

My Saviour's Love



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PREFACE

This is my first attempt at writing a Devotion. I have written short devotions to go with the songs on the 'My Saviour's Love' CD. This has been a great and fun exercise. I Pray that the messages will bring you into a closer walk the our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I accepted the Lord as my Saviour when I was 8 years old. My family were members of the local First Baptist Church and during one of the Sunday services the preacher was giving a message on Hell and I knew I didn't want to go there. So I went forward and said a prayer. It was a that time that I believe the Lord began a work in me to draw me into His presence. I also began playing guitar when I was 8 and I fell in love with the instrument. I have spent untold hours playing and during my teen years played for my own pleasures. I played in a few bands around the Atlanta area and threw myself into the "Rock Star" lifestyle. I was going to retire at age 35, a millionaire guitarist. The Lord had other plans. I met the lady who would be my wife and we began our life together. It was during this time that I made the decision to pursue a different career since I had more than myself to support. I went to school to study Data Processing and started work as a computer programmer. In 1989 the Lord brought us to Wycliffe Bible Translators and we served at the SIL Center in Duncanville TX for 10 years. I continued to play throughout all this time and served off and on as a Worship Leader in Church. I have always had the dream of making my own CD and the Lord has given me some new songs to use for that purpose. As I went through the process of creating this CD I knew the Lord wanted me to use this as a method of sharing the Hope that Christ has given me with all who would listen. With that I put together this document that states the inspiration for each of the songs. I pray that the messages in this music will encourage, challenge and renew the Spirit of Faith in Christians (Eph. 5:19) and cause non-Christians to question and contemplate the truth presented here. (John 12:32) In 1 Timothy The Bible tells us that "God desires ALL men to be saved and come to the Full knowledge of the Truth". Unbelief and rejection breaks God's heart, because He knows the consequences. But when the door of the human heart is shut, He does not force His way in. He only knocks, waiting to be let in. He has given us the ability to choose. But when we choose the wrong thing, He knows the repercussions that will follow—in this life and the one to come. And His heart is broken. If you would like more information about Jesus or how you can accept Him as Lord and Saviour, please use the contact information on the back page of this document. I pray that the Holy Spirit will encourage and engulf you and bring you to a greater understanding of our great God and His son Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with You.

rw

1

MY SAVIOUR'S LOVE

Rom. 5:8 - **“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

This is my favorite verse! Interestingly, the Bible doesn't ever just say that God loves us. Instead, it says: “God demonstrated his love...” “In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and gave...” “For God so loved the world that he gave...” Love is more than emotion or intention. True love, redemptive love, Agape love is active, is a verb, it does something. For us, Jesus took action, he sacrificed everything. What's more, he did it when we most needed it. He showed his love for us while we were sinners, having no inclination or desire for God.

Jesus did not die for us because he impressed by who we are or had high hopes of what we would be. No, he died for us because he knew exactly who we are and what we would be without him. Praise be to God! Because of Jesus's sacrifice, we are now God's righteousness. Jesus took our sin upon himself and gave us God's grace and righteousness in its place (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Christ died for the ungodly. Christ died for me. I am powerless to save myself. There is nothing within me to make me righteous. Without Jesus' sacrificial death and without God's grace I could not be saved. Jesus did for me what I could not do and paid my debt which I could not pay. He did it for me because of His great love for me. Just as His

love and sacrifice is sufficient for you. Not because we deserve it or are worthy of it, but because we can't be worthy without it. There is no way for us to humanly understand or fathom the great Love that Christ shows for us. I pray that you open your heart to Christ and allow Him to alter your life. To bring you to the point that His love flows through you to those around you and in so doing He draws others to Himself.

INSTRUMENTAL



ABOVE THE NOISE

Rom. 12:2 - "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

There is so much stuff in the world today wanting our attention, that it is hard to define a time to isolate ourselves and focus only on the Lord. What has crept into our lives that has taken the place of the Lord in our thoughts? It is so easy to be engulfed in the material things that we enjoy and place our focus on those or the ability to get those, that we crowd out the Lord. Because God first sacrificed what is most precious to him to save us, he can ask us to surrender ourselves to him. However, God doesn't ask anything of us without giving us the ability and instruction to do it. Rom. 12:2 instructs us how to accomplish what God asks of us. We are to renew our minds by study and meditation of God's Word. This way we learn to hear and act upon what God has enlightened to us. Each day that we offer ourselves to Jesus as his servants, we also are offering him our worship. Every time that we consciously resist evil and choose good, we are offering pleasing and acceptable worship to God. Each day our decisions and actions are crucial parts of our worship to God!

The issue is that we want to keep crawling off the altar. We must surrender ourselves, our will, our time, our heart, our commitment, to God each day. Otherwise, God's altar is empty and we build our own altar to hold the things of our imagination!

Above The Noise

Daily life surrounds me, show me Your hand
Silence all that's in me, so I can hear Your guiding voice
So Lord, hear this prayer, the supplication of my heart.

I want to rise and sing above the noise,
To learn from your example, as you show me all Your ways
To know what breaks Your heart or brings You joy
To live my life expecting, to hear the still small voice that calls to me
Above the noise.

So Let us come together, not standing for our own
Seeking God's compassion, in unity before His throne
Lord open our eyes, to see the world the way You do

We need to rise and sing above the noise,
so let us be Your agents, to become Your hands and feet
That through our lives the world can see Your face
To look around and find You, to hear the still small voice that calls to
us
Above the noise.



3

WHEN ITS ALL SAID AND DONE

Rom. 8:35-39 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Imagine yourself standing alone before God and wondering what He is going to say or do to you. Perhaps you believe you've lived a pretty good life. But, does it come near the holiness of God? That is why it is so very critical that our sins are covered by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We are reminded of the symbol of this in the Passover which preceded the release of the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. They were commanded to take an unblemished lamb, kill it, and apply the blood to the door-posts of their houses. That was the only way of escaping the plague of the death of the first-born.

Without the blood of Jesus applied to the doorpost of our hearts, there is no salvation. We can do countless good works but that will

not save us or make us fit for heaven. It is only by confessing our sins and receiving Him into our hearts that His blood covers us and protects us.

While I cannot understand this fully, I accept it by faith since the Bible says it's so. With that in mind, we who have had our sins covered by the blood of Jesus do not have to fear the judgement of God. He looks down and sees only the blood of His dear Son, applied to our life. With such a magnificent gift on our behalf, we should strive to live life with a grateful response. Our goal then as Christians is to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant..." when its all said and done.

LYRICS

When Its All Said and Done

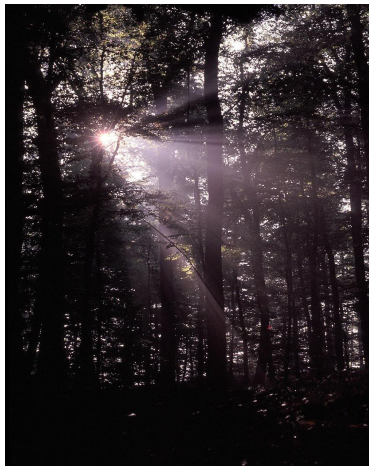
Tonight, I find myself back down
My feet, they're planted firmly on the ground
The heavens open and my light I see,
my light I see
And will you remember me oh

When its all said and done
My father loves me
When its all said and done
He will wrap his arms around
When its all said done
His wings will carry me home
They will carry me home

And now, As I stand before Your throne
The righteousness You see is not my own
You gave it willingly so I could know
Your presence in my life
Lord I open up my heart to You!

4 GLORIOUS IN ALL YOUR WAYS

I am fascinated by the emphasis of 'love' in 1 Coringhians 13. When I have read this passage in the past, I always had the view that this was an admonition from God as to how we are supposed to treat each other. This is a great goal, but for me, quite unattainable! Then my wife mentioned to me that during one of the messages on Sunday, the Lord made it clear to her that this passage is also a description of how God loves us. To think that the creator of the universe loves me with that description of love is over-whelming!!



Glorious In All Your Ways

You are the reason for my joy, Jesus
You are all I need, You fill my heart with peace and chase away my fears
Your love towers over me!

I will bless the Lord always
Your praise will always be, flowing from my heart my soul shall make its
boast
Only in the Lord

Glorious in all Your ways
You alone O Lord, are worthy of all praise
We lift You up, Your anthem raise
And proclaim to all the Nations
The wonders of our God!

Your tender mercy draws me in
And I am captured by the love that offered up its life for me
That broke my bonds and set me free...

Lord You know I feel so small
But You are holding me, and in Your hand I cannot slip away
I'll declare it all my days...

5 | MY DESIRE

Rev. 19:16 - **"On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."**

Isa. 9:6 - **"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

I was listening to an interview of a young person the other day. I don't remember the show, but they were being asked why they were attending the church they were at. The only thing that I remember the young person saying was how much the passion of the congregation attracted her. It was one of those times when everything in your mind is pushed away and that one truth just knocks you right between the eyes. I thought of the book by John Piper, "Let the Nations be Glad", in which he stated that missions exists because worship does not. How can I live a life of worship? As I was thinking about that today, I thought about the guitar lessons I would be teaching tonight and how these lessons will impact my students. Then it hit me, my worship lifestyle must be a learned behaviour. When I give a lesson, the goal is to play. No matter how much the player knows, playing is the desired activity. With each lesson, the player understands more, has improved on the first lessons, and can attempt more difficult things. With all this study, the outcome is playing. The student continues to play.

As a Christian, my goal is to worship. We were created to worship God and bring Him glory. All of life's lessons prepare us to worship. As a student of God, I study His word, I pray, and I have fellow-

ship with other believers. All of this is used by God to enable my worship. We should not study for the sake of study or to obtain knowledge for its own end. Our study should sharpen our focus on God and who He is, and open our eyes to ourselves and who we are. As we recognise God and His majesty we can not help but stand in awe and worship. Jesus said, “..If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me...”. I commit to making a more concerted effort in living all of my life to bring Glory to my God. As I worship Him, my faith grows, my love for Him grows, and my desire to accomplish His will in my life grows. As I see God work in my life, I worship Him more and the cycle continues.

How about you? Has your passion for Jesus Christ waned over time? I don't mean a bunch of contrived actions or planned manipulations of peoples emotions, but an honest expression of a life sold out to our loving Lord. That can only happen as we spend time getting to know our Saviour. I confess, that way too much time goes by between my conversational times with God. It is a struggle to shut out the noise and distraction of the world and take time to invest in our relationship with God, but that is what we are called to do as believers. We were created to glorify God, and we can only do that to our level of understanding. Let us not wait until we have a certain level before we worship. Just as the musician plays and uses his study to improve, let us take on the same mindset and worship, using our study to have a greater understanding of God to fuel a life lived to worship God in Spirit and Truth.

I invite you to join me in this prayer - Father, consume me, Fill me with a passion to know You so that my life honours Your son.

My Desire

Lord of Lords, King of Kings
Wonderful Counsellor
Prince of Peace, Mighty God
the Holy One who is The Great I AM

Jesus, You all that I desire
Fill me with Your Spirit, keep me burning with Your fire
Till all You see within me, is a reflection of Your heart
Jesus take my life and live through me



Some Favourite Quotes

"For God demonstrates His own love in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!" Rom.5:8

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." -Victor Hugo

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness. Nothing is so gentle as real strength." - Frances de Sales

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods." (Psalm 95: 1-3)

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."
- C.S. Lewis

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." - C.S. Lewis

6 | LONGING FOR RAIN

There are times in my Christian walk when I feel isolated and alone. I feel as if the Lord is far away. These are desert times in my life and sometimes it takes me a bit to understand what is happening. I believe that the Lord uses these times to prepare us for what is going to take place later in our lives. God wants to use this time to draw me closer to Himself. As my loneliness becomes more acute, I begin to cry out to God more often and more urgent. This is a time to talk less and listen more as God desires to teach me. So in this case, the desert is a good thing, a tool for greater understanding and relationship with God.

As I was thinking and praying through the realisation of desert times, I had another image of deserts. Many times in the Bible, rain is used to represent the blessings of God, therefore a desert would be the absence of Gods blessing. I got this picture in my mind of the unsaved people of the world. A desert of humanity engulfed in the absence of God in their lives. Dry and hardened hearts oblivious to the 'Water of Life' that is available. I ask you to join with me and pray that the scent of rain would sweep through our country, our culture, and even the world and that the people of God would be a valid witness to the compassion and love of our Great God!

Longing For Rain

Lord this desert is so dry
I don't even have the tears to cry
Lord I need to know your near
Lord I need to know it's your voice I hear

I'm Longing for your rain
Send your spirit now and fill my life again
As I pray for blinded eyes to see
Let revival start with me

When you look upon this sea of sand
So many here refuse to see your hand
Your calling out but they don't know your there
Lord help me show them just how much you care

Lord we're Longing for your rain
Send your spirit now and fill our lives again
As we pray for blinded eyes to see
Let revival start right here



7 THE TRUTH THAT NEVER FAILS

Psalm 29 - **“Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. . . the Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.”**

Who is the Lord, and who is like our God? Remember, we are talking about the God of creation; but it is difficult for us to maintain a proper view of just who God is. We quickly reduce Him in our hearts to a person more like us. We are more comfortable with a God who is always there to help and guide us rather than a God of judgment, strength, and power over all the earth. Just how powerful is the voice of the Lord? The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders. . . . The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. . . . The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare.

Now, what response should we have to this God of power and might? In His temple everyone says, "Glory!" Are we to fear this God? Yes! For non-Christians this is a fear of quaking and trembling before a holy God who will judge all people. For the Christian this is a fear of respect at the awesomeness of God who sits as King forever. The Lord

will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Pray today that God would fill you with a fear and respect toward God our true King, who alone gives you strength and peace.

LYRICS

The Truth That Never Fails

The Lord He comes in Splendour
arrayed in Majesty on High
His Glory fills the air!
He speaks the word and calms the raging waves
The mountains bow down at His feet
The whole earth trembles
Longing for His footsteps once again...

You are Everlasting
Righteous King of Glory, Lord of all
Holy is Your Name
So terrible in all Your awesome power,
So gentle as you call my name
I fall before You
Your tenderness and mercy's won my heart...

Hallelujah, You are with me
You are the truth that never fails
You have saved me, I am rescued
Now I see beyond the veil
Your love's given brand new life to me

8

I WILL TRUST/LORD YOU ARE

Psalm 3:1, 3, and 8 - *“Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. . . But You, O Lord, are a shield for me . . . Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.”*

It's easy to be overwhelmed by the ungodly culture we live in today. Sometimes we feel like we're alone in the world and that everything is aimed at bringing us down. Our conflict, whether physical or mental becomes larger than life and can overtake us. We must remember as the Psalmist did, that the Lord is our shield and refuge, that salvation belongs to Him and He delights in blessing His people. In 2 Kings, The king of Syria had come to Dothan in search of Elisha with the intention of killing him. Early one morning Elisha's servant went out and was horrified to see that the city was surrounded by the horses and chariots of the Syrians. He quickly ran to tell Elisha, but Elisha told him that the people with Elisha and the servant were greater in number than the army of the Syrians. Then Elisha prayed that the servant's eyes would be opened. Imagine his surprise when he saw the mountains were filled with horses and chariots of fire. Remember God is all around you, you are never alone. The mountains

are filled with the horses and chariots of God's servants. We don't see them, but they are always there.

LYRICS

I Will Trust

When my life is shrouded in darkness
And all I knew is gone
When understanding forsakes me
And doubt tries to tell me I'm wrong
You're the healing balm that I run to

I will trust in You Lord
And in the truth of Your Word
I will give my heart completely Lord to you
And You will be my shelter
You will be my rock
You will be my comfort in the storm

Even now Your right hand upholds me
Though all my strength is gone
You set a table before me
Your joy fills my life with a song
Jesus, You're the light that fills my soul

Lord You Are

Lord You are marvellous, wonderful, glorious
Lord You are, my strength my shield
You're the lifter of my head
We sing Glory and Honour
Worthy are You Lord
the Heavens sing, and the Earth proclaims
the Wonders of Your Name

9

MEDITATION 14

Psalm 8 - “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Isa 40:22 - “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.”

Sometimes I just need to sit down alone with the Lord and keep my mouth shut. There are time when the more I ramble, the more me focused I become. I love this Psalm as it helps me keep a proper perspective on me and God. My image of God (the picture in my head) is the primary basis for my worship. If I get to big in my own mind my worship of God suffers, therefore I need to be reminded of my smallness. So, if our solar system were scaled down to be the size of a

period on your computer monitor, then the galaxy would be about 50 miles in diameter. Now, if it takes years for our fastest ships to get to Saturn which is like going from the center of the period to the edge, how long would it take to travel 50 miles?

Another scientist put it this way: consider our galaxy, just ours, and imagine a perfectly smooth glass pavement on which the finest speck can be seen. Then shrink our sun from 865,00 miles in diameter to only two feet and place a ball on the pavement to represent the sun. Step off 164 feet to represent proportionately the first planet, Mercury, and put down a tiny mustard seed. Go another 120 feet and for Venus put down a BB. Go about 156 feet further and put down a green pea representing earth. Step off about 216 feet and for Mars put down a pinhead. Sprinkle around some fine dust for the asteroids, then go about 1576 feet and put down an orange for Jupiter. After 2000 feet put down a golf ball for Saturn. Now—over 4000 feet, a marble for Uranus. Another 4700 feet and you get to Neptune. Put down a cherry. We have gone 2 ½ miles and haven't even discussed Pluto. Now on a surface 5 miles across we have a seed, a BB, a pea, pinhead, some dust, an orange, golf ball, marble and a cherry. Guess how far we would have to go on this scale before we could put down another 2-foot ball to represent the nearest star? 6,720 miles before we would arrive at that star. Miles. And that is just the first star among millions in one galaxy. All of these bodies are perfectly synchronized and the most accurate timepiece known to man (Swindol, *Come Before Winter*, p. 294f.).

Amazing! The God Who created all that, stepped out of His existence and stepped into ours (green pea) to die on a cross for our sin, to give us the opportunity to call Him father and share eternity with Him. No wonder David asked in wonder, "Why do you care about humans at all?" (Ps. 8—CEV). In the big picture of the universe... we are oh so small!!! which is what makes Psalm 8 and the incarnation and cross of Jesus so significant!!!

INSTRUMENTAL



Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. I have enjoyed the process of creating this and pray that it will be an encouragement to you in your walk with the Lord. If you do not have a relationship with Jesus, let me encourage you to accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. If you have question please visit <http://www.theoaksonline.org/meeting-your-needs/relationship-with-god> or call 214.376.8208.

