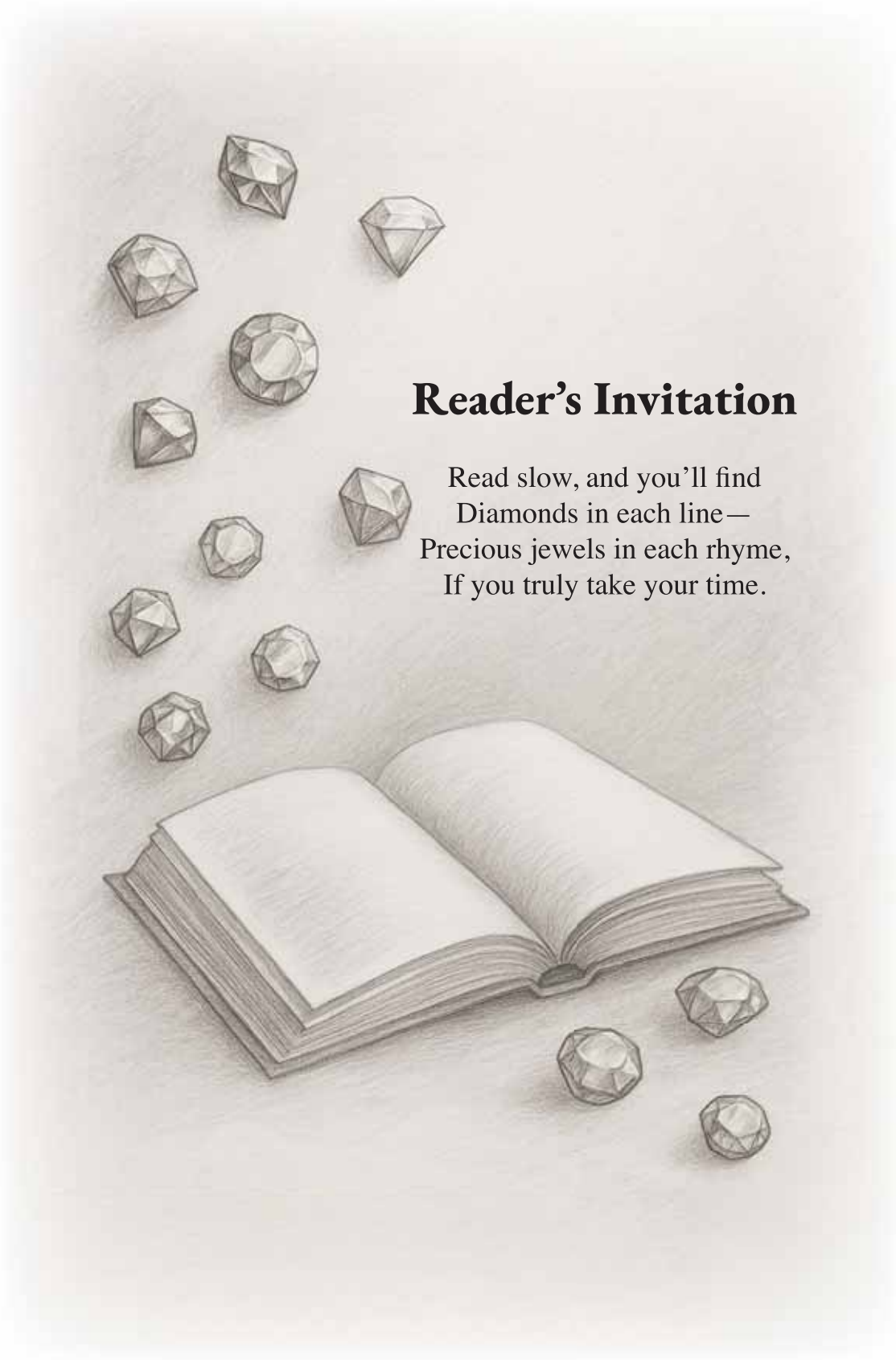
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This is a work of poetry. Any references to real people, events, or places are used fictitiously or are the product of the author's imagination.

Printed in the United States of America

First Edition, 2025



Reader's Invitation

Read slow, and you'll find
Diamonds in each line—
Precious jewels in each rhyme,
If you truly take your time.

“He restores my soul. He
leads me in paths of
righteousness for His name’s
sake.”

— Psalm 23:3 (ESV)

FRANKLIN C. EDWARDS

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**“GOD’S
everlasting
love for me
will always be
unquestionable.”**

Why Does It Even Matter

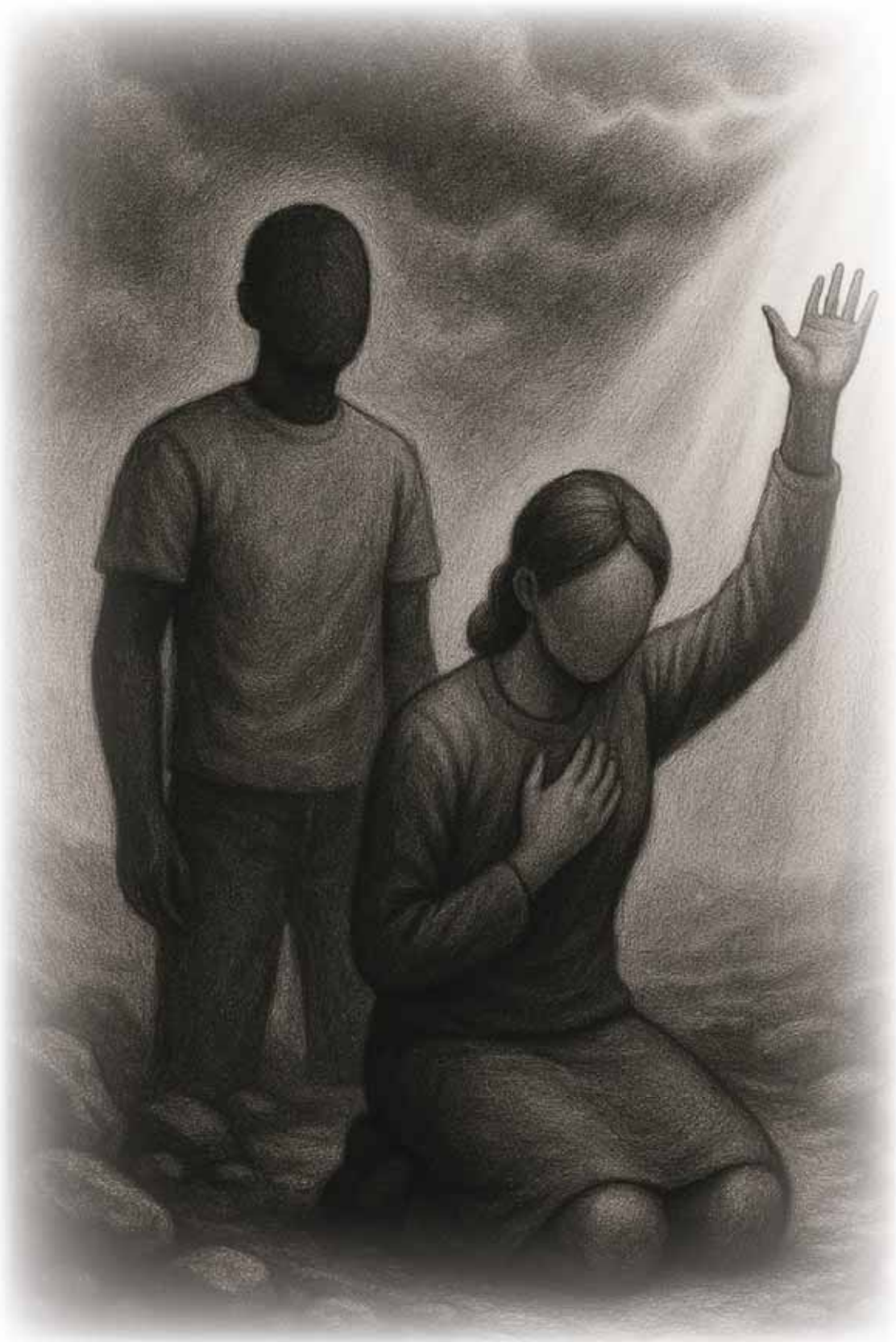
I am a sinner,
Trying to live like a saint.
Can I one day become a saint,
Or am I just trying to be something that I ain't?
I know that God loves me, and God knows that I love Him,
But I sin often, and I'll never be perfect, so now am
I supposed to win?
I try my best to do right, and I would love to be perfect,
But if it's impossible for us to be perfect, is it even really worth it?
Why am I trying to be sinless, as if sin is inevitable?
The answer is because God's forever-lasting love for you will
always be unquestionable.



Reflections: Even when we struggle with sin and imperfection, our effort to live right still matters—because God's love never fails, and His grace is always greater.

Reflection from Franklin: I've asked myself this same question: Why even try if I know I'll fall short? But the answer is simple—because God still loves me through it all. This poem is for anyone feeling discouraged in their walk with God. Keep walking. Grace is still yours.

Reflection Question: Have you been feeling like your imperfections disqualify you from God's love—and can you start believing that His love was never based on your perfection in the first place?



Hear My Cries

Hear my cries.

Hear my cries as a reminder to hang in there, even though it's hard.

I'd rather you hear my cries than look back and be emotionally scarred.

Hear my cries of motivation, discipline, and perseverance.

Remember, your biggest distractions have the prettiest appearance.

Hear my cries of hope.

Hear my cries of desperation.

Hear my cries, so when you die, they won't say, "Here lies a person who never reached their destination."

Hear my cries of fulfillment.

Hear my cries of joy.

For if you hear my cries, the fruits of your labor you will surely enjoy.

I'm not crying for help;

I'm crying because I'm depending on you.

With me being your future life, I realize that my livelihood is pending on you.

So the time I usually spend watching you make mistakes, I'm now spending on you.

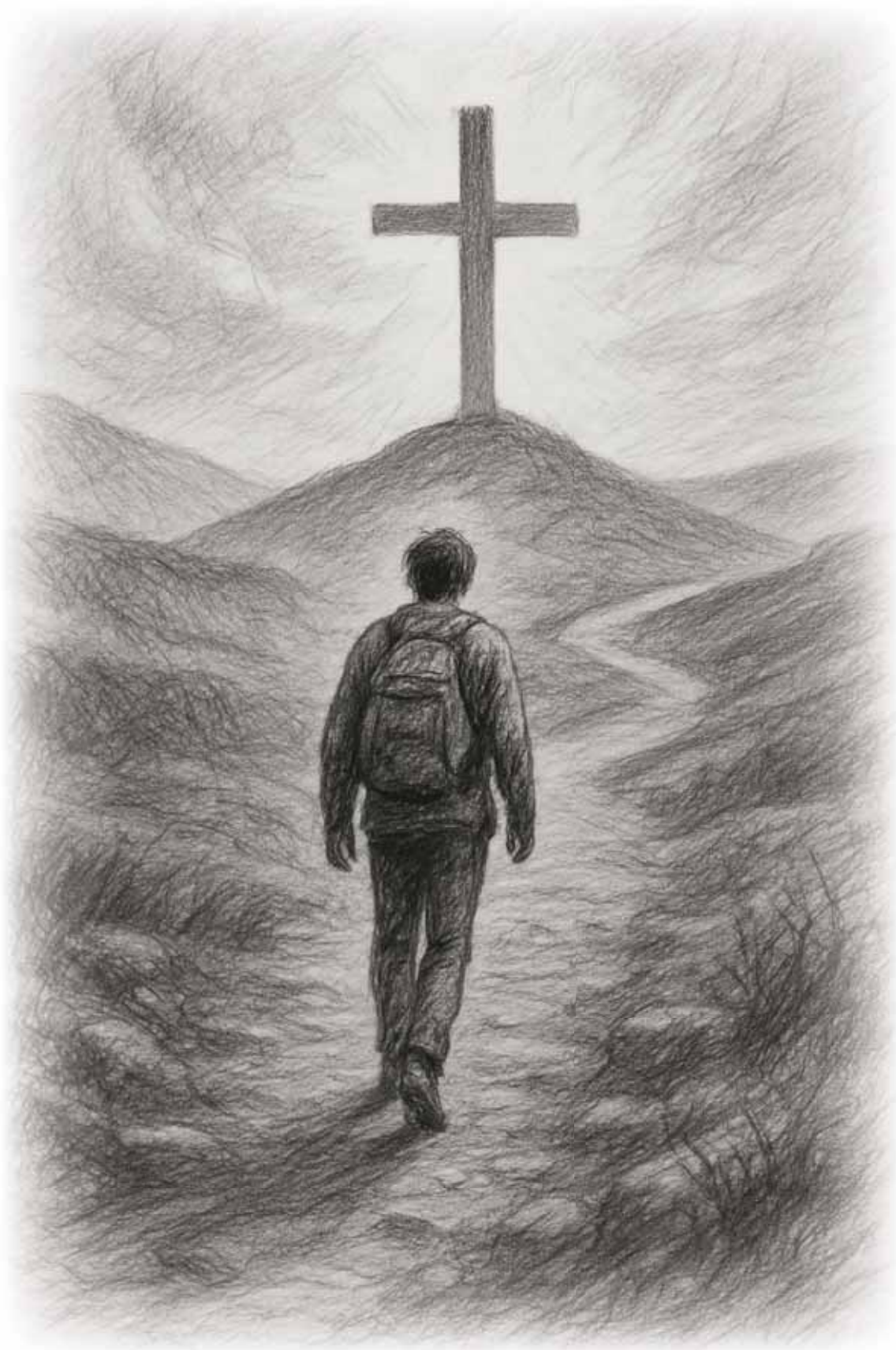
So hear my cries because you think you have a lot of time, but with each second, life is ending on you.



Reflections: Your life matters more than you realize—so take every moment seriously, because the future is depending on what you do today.

Reflection from Franklin: I wrote this as a reminder that your future self is watching. Every distraction, every delay, every decision—you're not just affecting your now, you're shaping your next. I hope you hear these cries not as weakness, but as fuel to keep going.

Reflection Question: What would your future self be pleading with you to change today—and are you willing to listen before it's too late?



Tomorrow's Never Promised

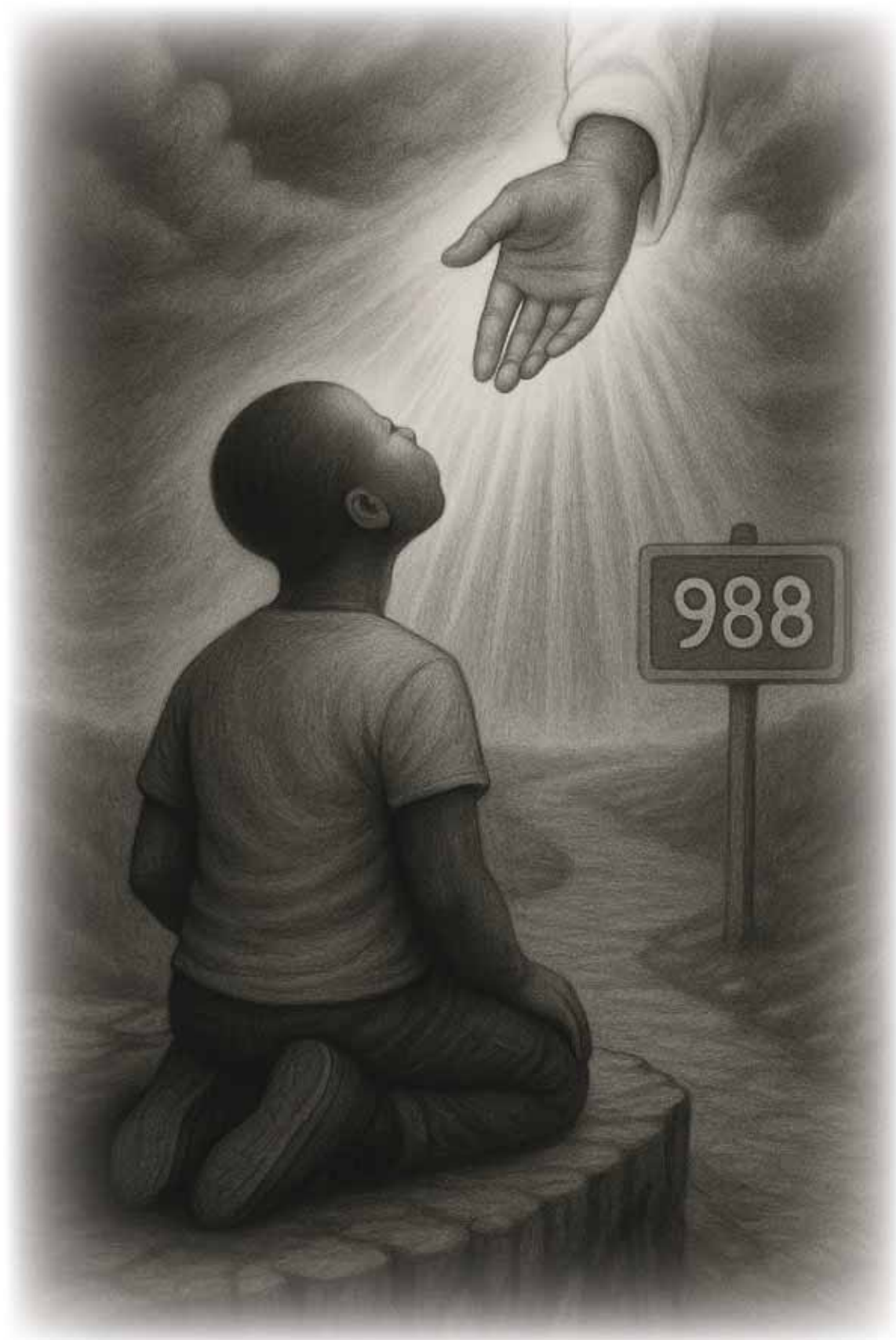
The life we live in detail all depends on your perspective.
The lives that you change all depend on your objective.
Write down your thoughts and become introspective.
Look at the mirror and don't be upset at your reflection.
I understand that Christ is my Lord and Savior,
So I understand that I need to change my behavior.
I understand that there might not be a tomorrow,
So I refuse to live my life filled with sorrow.
I understand that I will never be a perfect person,
But I can work on myself to make a better version.
It's hard to change because we're stuck in our ways.
We want to move forward, but we're stuck in our own way.
The wage for sin is death; that's the price that you pay.
That's why He died on the cross so your sins would be washed away.



Reflections: Life is short and uncertain, but when we acknowledge Christ, take responsibility for our actions, and choose growth, we prepare our hearts for both today and eternity.

Reflection from Franklin: This poem came from the realization that we don't get forever to get it right. I've made mistakes, but I know now—if tomorrow never comes, I want to know I lived with faith, not fear, and moved forward even in my flaws.

Reflection Question: If tomorrow never came, would you be proud of how you lived today—and what's one thing you'd change while you still have the chance?



Look at you on the top of the world; I'm excited for you.
 I know that burning flame of desire just got ignited for you.
 I couldn't tell you face to face, so I had to write it for you.
 And when depression hits, I wish I could fight it for you.
 But that look on your face, I wish I could hide it for you.
 Happiness and peace, I wish I could provide it for you.
 In the belly of the beast, I'd trade places and be stuck inside it for you.
 Confidence, I wish I could've applied it for you.
 Stuck at a fork in the road, and I was stuck beside it for you.
 Trying to steer the ship yourself? Let Jesus guide it for you.
 Life is full of tough decisions; I wish I could've decided for you.
 And suicide? I wish I could have denied it for you.



Reflections: When we can't take someone's pain away, we can still stand beside them in prayer, love, and faith—offering light in their darkest moments.

Reflection from Franklin: I wrote this from a place of deep compassion. Sometimes the best thing we can do for someone is just show up, speak life, and remind them that they matter. If you're reading this and struggling, please don't suffer in silence. Talk to God, talk to someone—just don't give up.

Reflection Question: Is there someone you know who may need a reminder that they're not alone—and are you willing to be that voice of hope?

**Your life
might be the
*greatest
story*
never told.**

Conquering Self

Look inside the mirror, and I swear that I see it all.
The pain, the fails, and the falls.
The reasons to pick up the phone and the reasons to never call.
Sometimes I wanna give in, and other times give it my all.
You get what you give until feelings start getting involved.
Conquering fear and lust,
Man was made out of dust.
The people that trust me are the ones I can always trust.
I can write a poem that you feel in your soul.
I can write a poem that makes you wanna pull yourself out of that hole.
Your life might be the greatest story that's never been told.
Never be afraid because you acquire wealth by being bold.
You learn a lot of lessons when you walk through the rain.
I don't even know you, but I still feel your pain.
Trying to figure out how to gain and maintain.
Reminiscing on memories, but they don't feel the same.



Reflections: Conquering yourself is the foundation for conquering anything else—healing begins when you face your reflection and choose growth over retreat.

Reflection from Franklin: This one came straight from the mirror—I've had days when I wanted to give up, and days when I found just enough strength to keep going. If you're in that space, just know you're not alone. The fight within you is proof of the purpose ahead of you.

Reflection Question: What parts of yourself are you still battling—and what would it look like to stop running and start healing?

Darkness

“You’ve died
so many times
inside that
you feel like
you’re cursed.”

Darkness

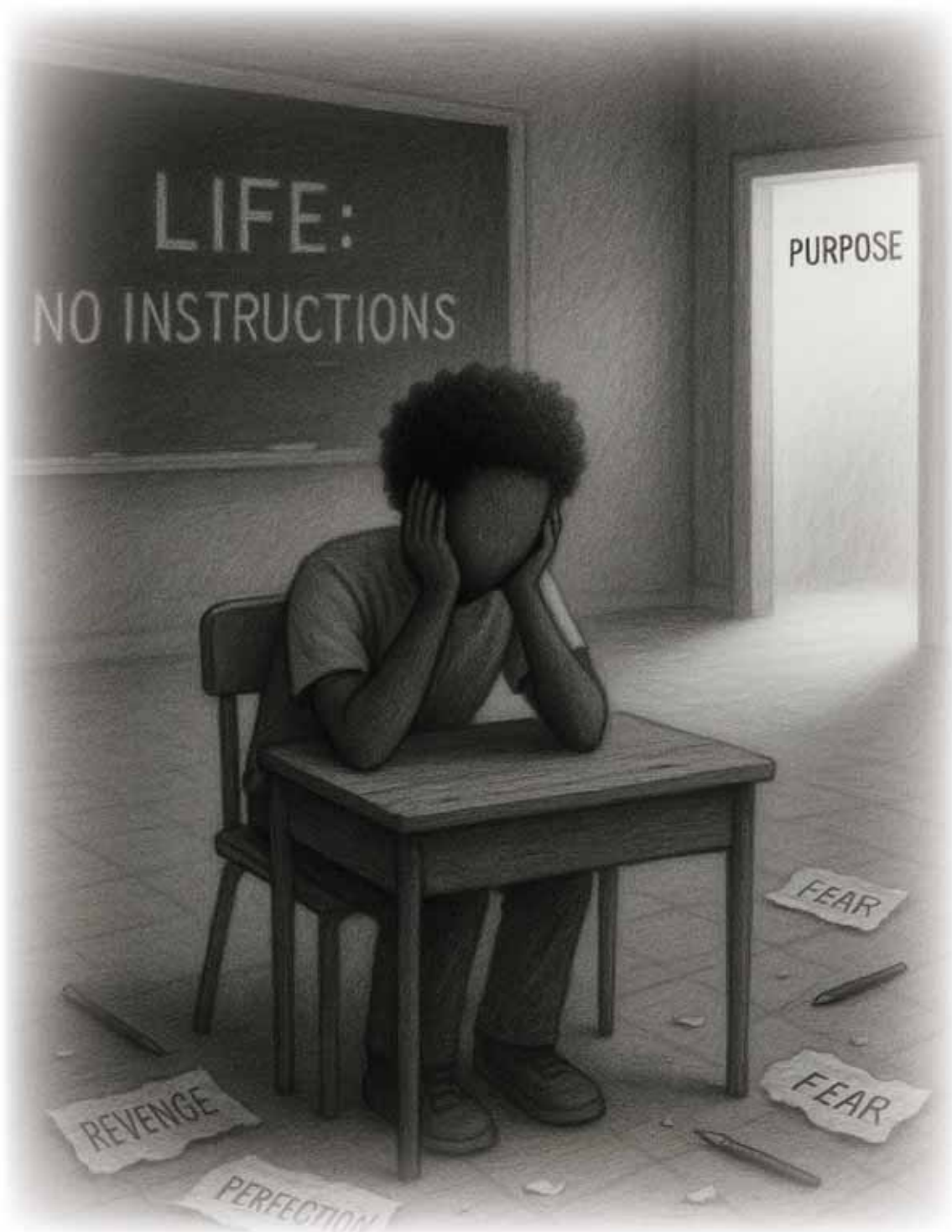
Nobody can explain to you why you feel the way you feel.
Sometimes you cry, and your tears don't even feel real.
The devil wanted your soul, and you told him, "No deal."
You want to feel the warmth of love, but all you get is a cold chill.
Can you imagine the faces they'll make when you arise from the ashes,
feeling superior?
Making them feel inferior.
You're headed in the right direction, while their motives are always ulterior.
Hindsight 20/20, but nowadays the future is seeming wearier.
Pain, suffering, and sadness.
Anger, hatred, and madness.
It's like nobody can hear me, like their ears don't work.
You've cried so many times, it's like your tears don't work.
It's hard to crack a smile, honestly, even a smirk.
Is this how it's gonna be until you're buried in dirt?
Riding in a hearse.
Honestly, it wouldn't be your first.
You've died so many times inside that you feel like you're cursed.
They say forget how you feel because everybody has their own struggles.
Everyone's trying to survive, or they're trying to hustle.
Trying to make a dollar out of nothing, then trying to make it double.
Trying to stay in your right mind, but you keep staying in trouble.



Reflections: When darkness surrounds you, survival itself becomes a form of strength—and even if the world can't hear your pain, God still sees it all.

Reflection from Franklin: This poem came from a place of feeling like nobody really gets it. I've learned that sometimes you don't need someone to fix it—you just need to know you're not alone. If this piece speaks to your heart, know that you're seen, and there's still light on the other side.

Reflection Question: What are you carrying in silence that you wish someone truly understood—and what would healing look like if you allowed yourself to speak it out loud?



1st Time on Earth

Be patient with me because this is my first time down here too.
I know life's coming at you fast, and you don't really know what to do.
Time never mattered, and your heart is getting shattered, so God
sent me to you.
Because nobody else is trying to help you figure out what you need to do.
I fail.
I flourish.
I know that I'll be fine,
But I still do get nervous.
You're walking around for nothing
If you're not walking in your purpose.
You're living a life of misery, and you know you don't deserve it.
You'll be looking all your life if you're still looking for someone perfect.
They say revenge heals your pain, but to me, it wasn't even worth it.
Beating around the bush,
Looking over your shoulders,
Still searching for answers
To a test that's never over.



Reflections: We're all experiencing life for the first time, and the path to peace starts with grace, purpose, and understanding that perfection isn't the goal—progress is.

Reflection from Franklin: I wrote this to say—you're not alone. I don't have all the answers either. We're both down here trying to figure it out. But one thing I do know: life feels different when you stop chasing perfection and start walking in your purpose.

Reflection Question: What pressure have you been carrying to “get life right”—and how can you start giving yourself the same grace you'd give someone else on their first try?

THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR

“You plant the
seed, but pride
withers away
the fruit.”

Fruits of Your Labor

I wish that it was that easy, but it's easier said than done.
Looking for a helping hand, but I don't see anyone.
Raindrops falling, and I don't see any sun.
Running out of time because time can run faster than I can run.
Reveal to me,
Why, in my position, you would kill to be.
I'm in this position now, and it's killing me.
There are so many days off I would kill to see.
Are the emotions that I'm feeling even real to me?
Even if your intentions reveal to be true,
Will it change the way I feel deep down inside about you?
Darkness, fear, sadness, greed,
Unfortunately, all the things that you really need.
To see light, bravery, happiness, and generosity,
Can't have one without the other, and that is the philosophy.
Pride is the death of you and I to our root.
You plant the seed, but pride withers away the fruit.



Reflections: What we produce in life is deeply shaped by what we carry inside—and without humility and healing, even the best intentions can bear bitter fruit.

Reflection from Franklin: This poem came from a place of asking, “Is it worth it?” When you grind so hard that you forget to feel, or carry so much pride you lose the blessing in the process, you’ve got to pause. I’m learning that fruit without soul is just decoration.

Reflection Question: What are you planting in your life right now—and is your pride helping it grow or causing it to quietly wither?



I Dream

I dream of a day where you let God lead the way.
I dream of a day where you stop leading yourself astray.
I dream of a day where you stop trying to be in control of it all.
I dream of a day where you allow the Lord to catch you when you fall.
The problem is that you always love to be in control.
Trying to handle all of your problems sure must take a toll.
Stop trying to handle all your issues on your own because that's not your job.
I dream of a day where you give all of your problems to God.



Reflections: Peace and freedom come when you stop trying to carry everything yourself and start trusting God to guide and sustain you.

Reflection from Franklin: This poem is my prayer for everyone who feels like they have to have it all figured out. I've learned the hard way that letting go isn't weakness—it's faith. Let God lead, and you'll find rest you never knew you needed.

Reflection Question: What are you still trying to control that you need to surrender to God—and what would your life look like if you truly let Him take over?



Interconnection

We are all connected.
Your problems impact me, and my problems impact you.
Sometimes the impact is subtle but can be direct too.
As your neighbor, your tears impact my smile, and your smile impacts my tears.
The things you see impact my vision,
And the things you say impact my ears.
People say, “Their problems aren’t my problems” or “That has nothing to do with me,”
Not realizing that their peers’ lives impact their own lives farther than their eyes can see.
Because we’re all connected, we all have an effect on each other.
Here’s a basic example of how we impact our peers, one way or another:
Let’s say your neighbor gets fired from his job that pays,
So now at home is where he spends most of his days.
Usually, he’s at work when you’re trying to take a nap,
But his new presence at home is making you want to snap.
His music is too loud, and he makes too much noise.
You’re normally calm and collected, but he’s making you lose your poise.
Music so loud, it can almost be heard on the other side of town,
And he never listens to you when you tell him to turn it down.
So you went through your day tired and unable to sleep,
Because your neighbor was an employee that his job couldn’t keep.
A very small example of how down here on earth we’re all connected.
What one person feels can leave everyone affected.
So be mindful of how you test people because you see our lives are intertwined.
My problems could be yours, and your problems could be mine.



Reflections: Our lives are interwoven, and even the smallest personal actions can have a lasting impact on others—so compassion and mindfulness are essential.

Reflection from Franklin: This one is a reminder that “it’s not my problem” isn’t true. We’re all living on the same earth, breathing the same air, and our lives cross paths more than we think. I hope this poem helps you slow down and treat people with more grace.

Reflection Question: Where in your life have you been acting like your choices only affect you—and how can you start being more mindful of the impact you have on others?

Love Sick

*"I can do
everything right
and somehow
still lose you."*

Love Sick

If this life was mine, I'd take your soul and make it multiply.
If I could rule the world, then you would never have to cry.
Leave me with your heart, and I'll never leave you out to dry.
If this world was mine, it would be our world until we die.
Loving you would light a flame in me like a candle.
With you by my side, there isn't a problem I can't handle.
Love can take you many places if you're unaware.
If it takes us to heaven, I can't wait to see you there.
I'd rather lie than lose you.
In a world full of choices, I would rather choose you.
Use me, don't abuse me, and I'll never use you.
I can do everything right and somehow still lose you.
In the mirror, cracking a big smile because I haven't seen one in a while.
I thought that you would be the one waiting for me as I walk down the aisle.
Now my phone never even rings when you decide to dial.
She could be a lover or she could be a goner.
She love bombs me like a suicide bomber,
Because she loves me to death, even though it's going to cost her.
If you check the winning team, you will always find her on the roster.
You have to feel pain; it's the only way you're going to prosper.
I have a hard heart; I wish it was a little bit softer.



Reflections: Love is powerful, unpredictable, and sometimes painful—but even in heartbreak, it teaches us who we are and what we're willing to endure for someone else.

Reflection from Franklin: This poem came from that place where love feels like both a blessing and a burden. You give everything, and sometimes you still end up empty. If you've ever loved hard and lost harder—this one is for you.

Reflection Question: What have you learned about yourself through the love that didn't last—and are you healing from it, or still holding on to it?

New Beginnings

*“If you give the
devil an inch,
he becomes the
ruler of your
way.”*

New Beginnings

Take all your bottled-up feelings and dump them into a big pile.
Even the feelings you've kept locked away since you were a juvenile.
Set that pile on fire, and you can see the flame burn for miles.
Only God can judge you; nobody else can take you to trial.
Ask, and you shall receive.
Closed mouths don't get fed.
There's no such thing as "uncomfortable."
It's all in your head.
I hope you think beyond comprehension,
While these words are being read.
Look beyond what you see,
You'll find lessons that'll stay with you until you're dead.
Just make one good decision after another every day.
Sins and distractions are going to attack you from every way.
The smallest sin you make can terribly lead you astray.
For if you give the devil an inch, he becomes the ruler of your way.
But if you choose to follow Christ, everything in your life will
have flourished.
Your spirit will be fulfilled, and your soul will be nourished.



Reflections: True new beginnings happen when we release our past, guard against distraction, and intentionally walk with Christ toward purpose and peace.

Reflection from Franklin: This one is all about the reset. I've had to burn some things emotionally just to make space for who God was calling me to become. If you're looking for a fresh start, don't wait for a new year—start with a new mindset.

Reflection Question: What's something from your past you need to finally let go of in order to make room for the life God wants to give you?



One Nation Under God

The pain of never knowing, or the pain of failure... you decide which is worse.

Your time to decide is limited; only a matter of time before you're in that hearse.

I'm not scared of death because why would you be scared of something inevitable?

Money is great, but the things that matter most are always immeasurable.

More money, more power means more temptation.

I hope you have a revelation before we reach Revelation.

Because you can only truly be saved through salvation.

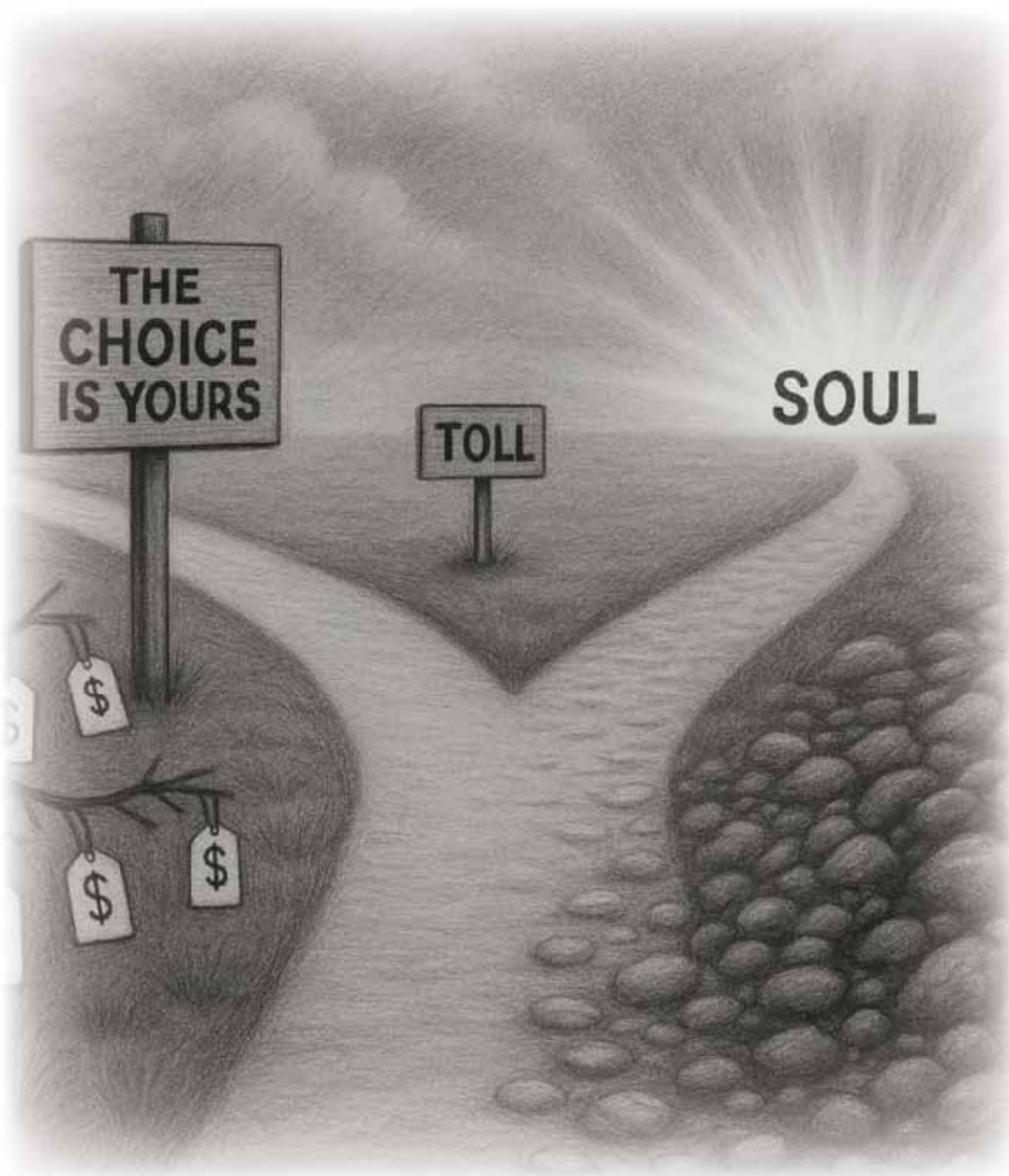
Our nation is supposed to be under God, but we've put God under our nation.



Reflections: In a world chasing power and possessions, true peace and purpose can only be found by putting God back where He belongs—above all.

Reflection from Franklin: This one came from looking around at a world that's lost its way. We say "one nation under God," but our actions show otherwise. I pray we all wake up before it's too late—not just as a country, but as individuals.

Reflection Question: Have you placed anything above God in your own life—and what would it look like to truly let Him lead again?



The Choice Is Yours

You can show the world fearlessness, or you can show the world fear.
You can show the world a smile, or you can show the world a tear.
You can show the world joy, or you can show the world sorrow.
When making your decision, remember today's life isn't promised tomorrow.
You can show the world pain, or you can show the world mercy.
You can live a life of peace or a life of controversy.
You can show the world how you live or choose to live private.
It's one thing to show the world; it's another thing to survive it.
If you're playing for survival, it may be best not to show the world,
Because everything costs, so what you show the world is what you'll
eventually owe the world.
Everything has a price tag on the road to riches because the world gave
that road a toll.
No matter how much it costs, make sure it never costs you your soul.



Reflections: Every choice you make is a reflection of your values—and while the world may demand a lot, never let it take what matters most: your soul.

Reflection from Franklin: I wrote this to remind you—and myself—that we all have a choice in how we show up. But it's not just about image—it's about intention. Don't sell your soul trying to impress a world that doesn't care what it cost you.

Reflection Question: What are you currently showing the world—and is it a reflection of your true self, or the result of pressure to be something you're not?

*“What’s done
in the dark
will always find
light to shine.”*

The Greatest

I live life like these are my last days.
I can't change because I'm too stuck up in my ways.
I can't change because that would be a waste of time.
If time is money, I'm trying to save every dime.
What's done in the dark will always find a way to shine.
All dues will be paid in due time.
Due to the fact that you never do what is right,
The remainder of your life will be an uphill fight.
Your higher purpose is within reach; tell me if I'm wrong.
There are no shortcuts; the road in your journey will be long.
In your darkest hour, will you rise to the occasion?
Will you remember where you came from when you reach your destination?
Maybe in time, you'll understand only God can save us.
They free our body and trap our mind to try and enslave us.
We went against the grain, so it makes sense that they never forgave us.
The fact that we were never given a fair chance is outrageous.



Reflections: The path to greatness is long, unfair, and filled with struggle—but with God, purpose, and perseverance, it's still within reach.

Reflection from Franklin: This one is for the fighters—for the ones who weren't given a fair shot but still showed up. I've been there. I've wrestled with change, with purpose, with truth. But I've learned this: God sees it all, and your fight is not in vain.

Reflection Question: Are you letting your past habits and pain define your future—or are you willing to walk the long road toward the purpose God has for you?

He bought my book
Instead of buying
liquor that day.
And I told him,
*“Follow Christ—
He is the only way.”*

True Story

A man came in; he walked straight to my table.
Everything I'm about to tell is real and not a fable.
Recovering alcoholic is what he said he was.
I could look in his eyes and see that they were full of love.
He pulled out \$10, said he was gonna buy a beer.
Then he gave me the money and said that he was happy I was here.
He bought my book instead of buying liquor that day.
Then I told him to follow Christ because He is the only way.



Reflections: Every encounter matters—God can use the smallest moment to inspire change, redirect lives, and reveal His presence.

Reflection from Franklin: This really happened, and I'll never forget it. That man didn't just buy a book—he made a choice. And I realized that when we walk in purpose, God puts us right where we're supposed to be, for someone else's breakthrough.

Reflection Question: What small moment in your life might actually be a divine assignment—and are you showing up ready to be used by God?



In Conclusion

Life has truthfully been magnificent.
Your heartbeat is someone's favorite musical instrument.
It's a blessing to be in this predicament.
The feeling that I'm currently feeling doesn't have an equivalent.
Learning from my old ways and I see a difference.
Used to have bad habits; now I'm losing interest.
Used not to go to church; now I'm in attendance.
'Cause God is the judge; now show him repentance.
The freedom that comes with wisdom is unmatched.
Your attachment to this world was holding you back; now you're unattached.
The surface of how great you can become hasn't even been scratched.
But the energy you give to people you care for hasn't been matched.



Reflections: True freedom and fulfillment come when we grow from our past, let go of unhealthy ties, and live aligned with God's purpose for our lives.

Reflection from Franklin: This is more than a conclusion—it's a praise report. I've felt the shift in my spirit, and I hope this poem inspires you to recognize how far you've come and how far you're still destined to go.

Reflection Question: What habits or mindsets have you outgrown, and how has that made space for the person you're becoming?