

Abundant Mercy Devotional

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A devotional dedicated to the
amazing love and mercy God
provides the world.

Intro

Does God send people to hell that reject Him? The answer might surprise you, and maybe you never thought about it on a Biblical scale. Maybe the matter is settled for many. But, for Martin Luther, and many like him, the status quo isn't free from error. The Reformers didn't hesitate to question long held institutional dogmas, and nor should we.

“For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all [Jew and Gentile alike].”

-Romans 11:32

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Devotional 1

God Uses Imperfect Vessels

"God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever."¹

¹ Vance Havner

God does not look for perfect people, but He can transform imperfect people. It is a work in progress, never be discouraged or fear that God will give up on you or anyone!

King David was an adulterer and murderer. King David commanded the husband of his mistress to be murdered. Yet David was a man after God's own heart. Moses murdered a man out of anger but God still chose Moses to deliver the Jewish nation from slavery. The Apostle Paul was a blasphemer who

hunted down Christians to murder yet God still used Paul to bring both the Jewish and Gentile nations to the truth of the Gospel. Peter was hot-tempered and denied Christ three times, yet God still used Peter to build His Church. In God's great wisdom, He chose Peter and re-named him "Peter the Rock".

God is not afraid to transform imperfect humans into mighty warriors for truth and light. God chose an adulterer, a murderer, a blasphemer, and a denier of Christ. All are

in the hall of fame in
scripture, yet they all were
human with imperfections.
This is the Gospel and the
good news! We can all take
heart, and never fear that God
will forsake imperfect people.
Christ came to rescue the
world, and He will purify us
all from our imperfections.
God can transform our
weaknesses into strengths.
God doesn't give up on us,
and nor should we.

“I can do all things [which
He has called me to do]
through Him who
strengthens *and* empowers

me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]” Philippians 4:13

Devotional 2

The Old Covenant

Paul's encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus stands as one of the most profound testimonies to the power of divine grace. He was not searching for Jesus. He was not open to faith, repentance, or transformation. On the contrary, Paul was actively persecuting the Church, convinced that he was serving God by destroying it. His conversion was not the

result of human initiative, but of divine interruption.

Paul later makes clear to the Galatian church that it was not *his* faith that saved him, but the **faithfulness of Christ**. Christ did not wait for Paul to believe; Christ acted in faithfulness toward him. This distinction is crucial. Paul's life proclaims that redemption does not begin with human willingness, but with God's mercy.

Before his conversion, Paul was a teacher of the law, deeply immersed in the

sacrificial system of the old covenant. He lived under a framework that required continual offerings and daily intercession—sacrifices that, as Scripture tells us, were never able to fully remove sin:

“Every priest stands at his service daily, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.”

Hebrews 10:11

On the road to Damascus, Paul encountered a radically different reality: the new covenant of grace. Reflecting

on this later, he wrote to Timothy with humility and awe:

“Even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent aggressor, yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief.”
1 Timothy 1:13

Many have been taught that redemption is reserved only for those who seek it, that Christ intercedes solely for those who first accept Him. Paul’s life stands as a direct challenge to that assumption. He neither sought Christ nor

desired conversion—yet
Christ sought him.

This truth echoes the words
spoken by God through the
prophet Isaiah:

“I let Myself be sought by
those who did not ask for Me;
I let Myself be found by
those who did not seek Me.”
Isaiah 65:1

Paul consistently teaches that
salvation rests not on human
faithfulness, but on God’s.
Writing to the Romans, he
asks whether human unbelief
can nullify God’s purposes,

and answers decisively that it cannot:

“If some were unfaithful, does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? Certainly not!”
Romans 3:3–4

He reiterates this truth to Timothy with remarkable clarity:

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.”
2 Timothy 2:13

Grace truly is astonishing.
The persecutor of the

Church—the man who hunted down believers and sought to destroy the Christian movement—was not redeemed because he reached out to Christ, but because Christ reached out to him. Paul himself acknowledges the depth of his former hostility:

“You have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

Galatians 1:13

Through this revelation, Paul came to understand that only God fully comprehends human weakness. Only God can intercede perfectly on our behalf. Salvation, therefore, does not depend on the strength of human will or effort, but on divine mercy:

“So then it does not depend on human will or effort, but on God who shows mercy.”
Romans 9:16

Paul’s life bears witness to a hope far greater than human striving: a God whose faithfulness does not fail, even when ours does.

Devotional 3

The New Covenant

The New Covenant marks a decisive turning point in God's relationship with humanity. Under the old covenant, human priests labored continually to intercede on behalf of the people. Sacrifices were offered day after day, year after year, yet they could never fully remove sin or overcome death. Human effort was central, and the burden of mediation rested on fallible hands.

The New Covenant changes everything.

No longer is reconciliation a work entrusted to humanity. God Himself, the Lord of all creation, has taken upon Himself the role of mediator. Scripture declares plainly:

“In speaking of a new covenant, He makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

Hebrews 8:13 (NLT)

The old covenant exposed sin and ultimately brought death

to all. The New Covenant, however, brings life to all. This work unfolds through God's Spirit and is not bound by human limitation or failure. Paul reminds us of the surpassing glory of this new reality:

“Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life?”

2 Corinthians 3:8 (NLT)

If God's former covenant, mediated through imperfect people and temporary sacrifices, carried such weight and seriousness,

should we not expect even greater mercy, power, and restoration under the New Covenant established by Christ Himself?

The blood of goats and bulls could never cleanse the human conscience or remove the stain of sin and death. But Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplished what no ritual ever could. Through His own blood, He brought peace, reconciliation, and lasting redemption:

“He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy

Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption.”

Hebrews 9:12 (NLT)

This redemption is not fragile, temporary, or limited. It is eternal. Christ's intercession is not constrained by time, geography, or human response. He intercedes for all people, for all time. There is no expiration date on grace and no deadline beyond which God withdraws His mercy.

King David understood this profound truth long before

the New Covenant was revealed in full. He knew there was no place where God's presence could not reach, not even death itself:

“I can never escape from
your Spirit!
I can never get away from
your presence!
If I ascend to heaven, you are
there;
If I make my bed in Sheol,
behold, you are there.”
Psalm 139:7–8

God is not only the God of the living, but also of the dead. His redemptive presence is not confined to

this life alone. The New Covenant proclaims a God whose mercy reaches into every depth, whose faithfulness does not falter, and whose purpose is life, not death.

The New Covenant accomplishes what humanity never could: lasting reconciliation, eternal redemption, and the promise that God Himself will complete the work He began in all creation.

Devotional 4

The Restorative Fire

Most religions contain some form of punishment within their moral framework. Christianity, however, stands apart in a profound and unsettling way: the Creator of the universe entered His own creation, took on human flesh, and absorbed humanity's brokenness in order to redeem the very world He loves.

When Martin Luther published his *Ninety-Five Theses*, one of his chief objections to the practices of the medieval Catholic Church was the selling of indulgences—payments believed to reduce time spent in purgatory. Luther's challenge was not merely about corruption; it was about authority. He restored to ordinary believers the freedom and responsibility to examine Scripture and to question institutional traditions that had gone unchallenged for centuries.

More than five hundred years later, the Reformation remains unfinished. One doctrine that still demands careful examination is the nature of hell itself.

Christian traditions differ sharply on this issue. Roman Catholic theology teaches purgatory as a temporary state of purification for the righteous. Most Protestant traditions reject purgatory entirely. Eastern Orthodoxy often understands divine punishment as medicinal and restorative rather than retributive. Judaism, by contrast, generally teaches

either temporary punishment or annihilation rather than endless torment. These differences alone should caution us against assuming that any single view has been unanimously or definitively settled.

Many believers are taught that *Universalism*—more precisely, the Greek concept of *apokatastasis* (restoration of all things)—is an ancient heresy condemned at the Fifth Ecumenical Council in A.D. 553. Yet historians and theologians continue to debate this claim. What is certain is that forms of

universal restoration were held by respected early Church fathers and were part of serious theological reflection in the early centuries of Christianity.

A fundamental question naturally arises for people of faith:

If human justice systems prohibit cruel and unusual punishment and allow room for mercy even toward criminals, would God—who is perfectly just and perfectly loving—do less for His fallen creation? Is God less compassionate than human courts?

Scripture answers with clarity:

“The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation.”

Psalm 145:9 (NLT)

Throughout the Bible, God makes sweeping promises that extend far beyond a small remnant of humanity:

- The gates of hell will not prevail
- Every knee will bow
- Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord

- Every tongue will swear allegiance to God
- All will know the Lord
- Death will no longer reign
- Sorrow will come to an end
- Wickedness will cease
- Christ will rescue all
- All will be refined and restored by purifying fire

Like the apostle Paul, there will be many who come to know Christ not by personal pursuit, but by the sovereign

will and gracious initiative of
God.

“I have sworn by Myself...
To Me every knee shall bow,
Every tongue shall swear
allegiance.”
Isaiah 45:23

The refining fire described in
Scripture is not presented as a
tool of endless destruction,
but of purification and
restoration. Even Sodom and
her daughters—symbols of
profound moral failure—are
promised restoration to their
former state:

“I will restore their fortunes,
the fortunes of Sodom and
her daughters... and you and
your daughters shall be
restored to your former
state.”

Ezekiel 16:53–55

Such generosity may offend
our instincts for retribution.
Jesus Himself anticipated this
reaction, portraying those
who resent divine mercy as
questioning the fairness of
grace:

“Am I not allowed to do what
I choose with what belongs to
me? Or do you begrudge my

generosity?”

Matthew 20:15–16 (NLT)

The gospel confronts us with a God whose mercy exceeds our expectations and whose justice restores rather than merely condemns. If Christ truly came to reconcile the world to God, then His generosity should not surprise us—it should define how we understand judgment, punishment, and redemption itself.

Devotional 5

Fullness of Time

Within Christian theology, two dominant frameworks have traditionally shaped the conversation around the security of salvation. Though they differ in approach, both ultimately leave believers with uncertainty.

In Calvinism, salvation rests on divine election. God chooses some for salvation, while others are passed over. This view raises a difficult question: why would God create multitudes of people

knowing in advance that they were not elected for redemption? For many, this portrayal of God strains the biblical witness to His universal love and mercy.

Arminianism offers a different explanation, emphasizing human free will. In this framework, God desires to save all, yet salvation depends on human choice. This view, however, raises an equally troubling concern: why would God create so many people knowing that a great number would ultimately reject Him and face eternal separation?

Here, salvation appears fragile, resting on the unstable will of fallible humanity.

Both systems, in different ways, leave the believer without true security—either because salvation depends on a hidden decree or because it depends on human consistency.

Restorative justice, often referred to as universal reconciliation, offers a third and more hopeful vision. In this view, God chooses all people, and through His patient and redemptive work,

all people will ultimately come to choose God. Salvation is fully secured by the blood of Christ, while sanctification is completed through a refining and restorative process. This restoration is not instantaneous, nor does it ignore human rebellion, but it is purposeful and redemptive.

God's work of salvation is not partial or uncertain. It begins with Christ and ends with Christ. From creation to consummation, God Himself completes what He has purposed. True security is found not in human wisdom,

effort, or theological systems, but in the finished and ongoing work of Christ on behalf of all humanity.

As Scripture declares:

“And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.”

Ephesians 1:9–10 (NLT)

Ultimate security rests in this promise: God’s redemptive plan will not fail, because it

is grounded in His wisdom,
His faithfulness, and His
unwavering love for all He
has made.

Devotional 6

Advantages of Faith

Christ has conquered death. Scripture declares that “the wages of sin is death,” yet through Christ, death no longer has the final word. Those who place their faith in Him enter into new life, and God remains present and available to help us whenever we allow Him to do so. For those who have not yet embraced this new birth of

restoration, the Father will do whatever is necessary— within the fullness of time— to bring **all His sheep** safely into His fold. That Christ continues to seek every lost sheep and every prodigal is nothing short of amazing grace.

Whether we acknowledge His grace or not, the Savior of the world loves every person. Humanity is God's joy and delight. We are created in His image, connected to Him at the deepest level of our being. God desires relationship with

every soul—not only in this life, but beyond it.

Every soul bears the imprint of God. To destroy humanity would be to destroy what reflects Himself. Male and female, all people are created in His image. Scripture often uses the language of marriage to describe God's relationship with humanity—a union in which two become one. In earthly marriage, the loss of a spouse feels like the loss of part of oneself. How much more, then, would it grieve our Creator to lose any of His children to evil? God's love for humanity is so

profound that He entered our suffering, becoming human, to rescue His beloved family.

It brings far greater glory to God to restore the most wayward son or daughter than to abandon them to ruin. Transformation magnifies grace. Redemption reveals God's power. Why would God create billions of people knowing they would suffer endlessly, when Scripture reveals that His plan was established long before humanity's fall?

“So that in the ages to come He might show the

surpassing riches of His grace
in kindness toward us in
Christ Jesus.”
Ephesians 2:7 (NLT)

God’s mercy is not selective
or limited:

“The LORD is good to all,
and His tender mercies are
over all His works.”
Psalm 145:9

Pure divine love produces
lasting change. Love heals.
Love restores. Love endures.
Let us hold fast to hope—the
hope that every soul will
ultimately respond to the
relentless love of God.

Consider a simple illustration. Many are familiar with the television series *Extreme Makeover*, where an imperfect, damaged house is restored in a matter of days. If human hands can transform broken structures so quickly, how much more capable is the Father of the universe to restore wounded souls—whether in a moment or through a process? Do we trust human skill more than divine love?

Scripture gives us the final word of hope:

“And He who sits on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Then He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are faithful and true.’”

Revelation 21:5

The promise of God is not destruction, but renewal. Not abandonment, but restoration. Not death, but life—life made whole by the love of Christ.

Devotional 7
Biblical Support for
Universalism

From the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, we see a consistent pattern: humanity falling away from God's perfect design, and God responding with reconciliation. *"In the beginning, God created man and woman in His image."* Because we are created in His image, complete and permanent separation from God is impossible. Humanity's fall was not a surprise to Him, nor was our

tendency to follow the ways of darkness. Yet God, who is rich in mercy, prepared a Savior to reconcile all creation made by His will. Ultimately, it is God's will that prevails.

Genesis is powerfully echoed in the Gospel of John. The same world God created in the beginning is the same world He came to restore. Nothing is impossible for God. As Scripture declares:
“And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these lands; and in thy seed shall all the nations

of the earth be blessed”
(Genesis 26:4).

God’s pattern throughout history is unwavering: He is Savior and Redeemer, always working to restore our relationship with Him. Nothing can change who God is, and no amount of rebellion or ignorance can derail His divine plan. In Exodus, we see God’s people repeatedly led astray, yet like a loving Father, God continually extends an olive branch of reconciliation. Again and again, God takes the initiative to restore what was broken.

God's love is without condition—truly unconditional. What separates us from Him is not His absence, but our own ignorance and rebellion. From the first sin in Genesis, the theme of Scripture is clear: God actively works to bring all creation back into restored relationship with Himself.

Even Moses, who committed murder in anger and desperation, was not beyond redemption. God later restored him, calling him back to his true purpose. Through both hardship and

blessing, God allows us—
created in His image—to gain
firsthand knowledge of good
and evil. In the end, creation
itself will be restored to its
pre-fallen condition.

As Nehemiah affirms:

*“But in Your great
compassion, You did not
abandon them or put an end
to them, for You are a
gracious and compassionate
God”* (Nehemiah 9:19).

Devotional 8

Jesus is Victorious

Christ achieved complete victory over the devil—the one who deceived Adam and Eve. Whether one interprets the Genesis account as literal or symbolic, the moral truth remains unchanged: humanity has been deceived for generations. If God is truly a Savior, then His salvation must include the defeat of the devil and the destruction of his schemes.

Christ and His apostles described the devil as a

murderer and a thief—one who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. But what did Christ accomplish? He brought life. He reclaimed our full inheritance. And He will restore all things. This redemptive pattern is foreshadowed in the book of Job. Job lost everything through the work of the adversary, yet in the end, God restored all that was taken—and more. What the devil destroys, God restores.

Does God sit in heaven hoping that human evangelism will somehow reach enough people? Christ

told us that His yoke is easy
and His burden is light. If the
salvation of the world
depended entirely on human
effort, that burden would be
unbearable. Evangelism is
not a desperate attempt to
complete God's work; it is
the joyful proclamation of
good news. God did not save
the world by our consent—
just as we did not consent to
Adam and Eve's choice to
partake of the knowledge of
good and evil. Salvation rests
in God's action, not human
performance.

The devil is a defeated foe.
Nothing can separate us from

the love of God (Romans 8:38). We all long for a good ending, and in universal restoration, the story ends with God victorious—not the devil. How tragic it would be if evil had the final word. Instead, the God who created all things restores creation to its former glory, and He alone receives all the praise and honor.

It is reasonable—and meaningful—to believe that God would not sacrifice His Son to save only a few. Nor would He leave redemption to the uncertainty of human will alone. God's victory is

secured through His infallible wisdom and sovereign purpose. His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts.

Human traditions have often emphasized effort and achievement, but Scripture reveals a grace so complete that no one can boast. God accomplished the work of redemption fully. He declared that all will know Him, from the least to the greatest; all will be drawn near. The same *all* condemned in Adam are the same *all* justified and redeemed in Christ. No one

can take credit for
salvation—it was finished at
the cross.

As Scripture proclaims:
*“When He had disarmed the
rulers and authorities, He
made a public spectacle of
them, triumphing over them
through the cross”*
(Colossians 2:15).

Devotional 9

The Limited Atonement

Many mainline Christian frameworks imply a troubling conclusion: that Christ will ultimately lose the majority of the world to sin, death, and the devil. In this view, salvation hinges on fallible human beings successfully discovering the truth—often through historical, cultural, or linguistic advantages. Those without access to missionaries or a translated Bible are left without hope. Yet today, there remain **3,969 languages without a Bible**

translation. Can this truly be called good news for those who never hear?

Unlimited atonement proclaims a very different message. It declares a victorious Savior whose redemptive work extends to all people. This hope is not grounded in human effort but in the finished work of Christ. It rests not on the will or faithfulness of humanity, but on the will and faithfulness of God.

God did not entrust redemption to human reliability. He sent a Savior.

Unlimited atonement affirms that Christ's victory is complete, effective, and sufficient. It proclaims that God's saving purpose does not fail due to geography, language, or history. The gospel is not good news only for the fortunate—it is good news for all.

As Scripture declares:

“And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His

cross—through Him, whether
things on earth or things in
heaven.”

—Colossians 1:20

Devotional 10

The Unlimited Atonement

The Christus Victor View

The Christus Victor (Christ is victorious) view supports the biblical theme of Christ conquering Satanic authorities, removing their authority over any part of creation. What the devil destroyed is restored through the death and resurrection of Christ. Christ conquered and defeated death and in doing so provided the redemption of all people. (Other views held are the Penal

Substitution View, the Moral Government View, and the Kaleidoscope View).

Why believe in the “Christ Victorious” view? From the Old Testament to the New Testament, from Moses to Christ, intercession has been made to bring all of creation to the promised land. In the Old Testament Moses intercedes on behalf of the Israelite's'. In the New Testament Christ intercedes on behalf of the world. If God is for us, in whom shall we fear?

-Moses performed signs and wonders, Jesus performed signs and wonders.

-Moses struck a rock to give people water. Jesus is the Rock and is life-giving water.

-Moses ended the bondage of Israel to Pharaoh. Christ ended the bondage of sin and death.

-The Israelite's wandered around the wilderness due to their own rebellious spirit

and Moses interceded on their behalf.

Christ intercedes on the behalf of the rebellious world.

-Moses told the Israelite's to place the blood of the lamb on their door. Christ is the lamb who shed His blood that takes away the sins of the world.

-Moses brought the law to mankind. Jesus fulfilled the law for mankind.

The Christus Victor view was one of the earliest views of the atonement until the 11th century. Over time, different theories became popular. The Christus Victor view is supported by both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Christ wins and the devil suffers defeat.

"Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil—and [that He] might free all those who through [the haunting] fear of death was held in slavery throughout their lives.
-Hebrew 2:14-15 Amp

Devotional 11

Ages and Dispensations

Scripture speaks of **ages**—distinct periods through which God unfolds His redemptive purpose. These ages are not random or competing plans; they move toward a single goal: the restoration of creation. When the final age is complete, Eden is restored, death is abolished, and sorrow comes to an end.

The New Testament refers to multiple ages, including:

- **The Evil Age**
(Galatians 1:4)
- **The Present Age**
(Ephesians 1:21)
- **The Age to Come /
Future Age**
(Ephesians 1:21; 2:7)
- **The Worldly Age**
(Ephesians 2:2)
- **The Age of
Correction or
Punishment**
(Matthew 25:46)
- **The End of the Age**
(Matthew 13:49)

These references show that
Scripture anticipates
progression, not
stagnation—movement

toward renewal, not endless ruin.

Dispensational theology likewise identifies **seven historical ages** through which God prepares the way for His Kingdom:

1. **The Age of Innocence** (Adam and Eve)
2. **The Age of Conscience** (the knowledge of good and evil)
3. **The Age of Human Government** (the loss of harmony and peace)

4. **The Age of Promise**
(God's covenantal hope)
5. **The Age of Law**
(revealing sin and the need for sacrifice)
6. **The Age of Grace**
(Christ offering Himself to take away the sins of the world)
7. **The Kingdom Age**
(all things made new; sin, death, and sorrow abolished)

God deals with humanity through these distinct ages to accomplish a singular purpose: **the salvation and restoration of all**. Galatians

1:4 declares that Christ came to rescue us from the present evil age—not to abandon creation to it.

Ephesians 1:21 reveals that Christ's authority extends not only over this present age, but also over the age to come. His power surpasses every rule, authority, and dominion. Creation itself is moving toward fullness. In the coming age, **all things will be reconciled to their Creator.**

This unfolding plan is the great mystery long hidden but

now revealed—a wisdom
destined for our glory:

“We speak of the mysterious
and hidden wisdom of God,
which He destined for our
glory before time began.”
—1 Corinthians 2:7 (NLT)

The question is not whether
God’s plan will succeed, but
whether we have fully
grasped the scope of His
victory.

.

Devotional 12

The Book of Life

The book of life. Does It
Exclude the Unrighteous?

"Erase their names from the
Book of Life; don't let them
be counted among the
righteous."

-Psalm 69:28

Are those whose names are
not found in the book of life
destined to eternal
damnation? If so, then why
did Moses ask to have his
name removed?

'But I beg you to forgive them. If you don't, please wipe my name out of your book." *Exodus 32:32 (CEV)*

According to Christ; "I came not for the righteous, but for the unrighteous". The Lord of Lords came to rescue the unrighteous. The unrighteous are not created to remain apart from their heavenly father forever. He is continuously searching for the lost sheep. The Father is unwilling to give up on the

wayward prodigals; when they return home, He throws a party. The pattern of grace is; patience, love, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, peace. All of these attributes are from our Lord and Savior, who is unwilling that any perish, but all come to repentance. And who can say that what the Lord desires is impossible? For we know what is impossible with men, is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

“But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man’s trespass [Adam’s sin], much more [abundantly] did God’s grace and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many.”

-Romans 5:15 AMP

The book of life, and those who do not have their name in it does not express God's unwillingness to redeem the unrighteous. Like Paul, there will be those who come to Christ through a new understanding of their own foolishness. Paul gained new understanding when He encountered the light of Christ, not by the will of Paul but by the will of His creator.

When Christ descended into hell, He did so to proclaim the good news to those in prison.

See 1 Peter 3:19

His intention was to rescue the unrighteous. The unrighteous are not without an advocate. Christ intercedes for all creation.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and

He will have mercy upon
him; and to our God, for He
will abundantly pardon.”

- Isaiah 55:7

Devotional 13

The Problem of Evil

Lucifer is the first created being Scripture presents as having sinned. Original sin is first found in him—rooted in jealousy toward God and hostility toward the human race. His desire to corrupt creation was an act of murder, as Jesus declared: *“He was a murderer from the beginning.”* Through Satan’s deception, death entered the world.

Notably, in the Genesis account God never warned

Adam and Eve of eternal torment. He warned them of death. “*The wages of sin is death.*” Scripture consistently presents death—not endless suffering—as the consequence of sin.

The death and resurrection of Christ reversed this condition. By entering fully into human life and death, Christ broke the power of the devil—the one who held humanity in bondage through the fear of death. As Hebrews testifies:

“Because God’s children are human beings—made of

flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. In this way He set free all who had lived their lives as slaves to the fear of death.”

—Hebrews 2:14–15

Traditional Christianity often frames salvation through two opposing systems: either humanity must choose God (Arminianism), or God has chosen only a few (Calvinism). Universal restoration proclaims a

deeper victory: God has chosen all, and in the fullness of time, all will choose God. God's power to redeem is greater than Lucifer's power to destroy. God's love outweighs the rebellion of a fallen angel.

God did not create death or suffering, yet He allowed humanity freedom—the choice between love (the good) and its absence (evil). The fallen world of pain and death is not eternal; it is a temporary condition within God's redemptive plan. God has promised a renewed creation where death and

suffering no longer have authority.

As death entered the world through one man, Adam, restoration comes to all humanity through one Man, Jesus Christ. Universal restoration affirms that God's mercy is not defeated by sin—it prevails over it. Mercy is not an exception in God's nature; it is His defining attribute.

Paul declares this victory plainly:

“For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through

the one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then, as through one trespass there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.”

—Romans 5:17–18 (AMP)

The final word of Scripture is not death, judgment, or defeat—but life.

Devotional 14

Four Spiritual Stages

As human beings we grow and experience life through many stages. When we are children, we learn to walk, as teenagers we learn to drive, as a young adult we may attend College and later marry, etc. Throughout each stage we experience many things that shape and form us.

According to Psychiatrist Dr. M. Scott Peck there are four spiritual stages of growth.

According to Dr. Peck stage one involves the “pretenders”, they often appear to be loving but are actually very self-serving. According to Dr. Peck stage two are the legalistic and dogmatic, who think of themselves as being superior to others as the bearers of truth. Stage three are the skeptics and non-theists, the scientifically minded. And lastly according to Dr. Peck stage four is the “mystic”, those who are open to the mystery of God.

See source: (People of the Lie (The Hope for Healing Human Evil) By M. Scott Peck, M.D.)

The following is my theory of the four spiritual stages.

Stage one: The Atheist

Indifference to religion in general. Has no interest in dogmatic allegiance to any one faith. The atheist feels comfortable with a scientific world view rather than a religious world view.

Stage two: The Churchgoers

Those dedicated and involved in a traditional organized religion with a clearly defined theology. Is comfortable with how the group interpret their faith and religion. They are dogmatic, and will not stray from the group's doctrine. Many remain convinced at this stage that all answers can be provided by the group's clearly defined script of truth. Includes those who have generational adherence to a particular sect (Christian, Judaism, Islam, Hindu,

Buddhism). Most will remain in this stage throughout their lifetime.

Stage three: The Thinker

Is willing to accept that it is okay to have a certain amount of mystery and paradox about who God is and what the purpose is of the universe. Is at peace with the journey of life. Perhaps the rarest of all stages. Is not afraid to think independently within the Christian faith. Is open to other Christian views. Is not adamantly

against other faithful
Christians who have a
different interpretation.

Stage Four:

The Apostle Paul would describe this group as the “mature” of faith, those who have left the spiritual milk stage, and have moved onto solid food. Hebrews 5:14 describes this group able to have discernment of good and evil, they are able to teach others and have trained themselves to walk in the principles of Christ. Paul

describes those on spiritual milk as being “worldly” and of the world. The main focus of the spiritually mature is to love God with all their heart, mind and soul, and to love their neighbor as themselves. They walk in love without a self-righteous attitude as the dogmatic pharisee. They are able to walk in spirit and truth, and are focused on taming fleshly pride. They do not have a superiority complex. Understanding all are loved by their creator and creation is not without an advocate. No one will be left in their poor estate, but will

be restored and into a relationship with their heavenly Father.

“May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:19

Devotional 15

World Religions

Across world religions and Christian traditions, views of hell vary widely—particularly on whether it is eternal, corrective, or ultimately abolished.

In **ancient Buddhism**, hell was initially understood as a place of severe torment, yet later reformed traditions emphasized liberation and release, teaching that hell itself would be emptied through enlightenment and victory over suffering.

In **Judaism**, many traditions view hell (*Gehinnom*) as temporary—often limited to twelve months—serving as purification rather than endless punishment. In extreme cases, the wicked may be annihilated rather than eternally tormented.

In **Islam**, hell is generally understood as eternal and reserved for those who reject Allah.

In **mainstream Protestant Christianity**, hell is typically taught as eternal and reserved for those who never turn to Christ by faith.

In **Pentecostal theology**, eternal punishment may

extend not only to unbelievers but also to professing believers who fail to live without persistent sin.

In **Catholic theology**, believers undergo purification in purgatory, while non-believers and the unbaptized are often understood to face eternal separation from God.

In **Eastern Orthodox theology**, purgatory is rejected, yet many within the tradition affirm the possibility—if not the hope—of the restoration of all creation.

In **Hinduism**, there is no eternal hell or personal devil;

instead, moral consequences unfold through karma across multiple lifetimes.

Early Christian (patristic) views of hell were likewise diverse and often shaped by geography and language. The **Eastern Church**, grounded in the Greek language of the New Testament, frequently understood judgment as *medicinal and restorative*. The **Western Church**, increasingly influenced by Latin legal categories, emphasized retributive justice and eternal punishment. A minority view—**Annihilationism**—held that

the wicked would ultimately cease to exist after a period of judgment.

Among these views, only one fully affirms the **ultimate victory of Christ:** restoration. In the universal and restorative vision, God's judgment heals rather than destroys, and all—*from the least to the greatest*—are welcomed to the Great Feast. This hope rests not on human merit, but on the abundant mercy of God.

Christ is the intercessor and Savior of all creation—
“the Lamb of God who takes

away the sin of the world.”

He does not intercede for a select few, but for all people, for all time.

As Scripture declares:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love.”

—1 John 4:18

The gospel, at its deepest level, is not a message of endless fear—but of victorious, perfect love.

Devotional 16

Systems of Theology

Christian denominations who all read the same book, come away with a multitude of different interpretations (all claim to be an authority on biblical interpretation).

Catholics, Protestants alike are devoted to helping others gain insight into Divine revelation and principles.

-To a Roman Catholic Saving Grace is communicated through the seven sacraments.

-To the Lutheran Grace is through faith alone.

-For an Anabaptist Sacraments are only symbols and do not provide saving grace.

-Those of a Reformed Baptist view see Salvation as determined by God, and not by human will.

-To a Methodist or those with an Arminian view Salvation is determined by human free will.

Beginning in the early church there have always been varied and differing opinions on almost every theological topic; there has never been a consensus. If salvation is dependent on getting it right in this lifetime, we have a problem because scripture is not as clear as we would like it to be. We tend to apply our western cultural ideals and concepts to interpret the Bible. The Bible is an ancient manuscript written by ancient people, living in an ancient culture. The Bible requires more consideration than an ordinary book or novel. It

takes a lifetime of study. And each time we study, we will always learn something new, because unlike a novel, the bible is life-giving water (John 7:38).

Fortunately, the fallibility of men is covered under grace. Christianity is unique. The Creator comes to rescue those who are unable to redeem themselves; our God is full of love and compassion and will never let anyone be lost forever. We can rest in His love and peace

that surpasses understanding.
We only need to trust in His
faithfulness. If we fall, He
will catch us, if we run, He
will search for us, if we
leave, He will patiently wait
until all prodigals return
home!

“For we know in part, and we
prophesy in part [for our
knowledge is fragmentary
and incomplete]”. 1 Cor 13:9

Devotional 17
The lake of Fire

Does the Lake of Fire Refute
Restoration and Redemption
for All Creation?

"When death approaches
life, and darkness to light,
and the corruptible to the
incorruptible, the inferior is
done away with and reduced

to non-existence, and the thing purged is benefited, just as the dross is purged from gold by fire."

-Gregory of Nyssa

Fire in Scripture describes God Himself, Judgement, and the refining fire. All people will be subjected to a lesser or more severe purging, depending on the number of impurities that need to be removed. For many Protestants this is an unacceptable interpretation. But Scripture is full of verses that warn the righteous, and unrighteous alike. According

to Christ, our deeds, attitudes, and motives matter on judgment day. Those on the left are bewildered and ask Christ why they are not included. They plead that they have cast out demons in His name, but Christ replied that they failed to have compassion for the helpless and vulnerable. Those on the right were surprised that they were included. Christ informed them that they had practiced love, kindness, and compassion, while those on the left were too preoccupied with themselves to help the less fortunate. A similar

story is told about a rich man who finds himself "punished" after his death. He is denied a drink of water because of his refusal to help the less fortunate during his lifetime on earth.

Some speculate that the lake of fire annihilates the entire (wicked) person, but if this is the case, Christ was not victorious over sin and death. Many examples can be found in scripture that indicate that the refiner's fire removes all impurities and purifies. In Zechariah

chapter 13, the Lord is cleansing Jerusalem from their idolatry and is going to purify them with the refiner's fire vs.1-2.... "On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity...." continued Verse 9..."This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" (NLT)

Our God is a consuming fire
and will purge all impurities
as radiation kills cancer.
Sodom's great sin was having
indifference to the less
fortunate. The refining fire of
God will purify all
wickedness. Simply put
wickedness is lack of love for
God and neighbor. The
outcome will be the end of
wickedness and death
itself. The second death is
the end of wickedness (they
are restored to
wholeness). Christ Jesus has
victory! The prince of
darkness is defeated forever!

“God does not make mistakes or create unredeemable trash good only to be thrown away. Though God respects human choice and free will, even when the choice is to reject Him, His love and mercy can forgive literally without exception without any blame.”

-Russian Orthodox Bishop Hilarion

*“He will swallow up death
[and abolish it] for all time.
And the Lord God will wipe
away tears from all faces,
And He will take away the
disgrace of His people from
all the earth;
For the Lord has spoken.”*

Isa 25:8 AMP

Devotional 18

Assurance of God's Grace

God knows and loves each of us personally and individually. He understands our struggles, and our sorrows. He is the Great Physician; He came to heal and restore everyone back to wholeness and peace. This is a universal truth that is trustworthy and true. Please share this message with those who have lost hope, and need a word of encouragement.

Law 1

The first Adam brought condemnation to all people, but the second Adam brought justification to all people.

-Romans 5:18

Law 2

For God has consigned all men to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all.

-Romans 11:32

Law 3

No man can boast (Eph 2:9),
for it is not dependent on
man's effort or desire, but on
God's Mercy!

-Romans 9:16

Law 4

God is unwilling that any
perish...

-2 Peter 3:9

Law 5

And I am convinced that
nothing can ever separate us
from God's love. Neither
death nor life, neither angels

nor demons, neither our fears
for today nor our worries
about tomorrow—not even
the powers of hell can
separate us from God's love.

- Romans 8:38 (NLT)

Law 6

He canceled all charges held
against us, nailing them to the
Cross.

- Colossians 2:14

Law 7

All will come and all will know the Lord. From the least to the greatest.

"I will put my laws in their heart and in their mind".

No one will say; "Know the Lord", for they will all know me" I will be their God, and they will be my people.

- Hebrews 8:11 (NLT)

What it means

God came for everyone, redemption is for the righteous, those who have faith and the unrighteous, those who have yet to come to faith. Mark 2:17

How to rest in Christ

Nothing can prevent anyone from the love of God. He is with us at our best and our worst. Life is a journey, full of trials and tribulations. We can rest in Christ, who will never leave us or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5

Share with others

Let others know that we can rest in the love of God.

Grow in Christ

“For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but one who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin.

-Hebrews 4:15

Devotional 19

Seven Cries from the Cross

What They Mean for The World.

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

God forgives us all, and will never give up on anyone. He will never leave or forsake us and is never willing that anyone be snatched from His hand. He decided before we were born that He would never let us perish.

2. "You will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

We will join our Heavenly Father in Paradise. He does not want us to fear death. He is for us, and with us. Do not fear, we are loved by our Father, who knows everything about us and loves unconditionally.

3. "Woman, behold your son!" (John 19:26-27).

Born to a virgin, Jesus never sinned, God became a man to walk with us and show us His love, taking death upon

Himself and being raised to life to intercede on behalf of all mankind. The penalty of eternal death was defeated by the blood of the lamb!

4. "I thirst!" (John 19:28).

God understands our weakness, and we no longer need to thirst again! He brings us life through the living water He provides through His faithfulness.

5. "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

There is nothing we need to do to earn His love or forgiveness. We are securely saved by His Grace.

6. "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit'" (Luke 23:46)

When we physically die, we will be in loving arms that will transform us into glorified bodies!

7. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

"And I give them eternal life, and they will never, ever [by any means] perish; and no one will ever snatch them out of My hand."

-John 10:28 (NLT)

Devotional 20

The Priesthood of Believers

The first great awakening in the 1730's brought revival. May we challenge and hope that the next great revival will proclaim Christ ended the need for intermediaries. Christ, along with Peter and Paul emphasized the priesthood of all believers. Yet, many Christian denominations rely on the old covenant system.

"...You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 2:5)
NLT

Like the reformation before, a revival would allow for believers from all around the world to read scripture for themselves, and become aware of the inconsistency in many denominational teachings. Every believer has the capacity to learn directly from the Spirit of Christ.

The spirit will teach us all
things” 1 John 2:27

Devotional 21

Sodom and Gomorrah

The debate among conservative and liberal scholars concerning Sodom and Gomorrah.

Conservative scholars emphasize the greatest sin of Sodom was their sexual activity. The verses used to support their view are:

Jude 1:7, Luke 17:29,
Genesis 19:24.

Liberal scholarship argues the greatest sin of Sodom was their lack of love and

compassion for their neighbor. This view is consistent with the message of the parable of the sheep and the goats) Matthew 25:46). How does this compare to the sin of Sodom? They lacked love and compassion for their fellow man, and community. It is stated that Sodom's great sin was lack of love for others, and we know the ten commandments are all summed up in one, "love God and one another".

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, “excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.

-Ezekiel 16:49 (NLT)

Christ sacrificed Himself; He lavished His love on the world, in order to display *Agape love*. We could not save ourselves, so God became one of us, to take upon Himself the sins of the world. And according to the prophet Ezekiel, even Sodom will be restored to health of

love and compassion. All that God creates is good.

“Nevertheless, I will restore them [again] from their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters (outlying cities), the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, and along with them [I will restore you from] your own captivity [in the day of the Lord God].”

Ezekiel 16:53 AMP

Devotional 22

We Are All One with Our Creator

When we lose our connection to God and to those around us, we have lost the most precious gift.... Love. Only when love is restored in our life can we be connected to God and to others. It is only when we allow ourselves the ability to connect to each

other through love, that we will bring healing to one another and to our planet.

So often in our society, in the past and in the present, we have been sold into the slavery of fear, only to be controlled and manipulated. But God came to liberate us from fear, He came to give us life in abundance. He adopted us as His sons and daughters. The spirit of fear comes from the (Satan) enemy. Our battle is not made of flesh and blood but of authorities and principalities of the air.

Fear is an energy that destroys who we are, children of the King. Nothing in all the universe can remove or take away all that God has bestowed upon us... the inheritance of liberty and peace to all creation. May we meditate and pray this daily to bring real change to the world, and allow the sacrifice of Christ Jesus to reset the world to abundant assurance.

“It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [which you once removed].”

-Galatians 5:1 AMP

Devotional 23

The Restoration of Job

Is the book of Job historical or allegorical? Like most Christian theological views, there are two extremes, but perhaps both are correct. Correct in the sense that Job was a historical person, and his biography supports the biblical theme of the fall in Eden, and the final restoration of Eden (paradise). Why would the creator allow the pain and sorrows of Job? Was there a

greater purpose for Job and the entire world?

For those familiar with the story of Job, he was a man of great wealth and righteousness. What was the purpose of allowing the adversary (Satan) to take away all of the blessings of Job?

For the universalist, the story of Job follows the theme of the entire Gospel. Suffering is limited and serves a greater purpose. In the end the entire

world will be restored. Not just the righteous, but the unrighteous as well. Job is an example of the principles of restoration. While the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy, the Savior of the world came to bring restoration and defeat the enemy (Satan).

Restoration in Scriptures:

- After the oppression of Israel God brought restoration.
- Sodom and Gomorrah will be restored.
- The Garden of Eden will be restored.
- All things will be restored.
- From the least to the greatest will be restored.
- The blind, deaf and lame (spiritually-physically speaking) will be restored.

- The unrighteous will be restored.

“At that time, I will bring you in, yes, at the time I gather you together; For I will make you a name and a praise. Among all the peoples of the earth. When I restore your fortunes [and freedom] before your eyes. Says the Lord.”

-Zephaniah 3:20

Devotional 24
Knowing God's Peace

Knowing the peace of God,
transcends all understanding.
Philippians 4:7

There is only one way to the
Father (Jesus Christ), His
sacrifice was inclusive for
everyone. (John 3:16, John
14:6, Ephesians 2:18 1 John
4:11)

Salvation can never be
revoked or lost. Christ's
blood secured salvation
forever, but it is mankind's
responsibility to prepare and

work towards sanctification.
Prepare for the Kingdom of
God is at hand. (Romans
5:19, Matthew 3:2-3, Luke
13:24, 1 Peter 4:18)

Gehenna (hell) is a temporary
place to restore and transform
souls to prepare them to live
in the Kingdom of God, and
this is only possible through
the Grace, Compassion, and
Mercy of God. (Luke 12:58-
59, 1 Peter 3:19, 1 Peter 4:6,
Romans 8:38-39)

God is literally Love and
Compassion and is not
willing for any to perish.

(Matthew 18:14, 2 Peter 3:9,
Palms 86:15, Isaiah 38:18)

God is going to grant full
knowledge to everyone, with
an outcome of celebration.
(Hosea 4:6, Jeremiah 31:34,
Romans 14:11, Isaiah 45:23)

Every knee and every tongue
are going to WILLINGLY
confess Jesus is Lord and will
be saved from an eternity
without Him. (Isaiah 45:43,
Philippians 2:11, Hebrews
14:11)

Christ defeated Satan and
death, and nothing can
separate anyone from God's

Grace. (Job 33:24, Colossians 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:24, 1 Corinthians 15:55)

No demonic authority can prevent anyone from receiving their full inheritance. (2 Timothy 2:13, John 10:29, Romans 5:18, Hebrews 9:12)

There will be a future new world where there will no longer be death or suffering. God will restore His beautiful creation to peace and wholeness. (Acts 3:21, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 60:20, Revelations 21:4)

God is omniscient. His love will reign and no soul can be left in their fallen condition. For they will be cured by the Great Physician.

“And Jesus replied to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but [only] those who are sick.”

Luke 5:31

Devotional 25

The Unforgivable Sin

*” ...But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit and His power [by attributing the miracles done by Me to Satan] never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin [a sin which is **unforgivable** in this present age as well as in the age to come]”—*

-Mark 3:29

Most have a great fear that they have or will commit the unforgiveable sin. But most commentaries are not consistent in their understanding of this type of sin.

When we compare scripture with scripture, we have several principles God provides for assurance. He has commanded us to forgive seven times seventy. If we are always to forgive, Would God not do the same?

Matthew 18:35 Encourages us to forgive from our heart. The Lord knows there are many situations where reconciliation is not possible, but we are still commanded to forgive from our heart.

With passages such as these, we can conclude that the Lord always forgives. As He cannot contradict Himself. Nor does He command mere sinners to forgive while He does not. Could anyone commit such a grievous sin that is unforgivable? Thomas Talbott writes that the “unforgivable sin” is not an

act for which there is no forgiveness, but rather an act that cannot be pardoned.

He states that some forms of punishment are necessary, and when the punishment is complete the sinner is forgiven.²

² See Talbot, Thomas, *The Inescapable Love of God* (Salem, OR: Universal Publishers, 1999), p. 104.

Grace covers a multitude of
sin. God does not withhold
His Grace due to our failure;
He will never leave or
forsake anyone.

*And Jesus was saying,
“Father, forgive them; for
they do not know what they
are doing.” Luke 23:34
(NLT)*

Devotional 26

Restorative Justice

God's love is justice. We equate justice with punishment, but justice is an act of love. Justice trains and restores us to God. God is interested in restoring us to our true self, our pre-fallen perfected condition before the evil one destroyed creation. Our heavenly father desires *the created* to have a clearer understanding of how our actions affect those around us. God aims to heal all of creation. Our theology tends to be influenced by our

culture, and unfortunately,
our culture is full of abuse
and violence. We have a
heavenly father who
understands our predicament.

*“For he must remain in
heaven until the time for the
final restoration of all things,
as God promised long ago
through his holy prophets.”*

-Acts 3:21 (NLT)

Restorative justice in our court systems aim to heal all parties. In God's court system, Christ is our advocate and He will heal all worldly sorrows caused by mankind's ignorance and selfishness. Most if not all sin is selfishness.

The eighth amendment in our constitution is one of the most important, because it prevents our justice system from inflicting cruel and unusual punishment. Another aspect of our justice system is the virtue of mercy. The

virtue of mercy allows the judge to take into account any aspect of a criminal's past that may have caused unlawful behavior. Many criminals in our prison have had a less-than-ideal environment. Charles Manson was said to have suffered extreme rejection from his birth mother and was placed in a boy's home, while the boy's home he was subjected to multiple molestations from those in the clergy. He ran away multiple times to escape the abuse. Jody Arias, who murdered her ex-boyfriend

was speculated as having being sexually abused by her own father as a child. Serial killer, Aileen Wuornos was raped and abused by multiple family members. Wouldn't these types of environments cause someone to become mentally incapacitated and damaged? The effect of sin has had a ripple effect on the world since the beginning. Cain murdered his own brother, and it has only continued to become worse. Sin has caused all our relationships to become twisted and yes, in the above instances evil.

Because God is a Father to all
He is going to rectify His
entire family.

*“Even if my father and
mother abandon me, the
LORD will hold me close.” -
Psalm 27:10 (NLT)*

We might ask ourselves, does
God have less mercy than
human judges? Manson,
Wuornos, and Arias were all
abandoned and abused by
their biological parents.

Will God literally do the same? As Paul reminds us, Grace doesn't give anyone the license to sin, but where sin increases God's grace abounds!

“But the Law came to increase and expand [the awareness of] the trespass [by defining and unmasking sin]. But where sin increased, [God’s remarkable, gracious gift of] grace [His unmerited favor] has surpassed it and increased all the more.

Romans 5:20 AMP

Devotional 27

Why Did God Allow Evil?

How do we define evil? Einstein once said that without light there is darkness. Similarly, we can understand evil as the absence of love. The good news is that God provided a remedy long before the fall of Adam and Eve.

We often ask why God allows evil to persist.

Scripture teaches that, in His appointed time, all earthly sorrows will end, and a new creation will emerge—a world where love reigns supreme. This present age allows humanity to learn the consequences of evil, yet it is not the final order of things.

One day, God will renew all creation, filling it with His love and the love of one for another. As Revelation promises:

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will be no more death, no more mourning, crying, or

pain, for the former order of things has passed away.”
—Revelation 21:4

Evil is temporary, but God’s love is eternal. The universe is moving toward a day when love will fully conquer darkness, and all creation will be restored.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be death; there will no longer be sorrow *and* anguish, or crying, or pain; for the former

order of things has passed
away.” Rev 21:4

Devotional 28

Abundant Mercy Questions

Abundant Mercy adheres to the restorative version of God's Grace.

The Early Church and scripture teach; that we are all judged and are held accountable for our lives.

Christ redeemed humanity from death. Thus, God is not willing that any perish.

Therefore, death does not end God's Mercy, He continues to

reach out to those who have
been separated from Him
through their own deceptions.

*Love never gives up, never
loses faith, is always hopeful,
and endures through every
circumstance.*

1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT

Can you lose Salvation if you
fall back into unbelief or sin?

No one can lose salvation;
Christ secured it with His
own blood. We are not
without hope.

“Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people’s sins.” Hebrews 7:27

Devotional 29

The Great Commission

Sharing the news of God's unconditional love:

Without question God's love is unlimited and the theme should never be about fear or dread, but of peace that surpasses understanding. (Philippians 4:7). NLT

God never changes; His Love, Grace and Mercy override our sins.

"For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-Romans 8:38-39

God loves us all and will transform us all. " *When Jesus heard this, he told*

them, “The Healthy don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are unrighteous (sinners).” Mark 2:17

If we have lost the way, we will find the way to Grace.
"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee."

-Psalm 22:27 NLT

We will all be healed of all our sorrows and trauma here in earth. *"Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved, for You are my praise."*

-Jeremiah 17:14 NLT

All are invited and all are welcome! *"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely."*

-Revelation 22:17 NLT

*The LORD is merciful and
gracious, slow to anger, and
plenteous in mercy.*

-Psalm 103:8 NLT

*... "The LORD, the LORD
God, is compassionate and
gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in loving devotion
and faithfulness."*

-Exodus 34:6 NLT

*The LORD is merciful and
good; our God is
compassionate.*

-Psalm 116:5 NLT

God, our Redemer is
Unconditional love....

"It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...."

-1 Corinthians 13:6 NLT

Devotional 30

Perfect Love

We hear it all the time through traditional models of who God does and does not redeem from their unrighteous condition.

Calvinism is a traditional view and an acceptable teaching within Christian theology whereby God has predetermined only a few people will be redeemed.

This, of course, means many people will never make it to the promise land (heaven).

Arminianism teaches that while God loves everyone enough to save them, it is up to each person to accept His offer of salvation and thus “seal the deal.” But once again, a large majority of the population will end up in hell rather than heaven. Both Calvinism and Arminianism display an imperfect love which was not strong enough to redeem everyone.

Universalism is consistent with the scriptures that God's love has victory. We are not redeemed by our strength but only through God's strength. God will redeem all of creation that the devil destroyed.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

-1 John 4:10 NLT

Two widely held views fall short. Universalism does not fall short it supports the victory of Christ Jesus, who

provides grace for everyone. God's plan and redemptive act bring Glory to Him alone. All humanity will be reconciled to their creator; all of humanity was harmed by the murderous act of Satan. God's perfect plan is to reunite His perfect creation to peace and wholeness. Isn't this great news? This is divine intervention (Christ's Redemptive act). As much as we like to take credit for 'coming to faith,' it isn't up to us. We couldn't salvage or redeem ourselves from our estrangement from our

creator, so He came down to earth as the Savior to remove the curse of death and restore a broken relationship with all His family.

“...And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).”

-John 1:14

It has been engrained in our culture that eternal punishment awaits those with unbelief and that our creator is prevented from reaching anyone who is 'not willing.' But scripture makes a good case that this is not the final outcome. Why? God is not 'willing' that any perish.

“The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] *and* is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9 Amp

From the Author:

It is my passion to share the
Abundant Mercy of our
Savior! The best Rx in the
world is the Great Physician,
Christ our Lord. The sacrifice

Christ made is truly a gift to all creation and it is an honor to share the good news. Let us celebrate His Love and Grace! Thank you for reading.

Blessings and Peace,

-Wendy Burnfield

“It is for this that we labor and strive [often called to account], because we have fixed our [confident] hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe [in Him, recognize Him as the Son of God, and accept Him as Savior and Lord].”

-1 Timothy 4:10 Amp

