

Basking in the Father's Love

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might be saved – John 3:16

Jesus was the perfect expression of the Father's love. The fact that Jesus was given to us as a sacrificial Lamb to take away our sins and present us spotless to the Father above is the most significant expression of love that's ever been given.

Jesus constantly portrayed the love of the Father as He went forth in ministry to those who were considered outcasts and needed to be wrapped in His love. Jesus expressed the warmth of the Father's heart exquisitely when He said, speaking of the children of Israel, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings." Our Father above wants nothing more than to indulge us in the warmth of His great love as He wraps us under the shadow of His wings. He deeply desires to keep us as the apple of His eye as we hide under the shadow of His wings.¹

As we faithfully meditate upon His great love, He reminds us of His goodness and wonderful works towards us. In doing so, He satisfies our longing souls and fills our hungry hearts with His goodness. Daily, reminded of His beautiful thoughts towards us just as David was, our faith in Him grows stronger.

Psalm 139:17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

As we focus on God's beautiful thoughts towards us, they draw us into a greater degree of intimacy with Him while we bathe in His tremendous love. By continually setting our hearts on things above rather than earthly discomforts and trials, He lifts us above all that is mundane and burdensome.

Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things of earth. ³ For you died; your life is hidden with Christ in God.

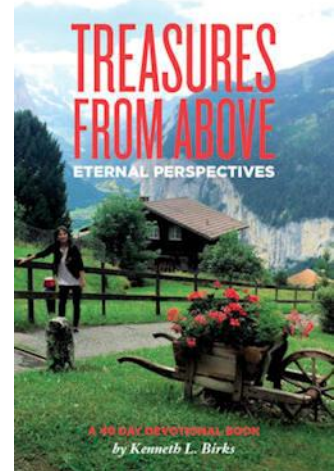
To bask in the Father's love, is to set our hearts on Him. By setting aside time each day to draw near to God, we delight in His presence. Whether through meditation, reading, or the study of His word, worship, or intercession, it's something we do proactively.

We cannot afford to allow condemnation, guilt, and the pressures of our daily lives to keep us from soaking in His presence. Even though His love and presence is still there, condemnation and guilt block us from sensing it. His desire is for us to come boldly into His presence and experience the warmth and the joy that flows from His heart towards ours. As we faithfully come before Him, we sense His love washing over us with revelation and understanding while His wonderful treasures flow freely from His throne above into our lives.

Psalm 107:8-9 Oh, that the men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for the wonderful works to the children of men! ⁹ For He satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Prayer

Father, God, I desire to come into your presence today so that I can indulge in Your great love. Help me put aside any worldly concerns as I set my heart on all that you have in store for me from Your magnificent treasure house. Release from me all guilt, shame, and condemnation. Help me know that I'm standing in



¹ Psalm 17:8

Your righteousness rather than my own. I desire to come boldly into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving for Your wonderful works.

Poem: Looking Out My Window

Looking out my window, God's wonders are seen in the skies.
With expectations of a new day, sunrise is seen as it rises.
What will this day bring that wraps me in the arms of His love?
As the sun rises, eyes are blinded by its brightness above.
Gazing upon its beauty, new revelation awakens with His love.

Looking out my window, the sun's warmth is felt, so bright.
Squirrels play joyfully without thought or care of fright.
In the beauty of His created ones, God's hand is seen.
As squirrels and sparrows play and fly freely, His care is seen.
More than those who chirp and play, in us, He delights.

Looking out my window, sadness is seen on some passing by.
As the homeless walk by, I wonder where they sleep tonight.
As the sun fades, it gives way to darkness and cold with bite.
I pray the provider supplies what's needed as the sun fades away.
As birds and squirrels play and chirp are provided for, I pray.

Looking out my window, mothers and children joyfully stroll by.
Rejoicing in their little miracles of birth, they sing a lullaby.
Gazing upon their beauty, their hearts fill with wonder.
Aware of God's faithfulness, their cups fill with gratefulness.
Taking note of the beauty and wonder of God, I give praise.

Looking out my window, stray cats bask in the sunlight.
They sleep contentedly, well-fed, though they've no home.
The neighborhood their home; they disappear into the night.
With thanks, praise is given for the significance of a stray cat.
In awareness, I realize I'm more significant in His sight.

Looking out my window, all seen, I'm filled with amazement.
Seeing His handiwork, I rejoice in what's made for enjoyment.
Looking with care over what's conceived, peace liberates.
As faith arises, His love washes with all that He's achieved.
Wrapped in His tender love of care, the moment is enjoyed.

Scriptures to Meditate Upon

Matthew 6:24-34, Psalm 17:8, Romans 1:20, Psalm 107:8-9, Colossians 3:1-3, Hebrews 4:14-16.

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**This Devotional was taken from the book,
"Treasures From Above"
by Kenneth L Birks**

For complete information on this book please click the link below

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