

KNOW LOVE SHOW LOVE

**A DEVOTIONAL BOOK FOR THE PEOPLE
OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Fall 2022

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK



One day, a Pharisee approached Jesus and asked him: “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-39).

This sounds so simple, but the hard truth is that it can often be difficult to show love to others. Especially if you don’t feel loved yourself.

And so, while this devotional booklet is titled “Know Love, Show Love”, the focus of the book is simply on helping us know the love of God in our lives a little better.

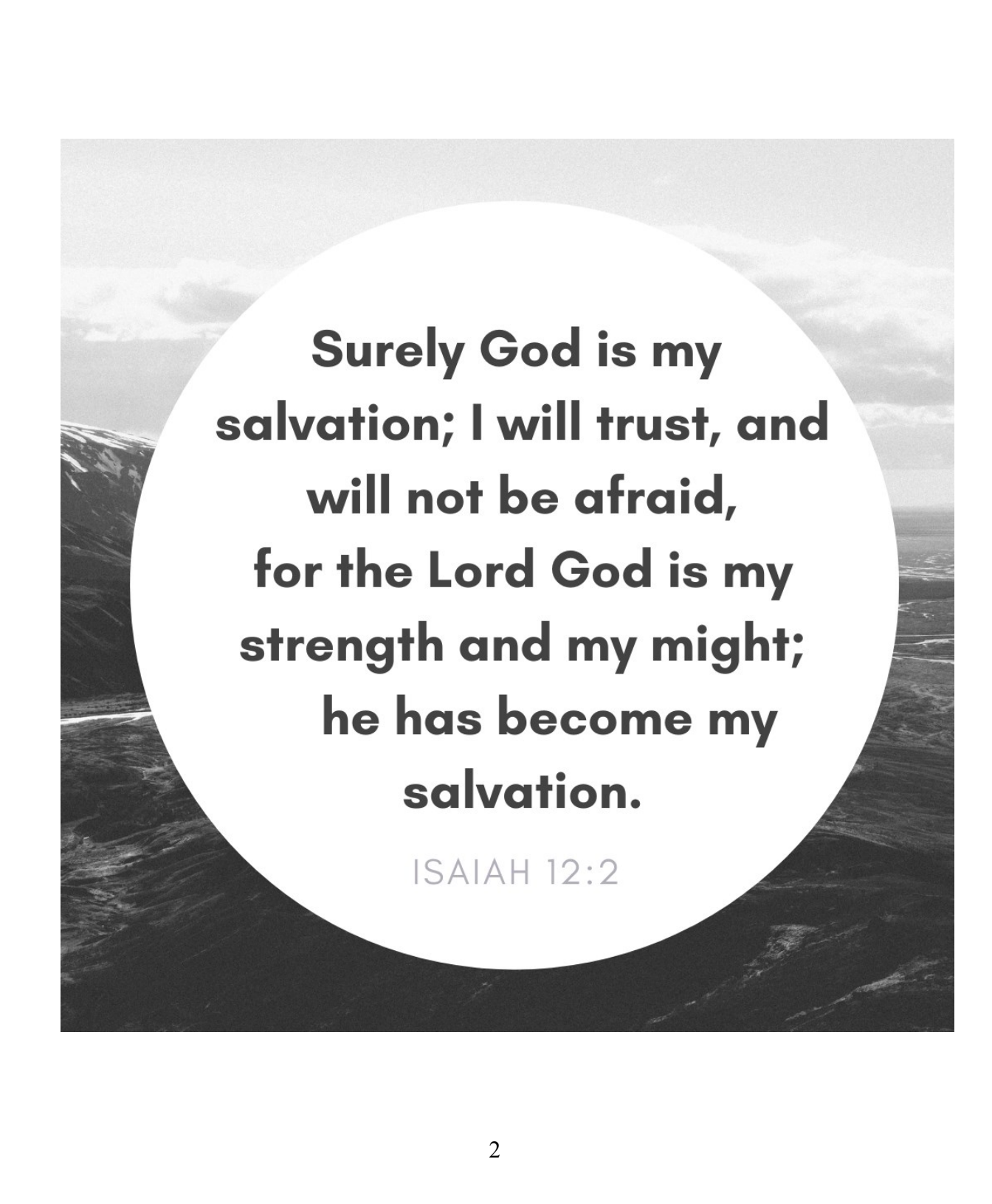
I believe that the more we can get in touch with the ways that God loves and cares for us, the more likely we will be to show that love to those who cross our path.

This book is a collection of specifically chosen scripture passages, quotes, and hymns, that are meant to help us know God’s love in our life. You can pick up this book and turn to any page for inspiration; there is no need to read it cover to cover.

But whatever page you might turn to, take time to really mediate on the words you find there. Imagine that God is speaking these words directly to you.


As you meditate on the words, allow them to connect you with God’s love in that moment. Then challenge yourself to show this love to whomever God places upon your path today. This is our call as the people of God: to know love and to show love.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Nate



**Surely God is my
salvation; I will trust, and
will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my
strength and my might;
he has become my
salvation.**

ISAIAH 12:2

A photograph of a person walking through a large stone labyrinth on a beach. The labyrinth is composed of concentric circles of smooth, light-colored stones. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is walking towards the center. The background shows the ocean and some rocks.

"We come to you for healing,
Lord, of body, mind, and
soul, and pray that by your
Spirit's touch we may again
be whole."

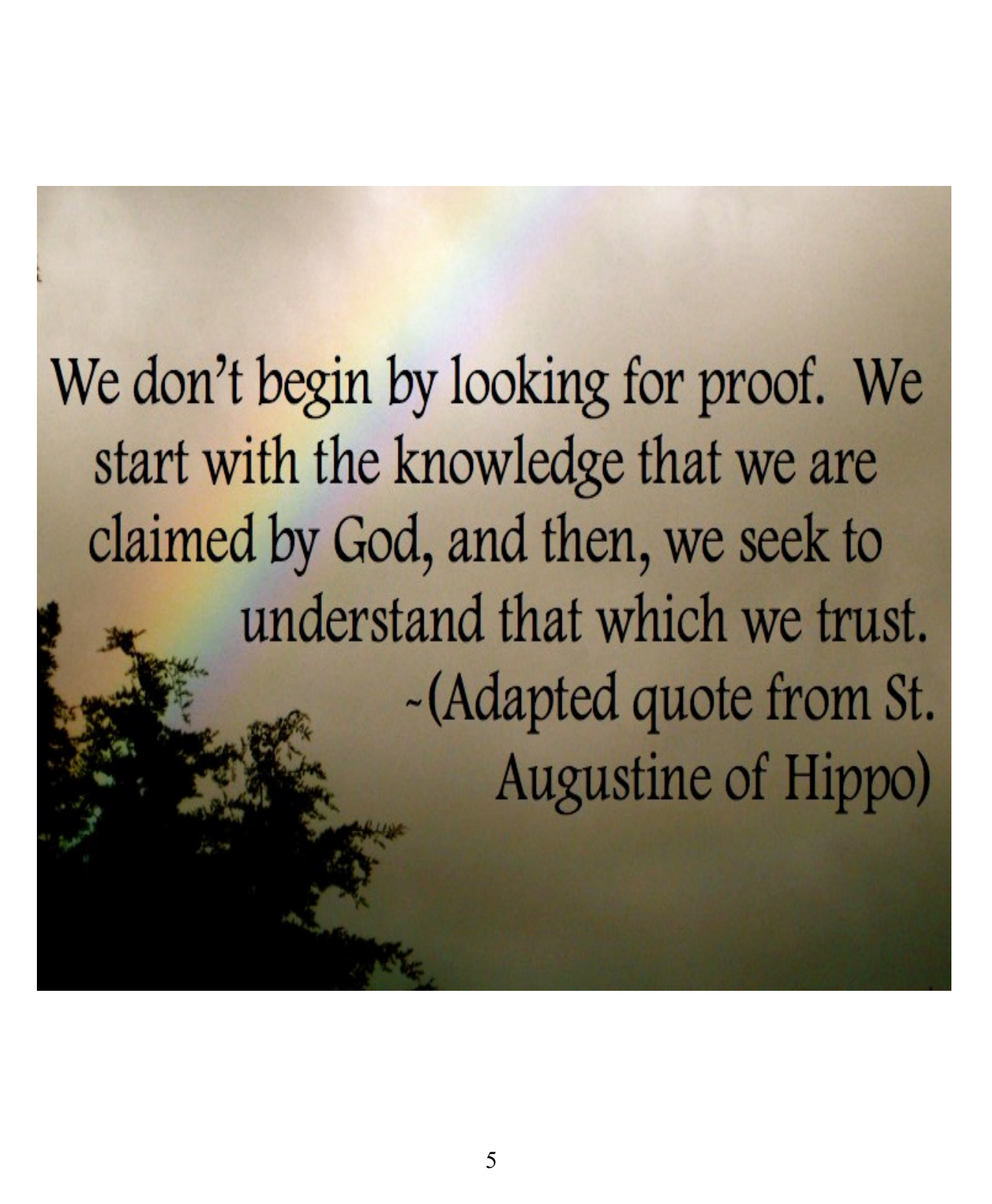


"WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING, LORD"
ELW HYMN #617



"Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?
Where rest but on your faithful word?
None ever called on you in vain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

GOD OF LOVE, O KING OF PEACE
ELW # 749



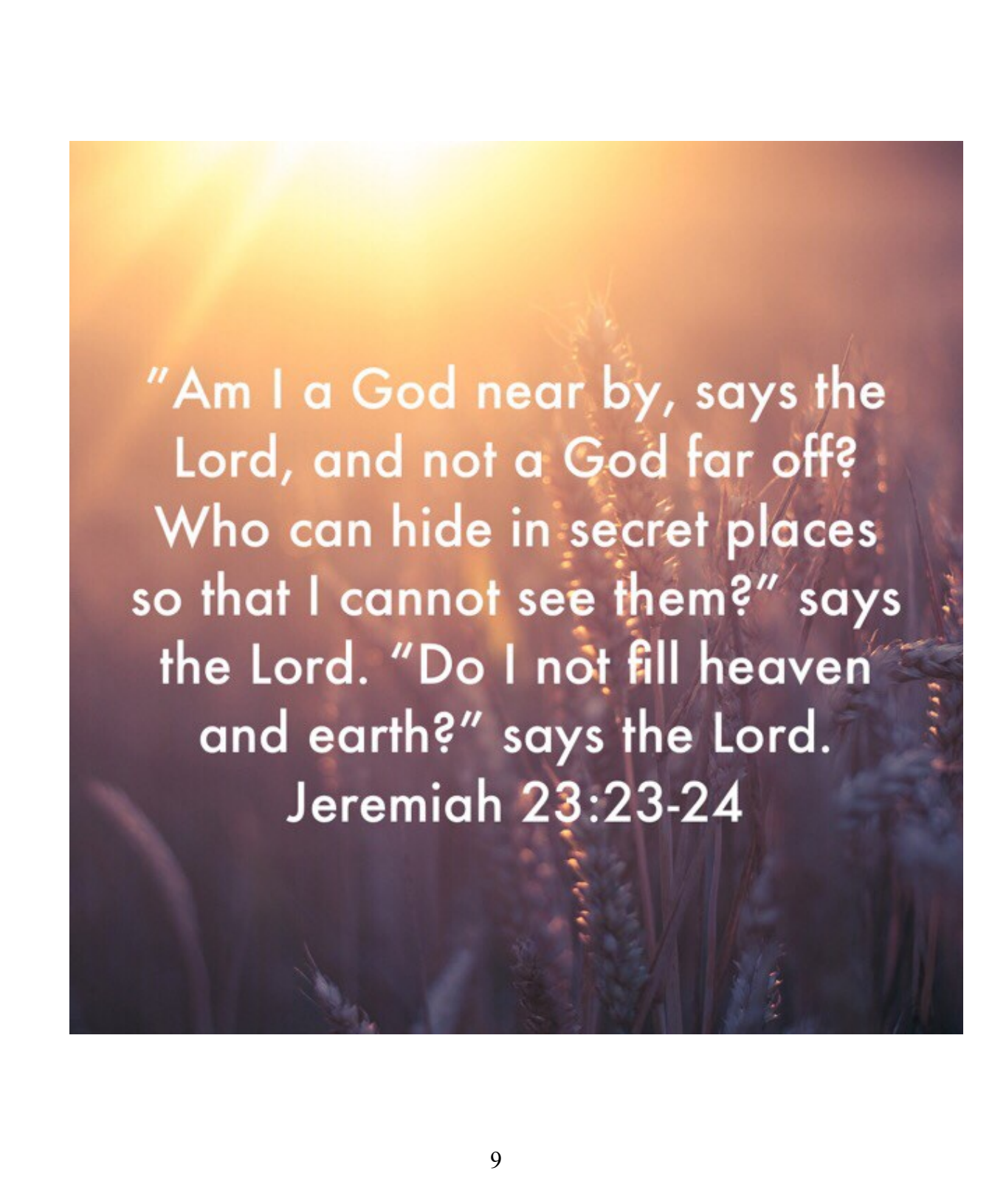
We don't begin by looking for proof. We start with the knowledge that we are claimed by God, and then, we seek to understand that which we trust.

~(Adapted quote from St. Augustine of Hippo)



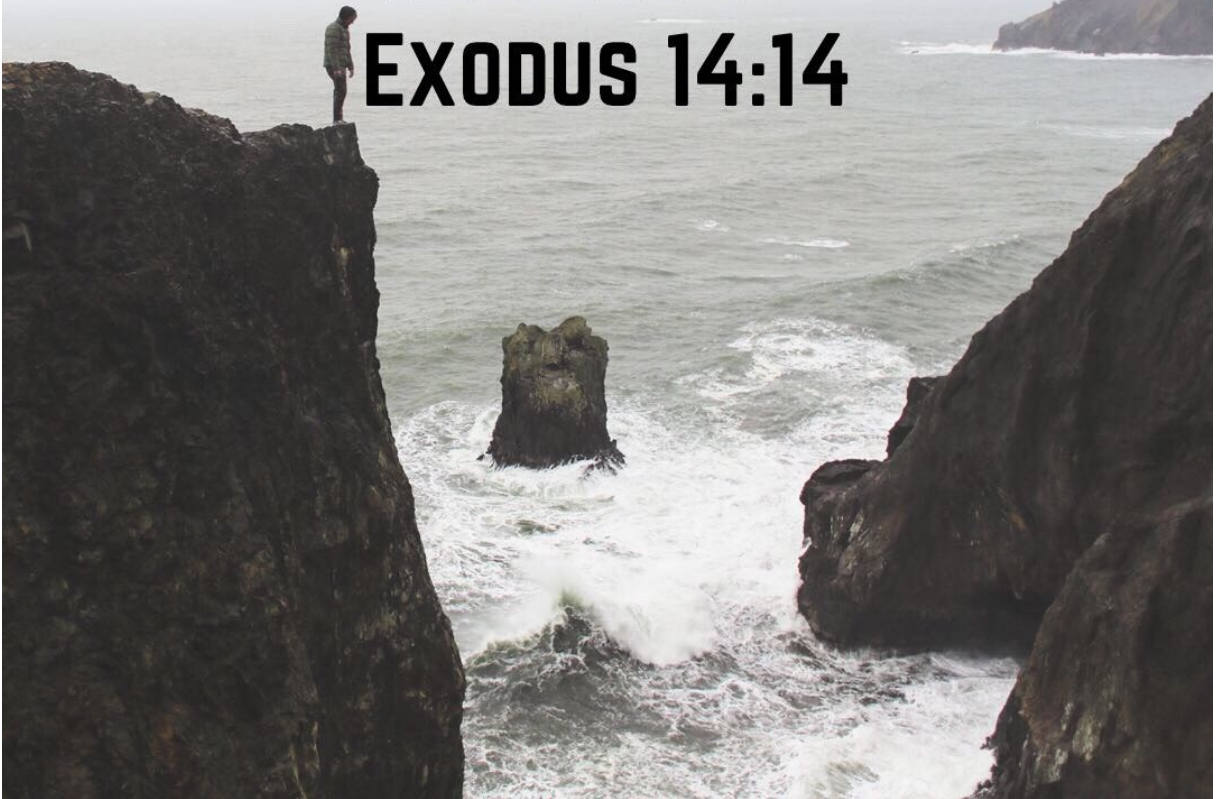
DAY BY DAY
ELW # 790

**"OH WHAT JOY TO
KNOW THAT YOU
ARE NEAR ME
WHEN MY BURDENS
GROW TOO GREAT
TO BEAR; OH WHAT
JOY TO KNOW THAT
YOU WILL HEAR ME
WHEN I COME, O
LORD, TO YOU IN
PRAYER."**



"Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" says the Lord. "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.
Jeremiah 23:23-24

**THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR
YOU, AND YOU HAVE ONLY TO
KEEP STILL.”
EXODUS 14:14**





**From all
eternity,
long before
you were
born and
became a
part of
history, you
existed in
God's heart.**

HENRI NOUWEN, AUTHOR



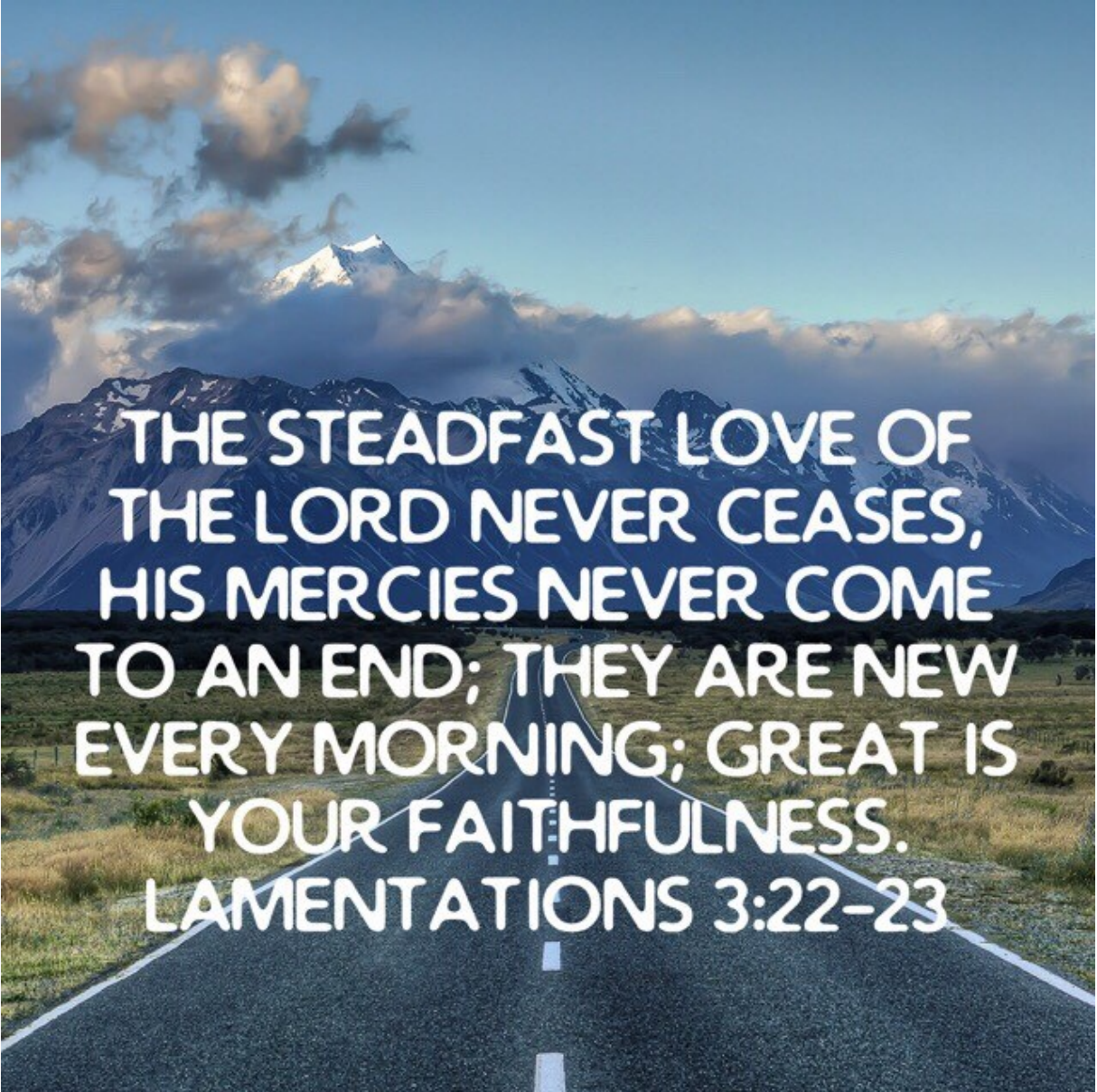
*I have come that they
may have life, and have
it to the full.*

John 10:10

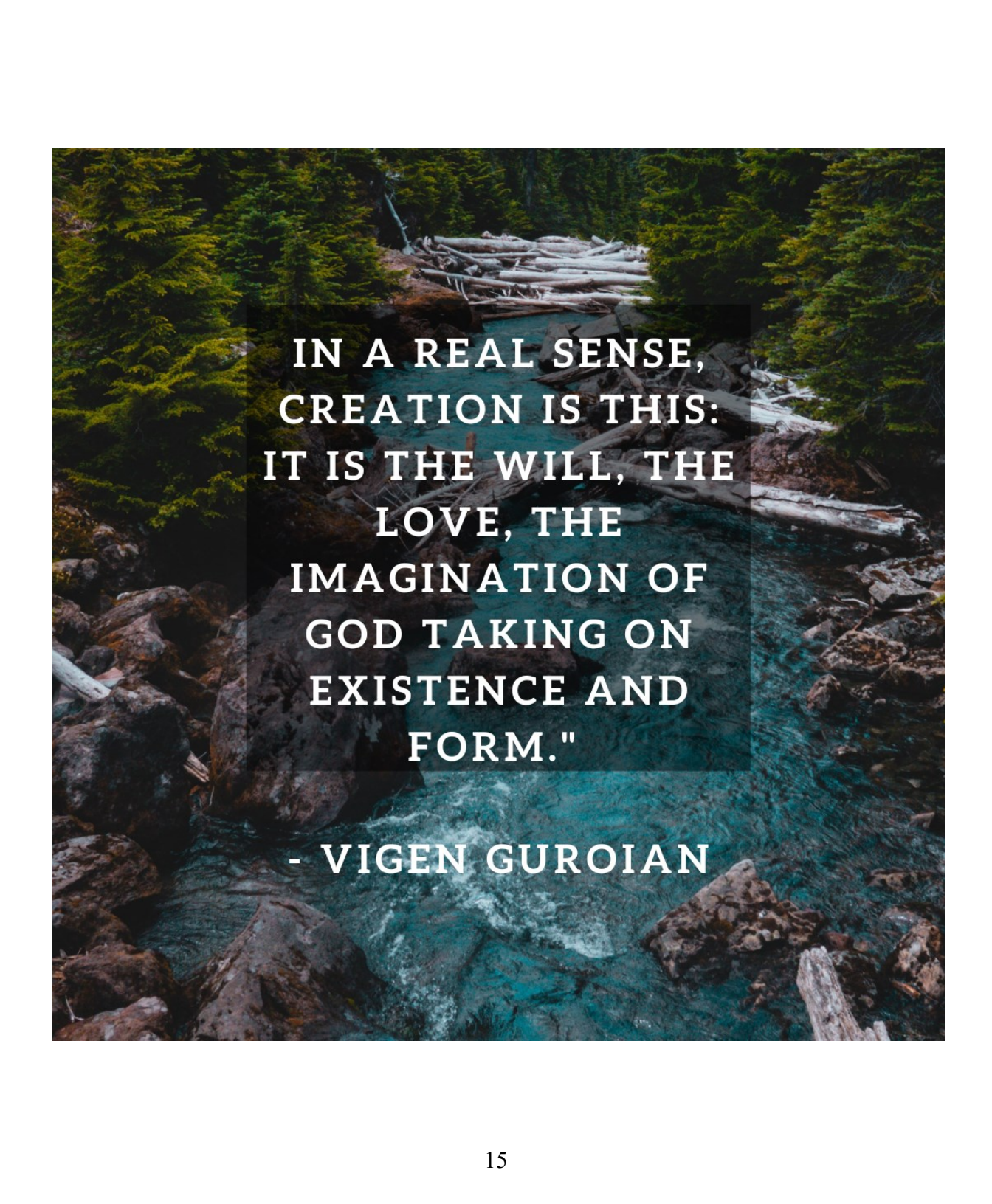
Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

*"Oh to grace how great a
debtor daily I'm
constrained to be; let that
grace now like a fetter
bind my wandering heart
to thee. Prone to wander,
Lord, I feel it; prone to
leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take
and seal it for thy courts
above."*

ELW #806



THE STEADFAST LOVE OF
THE LORD NEVER CEASES,
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME
TO AN END; THEY ARE NEW
EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS
YOUR FAITHFULNESS.
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23




IN A REAL SENSE,
CREATION IS THIS:
IT IS THE WILL, THE
LOVE, THE
IMAGINATION OF
GOD TAKING ON
EXISTENCE AND
FORM."

- VIGEN GUROIAN

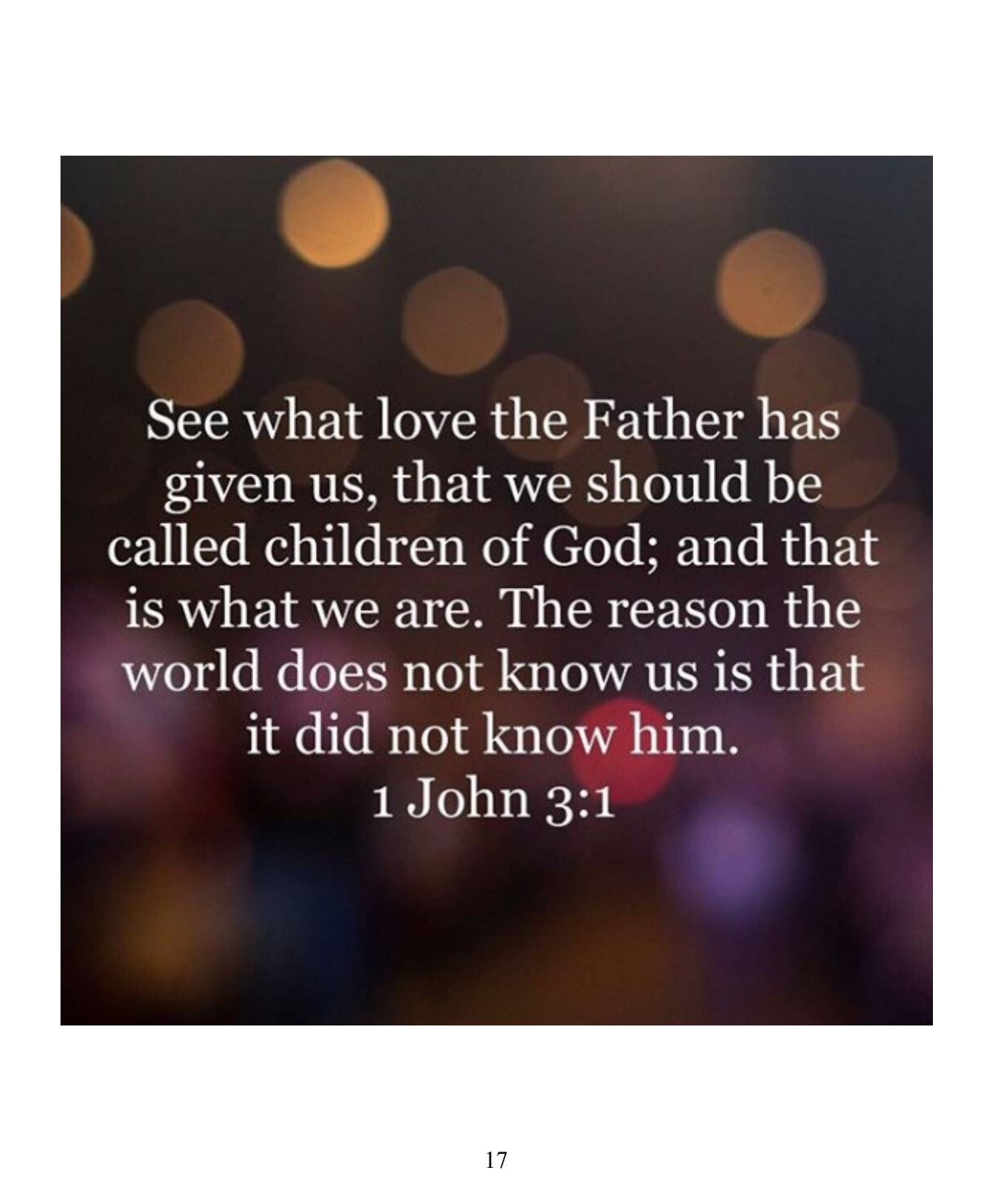


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"Jesus knows all about my troubles.
Jesus walks and talks with me. Jesus
picks me up and turns me around and
plants my feet on solid ground!"

Otis Moss III
Pastor, Author

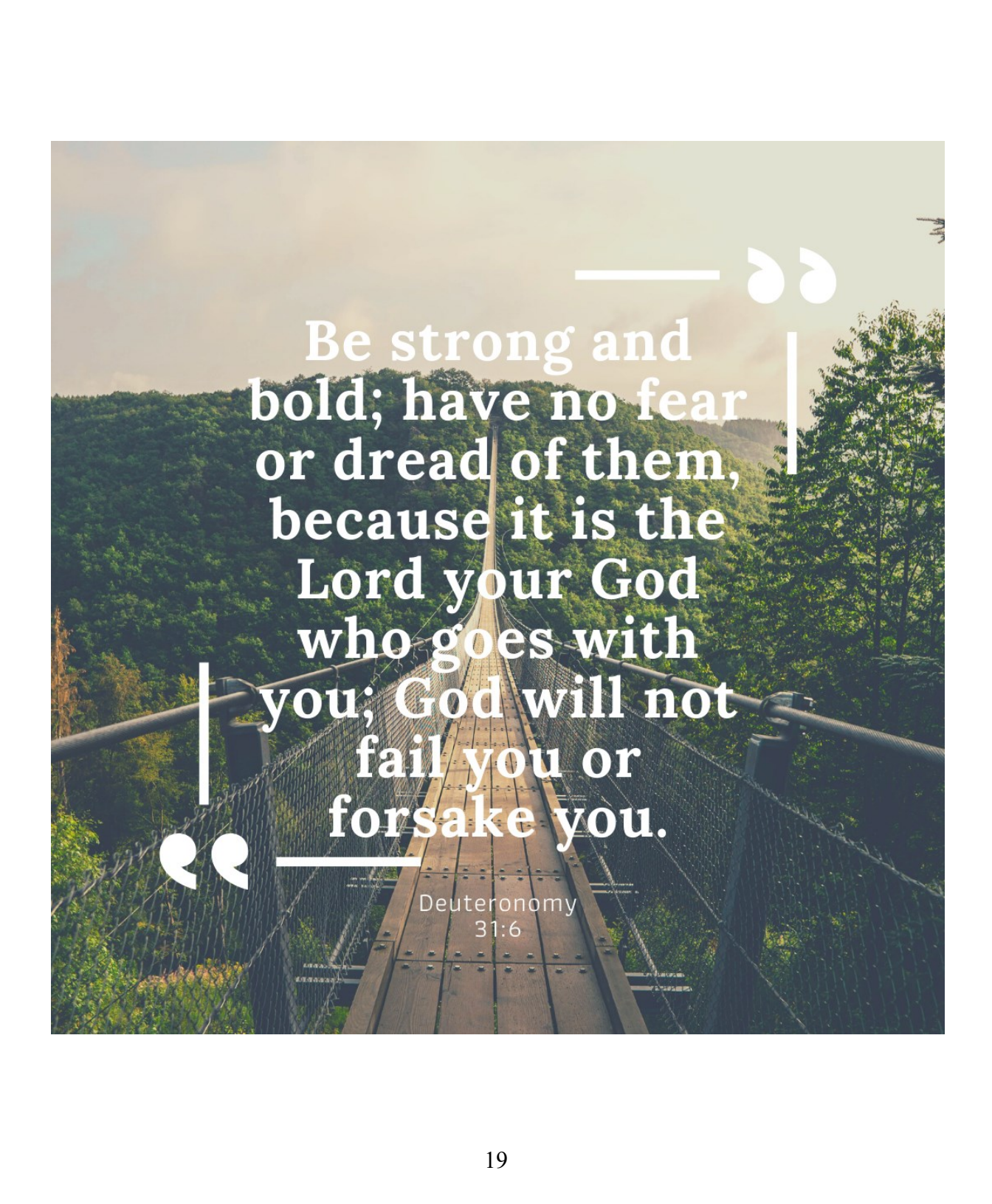


See what love the Father has
given us, that we should be
called children of God; and that
is what we are. The reason the
world does not know us is that
it did not know him.

1 John 3:1


**"Goodness is
stronger than evil;
love is stronger than
hate; light is stronger
than darkness; life is
stronger than death;
victory is ours,
victory is ours,
through God who
loves us."**

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil"
ELW Hymn #721

A photograph of a suspension bridge stretching across a dense green forest. The bridge has wooden planks and metal railings. The sky is overcast. Overlaid on the image is a quote in white text, enclosed in large white quotation marks. The quote is: "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you." Below the quote, the reference "Deuteronomy 31:6" is written in a smaller white font.

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy
31:6



AND MY GOD WILL FULLY
SATISFY EVERY NEED OF YOURS
ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN
GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Love divine, all loves
excelling, Joy of heaven
to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble
dwelling, all thy faithful
mercies crown.

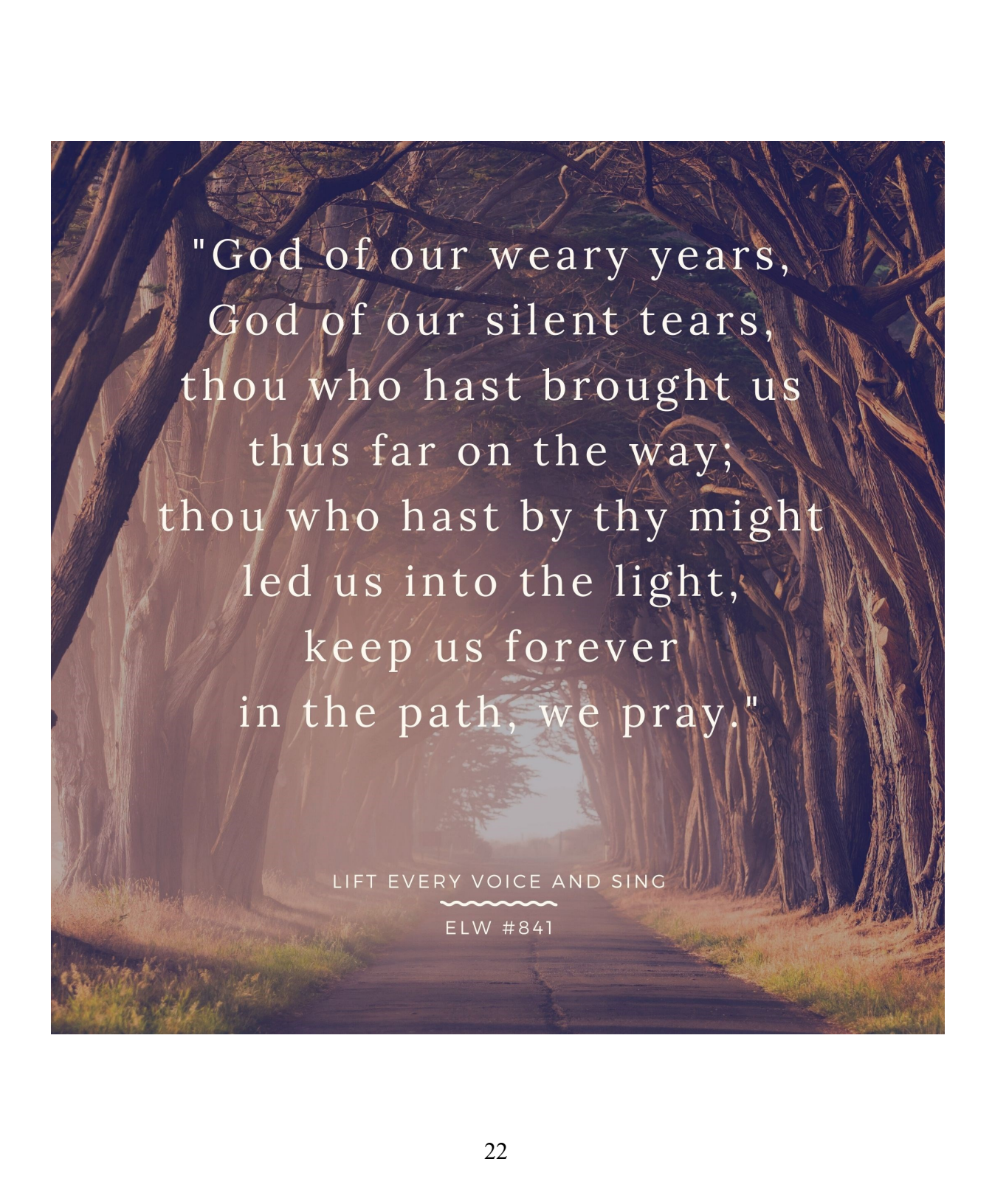
Jesus, thou art all
compassion, pure,
unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling
heart.

**"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES
EXCELLING"**

ELW Hymn #631

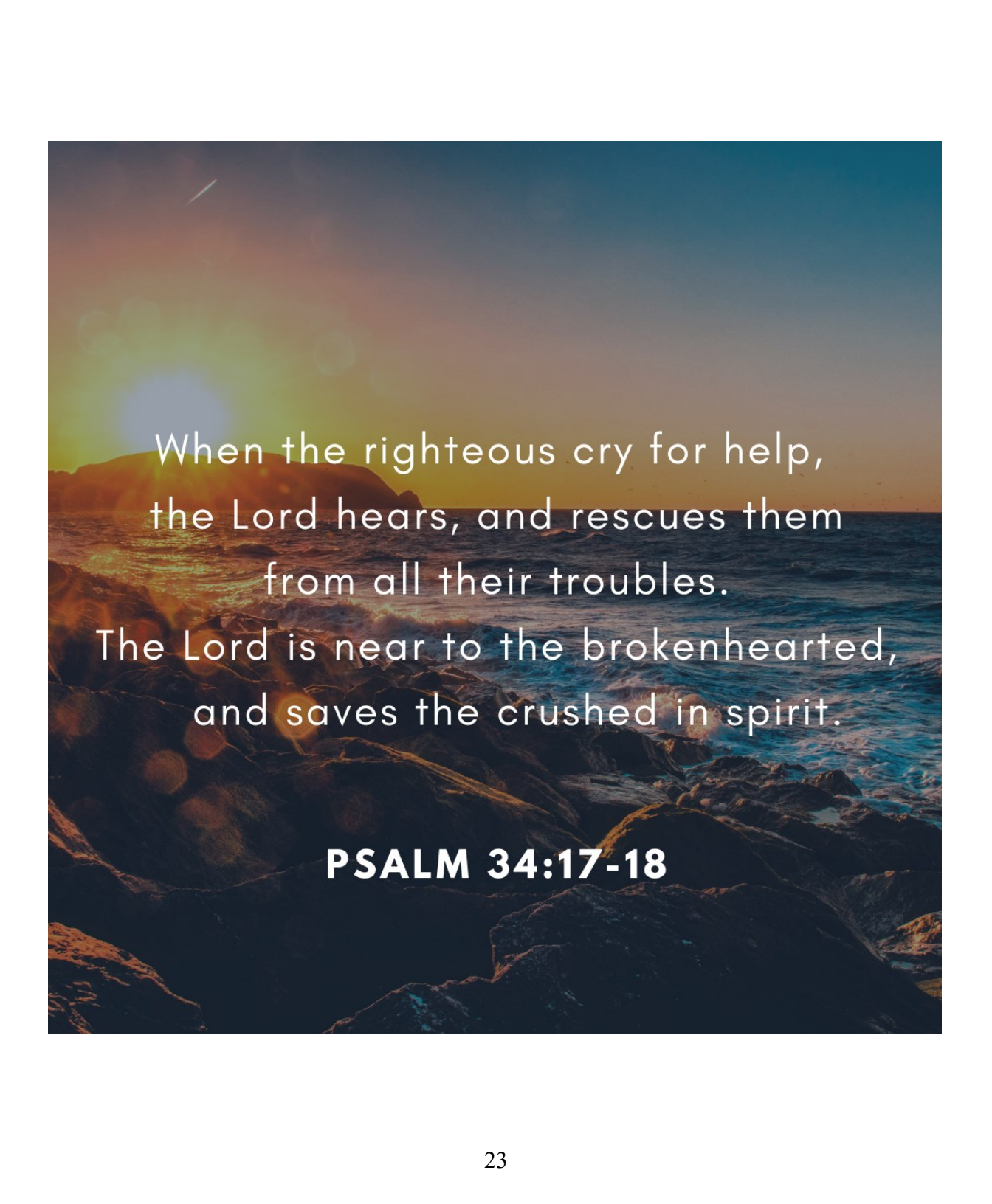




"God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us
thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might
led us into the light,
keep us forever
in the path, we pray."

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

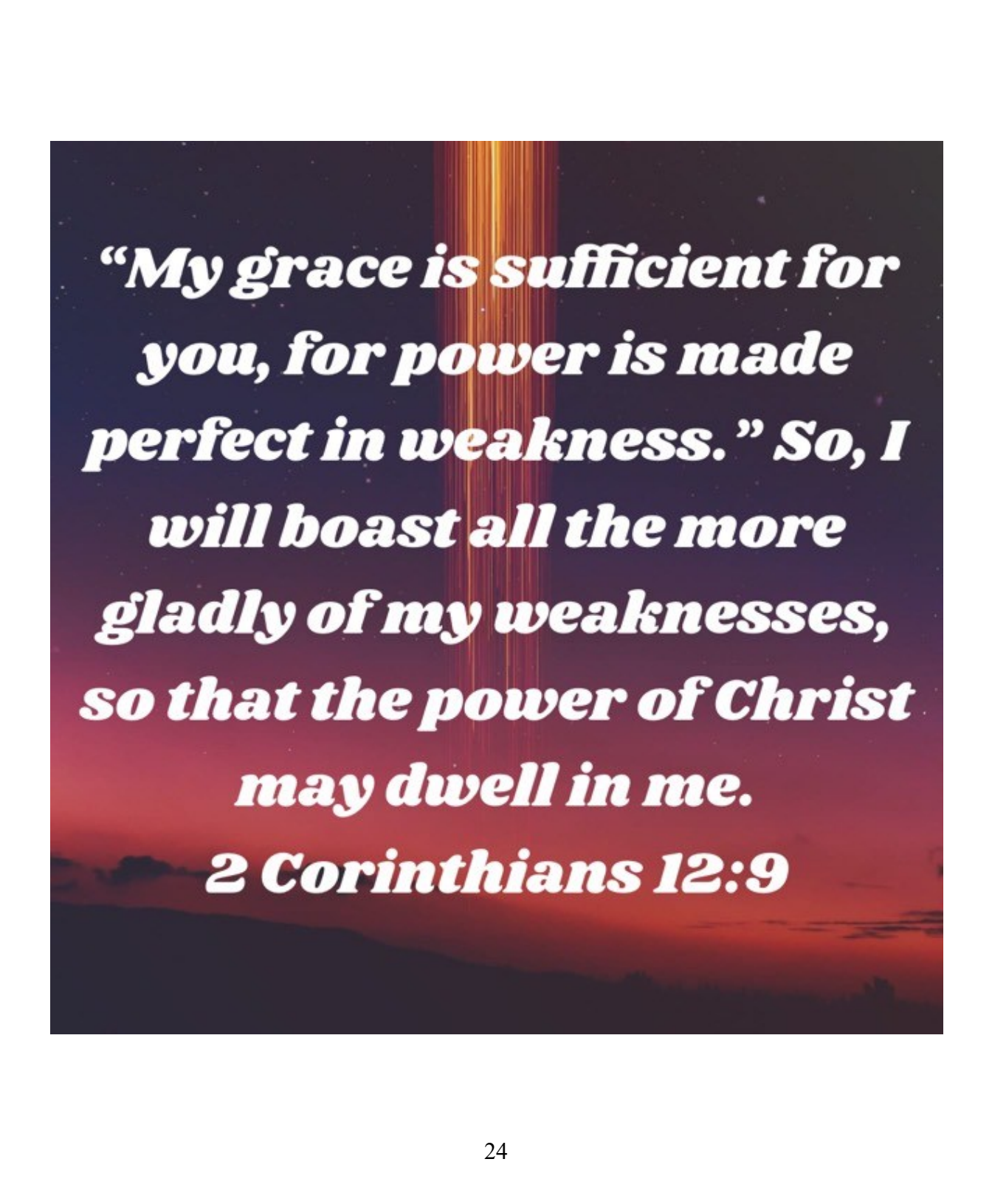
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ELW #841



When the righteous cry for help,  
the Lord hears, and rescues them  
from all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

**PSALM 34:17-18**



***“My grace is sufficient for  
you, for power is made  
perfect in weakness.” So, I  
will boast all the more  
gladly of my weaknesses,  
so that the power of Christ  
may dwell in me.***

***2 Corinthians 12:9***

A person is shown in silhouette, playing an acoustic guitar. They are standing in a misty or foggy outdoor setting with trees and tall grasses in the background. The lighting is soft and atmospheric, suggesting dawn or dusk. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

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"T'WAS GRACE THAT  
TAUGHT MY HEART TO  
FEAR, AND GRACE MY  
FEARS RELIEVED; HOW  
PRECIOUS DID THAT GRACE  
APPEAR THE HOUR I FIRST  
BELIEVED!"

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ELW #779



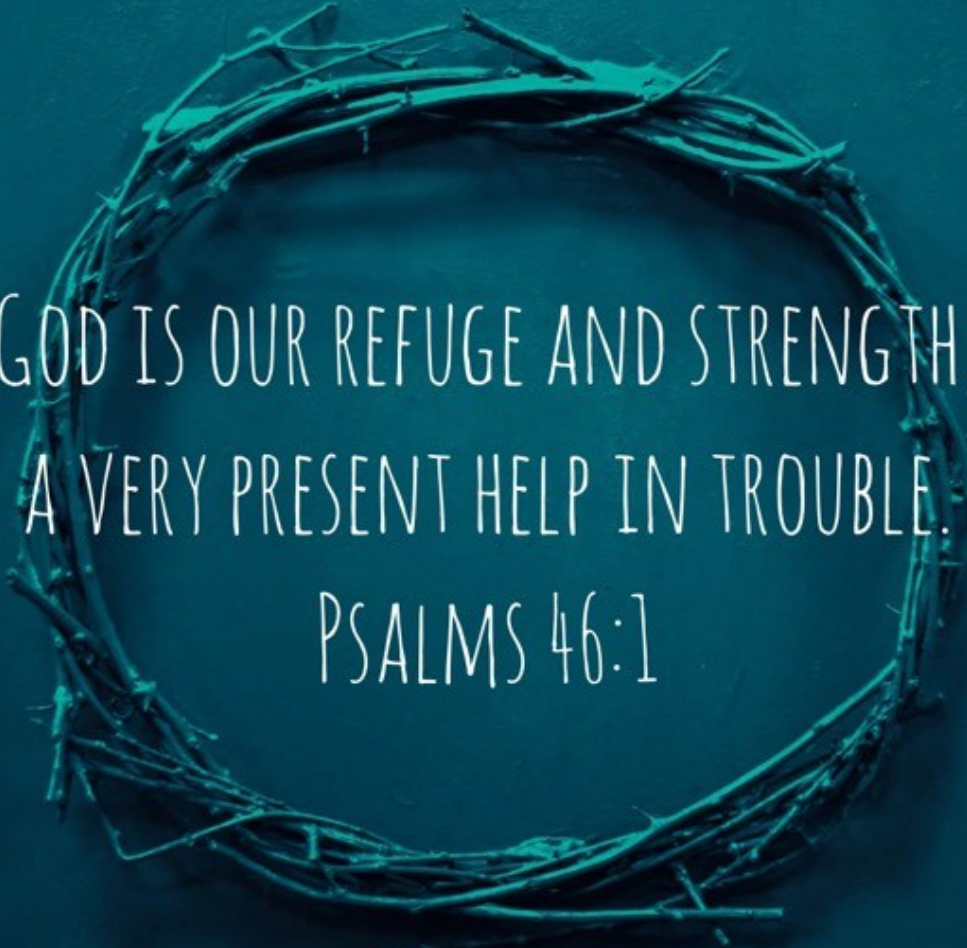
PSALM 23:4

Even though I walk  
through the darkest  
valley, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
Your rod and your staff  
—they comfort me.


A photograph of a tree-lined path, likely a coastal road, with a central text overlay. The path is paved and leads towards a bright light at the end, possibly the ocean. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches forming a canopy over the path. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is centered and reads: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL  
ELW #612  
HEALER OF OUR EVERY  
ILL, LIGHT OF EACH  
TOMORROW, GIVE US  
PEACE BEYOND OUR FEAR,  
AND HOPE BEYOND OUR  
SORROW.

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL  
ELW #612

HEALER OF OUR EVERY  
ILL, LIGHT OF EACH  
TOMORROW, GIVE US  
PEACE BEYOND OUR FEAR,  
AND HOPE BEYOND OUR  
SORROW.

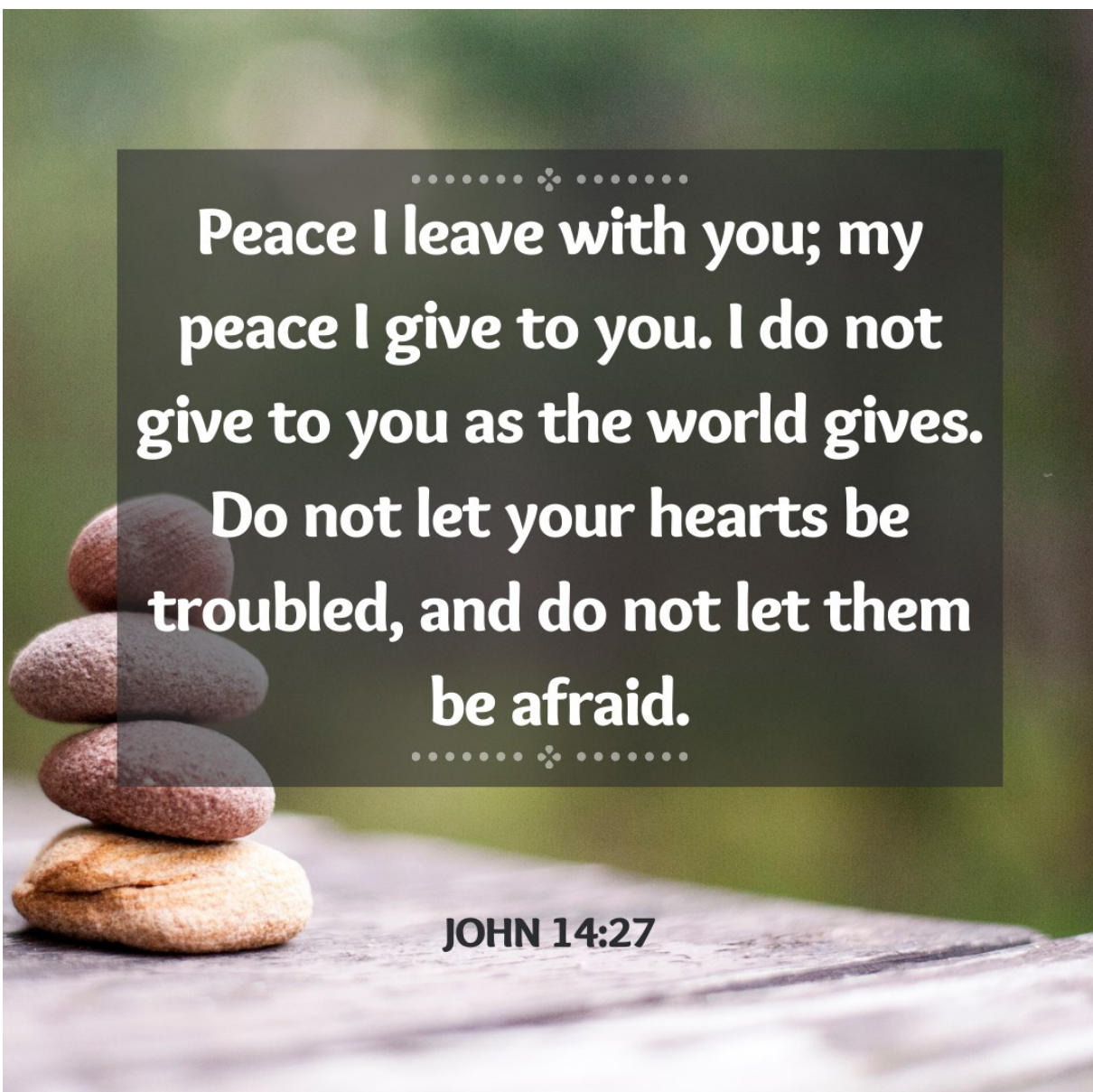


GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,  
A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.  
PSALMS 46:1

A composite image featuring a night sky with the Milky Way galaxy in the upper half and a sunset over a body of water in the lower half. The text is overlaid on the night sky portion.

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me."

"ABIDE WITH ME"  
ELW HYMN # 629



..... ❖ .....

**Peace I leave with you; my  
peace I give to you. I do not  
give to you as the world gives.**

**Do not let your hearts be  
troubled, and do not let them  
be afraid.**

..... ❖ .....

**JOHN 14:27**

**"GIVE ME FAITH TO TRUST WHAT YOU SAY  
THAT YOU'RE GOOD AND YOUR LOVE IS GREAT."**

**- STEVEN FURTICK**



**YOU  
ARE  
LOVED**



EZEKIEL 11:19

I WILL GIVE THEM ONE  
HEART, AND PUT A  
NEW SPIRIT WITHIN  
THEM; I WILL REMOVE  
THE HEART OF STONE  
FROM THEIR FLESH  
AND GIVE THEM A  
HEART OF FLESH



MARC SCANDRETTE

“We were made for  
creativity and freedom,  
to be collaborators with  
God in the ongoing  
work of creation.”

ISAIAH


DON'T BE  
AFRAID,  
FOR I AM  
WITH YOU.  
DON'T BE  
DISCOURAGED,  
FOR I AM  
YOUR GOD.

41:10



**“Creation is not about the number of days in a story, but about who is the Author of the Story. That Story begins with God’s making a world that God calls good, and ends with God healing that world and making it new. We ourselves are beloved characters within this greater drama, a story that God’s delights in telling.”**

**(Adapted from theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer)**



LET US THEN APPROACH  
GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE  
WITH CONFIDENCE, SO THAT  
WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND  
FIND GRACE TO HELP US IN  
OUR TIME OF NEED.

**HEBREWS** 4:16

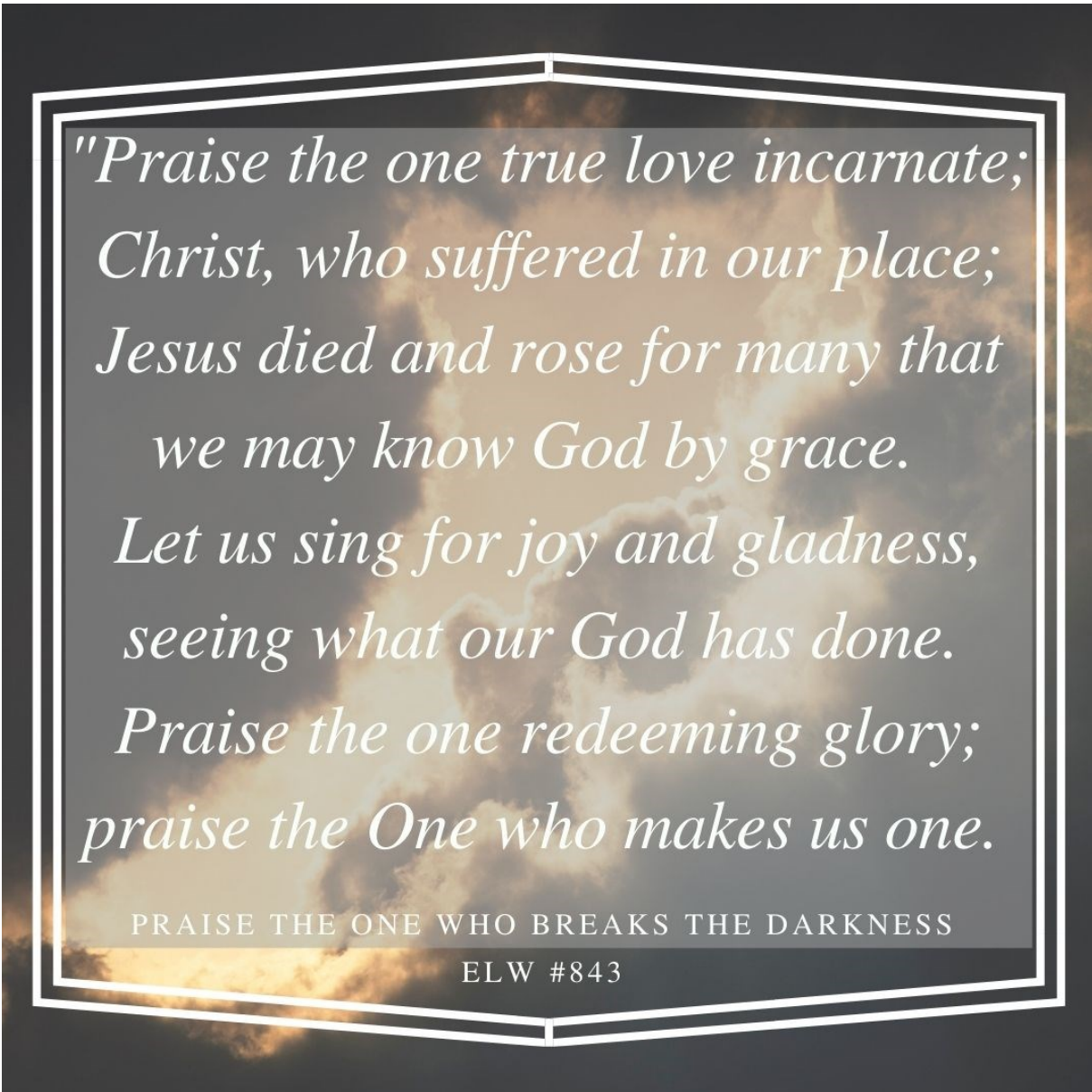


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"GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER,  
PILGRIM THROUGH THIS BARREN  
LAND. I AM WEAK, BUT YOU ARE  
MIGHTY; HOLD ME WITH YOUR  
POWERFUL HAND. BREAD OF  
HEAVEN, BREAD OF HEAVEN, FEED  
ME NOW AND EVERMORE..."

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"GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER"  
ELW HYMN # 618




*"Praise the one true love incarnate;  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that  
we may know God by grace.*

*Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.*

*Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.*

PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS

ELW #843



**TRUST IN THE LORD FOREVER, FOR IN  
THE LORD GOD YOU HAVE AN  
EVERLASTING ROCK.  
ISAIAH 26:4**



All Images were created using the YouVersion Bible App.  
\*YouVersion". (2022). Bible App (version 8.14.8) [Mobile application software].