



25

Devotions

FOR



Advent

• PEACE | HOPE | LOVE | JOY •

Day 1

Advent of Hope



"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

—Ezekiel 36:26 ESV

Jesus told a skeptical crowd, who wanted to kill Him for calling God His own Father, that they had missed something obvious in the Scriptures that they held so dear: "It is [the Scriptures] that bear witness about me" (John 5:39 ESV). Even Moses wrote of the Christ who would come. Ironically, the crowd had set their hopes on Moses but did not believe his words about the coming Messiah (John 5:45).

From Genesis to Malachi, hope had centered on a coming Messiah whose advent would signify a new heart and a new spirit for everyone who would follow Him. Yes, sometimes we fail to appreciate these messianic prophecies because the identity of the Messiah isn't a mystery to us. If this Christmas season needs an infusion of hope, consider the anticipation with which our faith ancestors awaited the Messiah.

Can we recapture the hope of Simeon, who occupied the temple daily and was promised that he would live to see Christ? When baby Jesus arrived at the temple, Simeon took Him up in his arms and praised God. He said, "My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30–32 ESV).

Dear God, may we hope fervently for Your advent. We long to see you. Help us recapture our awe. Amen.



Day 2



The Birth of Hope

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

—John 3:16 ESV

Christmas celebrations centering anywhere other than on the hope born to the world drown out the good news of Christ’s birth. It was a silent, holy night when our Savior was born. The birth prophesied for generations had silently shaken the powers of hell. No one but His parents heard the newborn King’s cries; the Hope born to generations is now heralded in the silence of a heart that worships, realizing Jesus “has caused us to be born again to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3 ESV). Much of the world was unaware of Christ’s coming. Similarly, those who are caught up in Christmas traditions today but do not celebrate the hope that Christ’s birth gave to the world are unaware of the true power of Christmas.

The writer of Hebrews said that everyone was enslaved by the fear of death before God revealed His salvation in the life of Christ. If the idea of Christmas sets you free—your hope in Christ genuinely releases you from slavery—then you celebrate the birth of Christ. Because of His birth, we can have a new birth: “You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23 ESV).

Dear God, thank You for becoming flesh. I thank You with my whole heart that I am Yours forever. Amen.



Day 3

Reason for Hope



Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.

—Psalm 33:22 NLT

Jesus was sent to suffer, die, and rise to bring great hope to all. Before His advent here, in heaven He accepted the assignment, the unfathomable love of God that was being enacted on our behalf. It came at a cost we are slow to see. We are so loved; how could we not hope in such a loving God? At His birth, becoming fully human yet divine, did the boy still know the full sacrifice He had agreed to? By examining His recorded words, we see that Jesus as a man had to agree all over again to do the job He had agreed to before the Father sent Him: resisting all temptation, learning obedience with much suffering, laying down His life, bearing all the sin of mankind, and lying forsaken in a tomb—to reconcile all things to God.

Is Jesus the reason for your hope? If you see Him with the eyes of your heart, you know the reason for your hope. If you cannot see Him, ask Him to reveal Himself to you. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus, who wants the best for you. He sent His Spirit to guide you and enlighten your mind and help you pursue your hopes. Let Jesus be the reason you continue to persevere and believe in your hopes.

Dear God, thank You for Jesus, who is the reason for my hope. Amen.



Day 4

One Star



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

—Matthew 2:10

The Christmas lights now in the neighborhoods have no rival at any other season. We put up lights to celebrate the Light of the world who was born, but the very first Christmas light was a distant star. Almost every soul on earth missed it. No one knew to look for it except the wise men who were entrusted with the secret. When they traveled across the hemisphere following a star, even God's covenant nation was unaware. People longed to see a great light. Prophets of Israel had foretold of the Messiah, but few hoped to see Him in their time. Times were not ideal. A foreign oppressor held power over God's people. Soldiers dominated the streets, and taxes were harsh. God's temple stood amid infidels. Who kept the Law, in its essence? Did any of God's people love Him with their whole hearts and souls? The people longed for the Messiah, but they did not see the signs of His coming.

Then the child came in an unknown fashion. Those star-following wise men were of the first to seek Him out: "The star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was" (Matthew 2:9 ESV). Each of us sees hope that no one else may see. Share your hope and your light with someone who needs it.

Dear God, You are the Life and the Light of the world. Thank You for revealing Yourself to me. Amen.





Day 5

Focus on the Unseen

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

—2 Corinthians 4:18

Hope is what makes the Christ-follower's world a different place from the secular person's world. Believers should not hope in this world, with all that shakes it up from generation to generation, but should hope in eternity. God said, "When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm" (Psalm 75:3 NIV). Everything on earth will pass away, including nightmares and problems, but God and His love will remain.

Focusing on God and looking beyond today's troubles are what keeps you sane when the world seems shaky. God taught His covenant people to pass the stories of God's providence to their children, testifying to His love and power. Then new generations would learn to set their hopes on God too.

It is normal to focus on your worries. That is why He reminds us to focus on His love. Your testimony is a means to hold on to your own hope, and it will also lead others to set their hope on God, who has demonstrated His power through the ages. Steadying your hope in God makes all the difference to your future and to the generations ahead.

Dear Father, because You have been faithful to all generations, our hope is firm even when the world is shaken. Amen.



The Hope of Ages

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

—Galatians 4:4

It was a very long wait from the Garden of Eden to the stable where Jesus was born. But God told His people about the One who would bring salvation. The first messianic prophecy said this: “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15 ESV). Abraham’s promise came next: through his offspring, everyone on earth would be blessed. Christ’s coming was also foretold at Jacob’s death. Moses foretold it when he delivered the Law. Even Balaam foretold of a star coming out of Jacob and a scepter to crush the enemies. Throughout the Psalms and the Prophets, messianic references become more explicit—and heartrending, in context of the nation’s rebellion, their sorrows, and the sorrows of their Father.

All throughout the ages, as people had waited for the advent of the Hope of Israel, God was working in ways we did not know. “When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son” (Galatians 4:4). Waiting is demanded of every age of His people. Even now, we have waited thousands of years for His final return and for the fulfillment of everyone’s hopes. We cannot comprehend his timing, but we know the One we believe in.

Dear God, I rejoice in Your coming, I trust in Your promises; I long for Your return! Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Day 7

Joyful Light



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

—Matthew 2:10

How many times have you been overjoyed by a light? There are night-lights that comfort us in the middle of the night and porch lights that welcome us home. Many of us have felt the excitement of spotting a car's headlights when waiting for someone's arrival or the thrill of Christmas lights during the holidays.

Lights have been bringing joy from the very beginning. When the star that signaled the birth of the Messiah shone, the joy the Magi felt caused them to make a journey. There was something about that light.

Of all the ways God could have signaled the coming of His Son, He chose to send a light into the darkness. He knew the joy that a light can bring to a weary heart, and the star was just a glimpse of the joy to come. There's still a Light who causes people to be overjoyed. The light of Christ can bring comfort on the darkest night and can thrill a soul like no other (John 8:12).

You've been dispelling darkness and bringing light from the very beginning, Lord. I'm overjoyed that I've seen Your light.



Complete Joy

We write this to make our joy complete.

—1 John 1:4

Most of us get a kick out of sharing good news. Can you think of a time when you could hardly wait to share something you'd witnessed or learned with someone you know? Telling someone else good news brings joy to everyone involved.

You've surely heard the saying *Love isn't love until you give it away*. For John, joy wasn't complete until it was shared. John was an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Christ (1 John 1:1), and he wanted to share what he knew so that everyone's joy could be complete.

As believers, we should feel compelled to share what we've seen and heard (Acts 4:20). God has done amazing things in all of our lives; let's not keep our stories to ourselves. We'll spread joy to others and experience more joy ourselves when we make it our mission to proclaim what we know to be true of Christ.

I'll speak of Your wonders in my life, Lord. I can't help but tell of what I've seen You do.

Day 9

The Joy of Making Room



If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.

—Luke 3:11 NLT

The average house in America (even one that most of us would consider just a cottage) is huge by most of the world's standards. Our dinner tables are sprawling, and our idea of a meal is three times the amount of food that most cultures eat in one sitting. Many American families spend the week after Christmas trying to give away leftover cookies and cakes because they can't eat them all. Yet many people will spend this Christmas without shelter, or all alone, or hungry. Some of these people live in your town, perhaps even on your street. They might be a next-door neighbor, a senior from the senior living complex, a college student who can't afford to fly home, or a single man or woman whose family lives far away.

Take a look at your dinner table. Count the extra chairs you keep in the closet. Consider how much food is going to be on your buffet table on Christmas Day. Do you have room for one more?

Lord, I want my family to experience the joy of making room for one more on Christmas Day. Show me who that person is.



Faithful

If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

—2 Timothy 2:13

Most new Christians seem to be convinced that when they sin, God is angry at and disappointed in them. Some feel they can't ask anything of Him even though they've been forgiven; they think they must "deserve" His love. Perhaps some of this attitude dates back to our Santa Claus days, when we were asked if we had been naughty or nice that year. The implication was that if we had not been on our best behavior, we wouldn't get any presents—at least not any we wanted. In some countries, "Santa" would leave a naughty child nothing but a lump of coal.

God never leaves us a lump of coal. If we confess and repent of our sins, our slates are wiped totally clean; it's as if we never sinned at all. We're declared "Not guilty." God is not disappointed in us. When we are weak or faithless, He remains faithful. The important thing is not that we fell, but that we got up again. Rejoice! Even in our weakest moments, God is faithful!

Lord, like the author of the song "Amazing Grace," I might not understand how You could love a wretch like me, but You do. Praise You and thank You!

Day 11

A Legacy of Joy



The memory of one who lived with integrity brings joy.

—Proverbs 10:7 VOICE

We're in that season when families travel great distances to reconnect, share long conversations, eat meals, carry out traditions, and reminisce about relatives that the little ones never got to meet. Maybe your grandfather passed away years ago, but he still comes up in every family exchange. Without fail, these conversations involve plenty of laughter and fond memories. Aunts and uncles exchange stories about the time Grandpa fell into the farm pond or hung Grandma's false teeth on the Christmas tree. He's not physically in the room, but he's left a legacy of joy that affects the whole family.

Some people prompt family feuds even after they're gone. Others trigger sorrow, and others spread joy. How do you want to be known? What sort of memories do you want to leave for those you love?

If you'd like to impart joy to your descendants, start today.

*Please allow me to teach my family holy joy and devotion to You,
Lord. I want to leave a legacy that stretches into eternity.*



Joy in Our Liberator

My soul lifts up the Lord! My spirit celebrates God, my Liberator!

—Luke 1:46–47 VOICE

We all need Jesus. No one's exempt. Every human being on planet earth (and all who have gone before us) has a desperate need for the Creator and is hopelessly, eternally lost without Him. The most die-hard atheist—the one who'd never, ever willingly admit to belief in God—is helplessly lost without Him, in spite of his unwavering opinions. The fact that he doesn't believe he needs the God of the Bible doesn't make him any less destitute.

By the same token, the most devout Christian who ever lived was initially just as lost as that die-hard atheist until he or she surrendered to Jesus. Saint Francis, the Reverend Billy Graham, and yes, even Jesus' own mother, Mary—all of them were adrift without Jesus. Mary knew this. In her spirit, she realized as she sang the song recorded in Luke 1 that she'd delivered her own Deliverer, and that realization gave her unspeakable joy.

Hallelujah!

Lord, I was lost, dying, and miserable without You. Thank You for loving, saving, and liberating me.



Hold On!

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

—James 5:7–8 NASB

As Christmas Day approaches, you can feel the excitement building. The children are out of school, family begins to arrive, last-minute packages are wrapped. But what if, by declaration of Congress, Christmas Day were delayed? How long would the anticipation hold?

The disciples were certain Jesus would return shortly. Yet as the years passed, these faithful found it harder to hold on to that belief. James wrote to encourage them. He likened their wait for Jesus' return to a farmer who patiently waits for his crops to grow. If you, like those first disciples, grow weary in waiting for the Lord's Second Coming, take a cue from the farmer. He doesn't stand in the field and stare at the ground, watching for the first sprout to push through the soil. Instead, the farmer keeps busy every day with the tasks at hand. So stay busy doing the good things God has called you to do while you wait for Jesus' return.

Help me to wait for Your Second Coming with the same anticipation we wait for Christmas Day. When You return, may You find me busy doing what You called me to do. Amen.



Day 14

No Room for Them



[Mary] brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:7 NKJV

The drive was long, and you are bone-tired. Finally, you've arrived, only to discover there is not a hotel room to be found. Unbeknownst to you, a convention, a race, or some festival means all the rooms at every hotel are taken. Reluctantly, you decide to grab a few winks in the car before driving on.

Mary and Joseph had a similar experience when they arrived in Bethlehem. No vacancy. No space available. No room for one more person—not even the Son of God.

How many of us have filled our lives with so much that if God wanted to visit for just an hour, there wouldn't be any room? Our hearts are filled with so many things that call for our attention that when He desires to fill us with His love and peace, there is no room.

Before Christmas morning, make room in your heart so you can celebrate with joy and receive His Christmas peace with gratitude.

Thank You for these important words in this busy season. Forgive me for not making room for You. Help me get and keep the clutter out of the way, Jesus. Amen.



Day 15



Expectant

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

Experts say that babies in utero are impacted by the atmosphere of their parents' home and the attitude of their parents. If God had chosen you to carry the infant Jesus into the world, would your home life and the attitude of your heart have nurtured in the holy child such traits as kindness, gentleness, patience, and trust in God? Would God have chosen you for such an important assignment? The answer is, He has. . . .

Isaiah wrote the well-known words above more than seven hundred years before Christ was born. God's chosen people had been waiting for the promised Messiah for a lot longer than they had anticipated. Finally the wait was over. God chose a human being named Mary to bring Him into the world. And God has chosen you and me to carry the truth and the love of this Christ child into the rest of the world.

Lord Jesus, may the atmosphere of my life and the attitude of my heart make my life a place where You want to be and a place where people can meet You. Amen.



Day 16

Behold, the Lamb



Those people will never be hungry again, and they will never be thirsty again. The sun will not hurt them, and no heat will burn them, because the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

—Revelation 7:16–17 NCV

Love decorating the house with nativity scenes at Christmastime. In each one, young Mary tends to her newborn while her faithful husband stands guard. Wise men and shepherds stand in awe. And often near the Christ child is a little lamb. Jesus is known as the Lamb of God, and the symbolism is not lost on us.

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel sacrificed lambs as sin offerings. John the Baptist was direct in drawing the comparison. When he saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 NKJV). Then on the cross Jesus was the perfect sacrifice—the perfect once-and-for-all sin offering—that removed our sins as far as the east is from the west.

This Christmas, when you spend time in front of a nativity, may you be filled with peace and awe as you behold the Lamb of God.

I stand in awe before the manger as my soul whispers, “Behold, the Lamb.”
Amen.



Day 17



Comfort and Peace

Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted.

—Isaiah 49:13 NASB

When you hear the word *comfort*, what comes to mind? Mashed potatoes or homemade chicken noodle soup? Your favorite chair, your Bible, and a soft blanket just warmed up in the dryer? Or maybe time with a friend?

The trials and tribulations in this life mean we all need comfort at one time or another. For one long period of history, comfort was hard to come by because God was silent. Had He forgotten His people? Not a sound for four hundred years between the Old Testament's account of history and where the New Testament picks up the story.

At the end of this four-hundred-year period, the heavens broke forth in praise. The angel announced the birth of the Messiah, and a multitude of the heavenly host praised and glorified God.

The Lord God *had* heard His people's cries—and He has heard yours. Receive from Him the light, the joy, the comfort, and the peace He has for you.

God, it is a gift to be reminded that You hear my cries, You respond according to Your good timing, and You bring comfort and peace. Amen.



Day 18



Goodwill to All!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

—Luke 2:14 NKJV

When we hear the word *goodwill*, most of us probably think first of Goodwill Industries International. Founded in 1902, the organization has the following as its mission statement: “Goodwill works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work.”

Goodwill Industries is an example of the goodwill the heavenly host proclaimed and celebrated at Christ’s birth. Jesus brought peace in more profound ways than humankind had known, and nothing can surpass His supreme act of goodwill: the Holy One died for sinners.

Opportunities abound for you to continue Jesus’ work of peace and goodwill. Consider the homeless person asking for food, the neighbor whose health is failing, and your friend who is struggling financially.

May the peace and goodwill sung about at Christmas keep our hearts soft and inform our actions throughout the year.

Lord God, please help me be a person of peace and goodwill, not only at Christmas but all year long. Amen.



Day 19

Truly Waiting



"The vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."

—Habakkuk 2:3 NASB

Are you good at waiting? Some people seem to possess a wonderful abundance of patience that serves them well while they're waiting—but they may be pacing, making lists, and doing a lot of research as they think through the various possibilities. We also don't necessarily see that, inside, they are actually agitated and impatient.

And when we are not *waiting* patiently, we are *wanting* the event to start, the situation to improve, or the circumstances to change. In contrast, when we're truly waiting patiently, we have a peace that says we know the event, the situation, and the circumstances have already been resolved. We don't need to fret or worry. And this principle applies to waiting for Christ's return.

The Christmas season reminds us to anticipate the Lord's Second Coming just as we anticipated His first, knowing full well that He—the greatest gift of all—will arrive on time.

Lord, it's difficult for me to wait for You and for the unfolding of Your plans. Help me to patiently, expectantly, and peacefully wait for Your answers to prayer. Amen.



Day 20

Expectation



When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and he will rescue them.

Isaiah 19:20

Expectation. What's more exciting than to eagerly await a person or an event? Perhaps it's Christmas, a new baby, loved ones we haven't seen for far too long, graduation, a fishing trip. Any of these can stir up excited feelings of anticipation.

So consider the almost frenzied expectation of the Hebrew people under by Roman rule. God had promised them a Messiah, a Savior, a Rescuer to save them from this relentless oppression. Little did they know that God would send them far more than they asked for.

Do you feel this kind of hopeful expectation when you ask the Lord to work in your life or in the lives of your friends or loved ones? Do you pray expecting Him to answer? Jesus said, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:22). Do you really believe what Jesus said? Believe expectantly! Your loving God just might grant you far more than you asked for.

Dear Lord, please teach me to pray with hope, expecting You to answer—and in ways I never even imagined! Amen.



Day 21

When There's No Room



Then [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the lodging place.

Luke 2:7 HCSB

I can't possibly take on anything more; there's just no room in my day."

Sometimes it's good—and even wise—to say no to further demands on our time. But what if the thing we're saying no to is the most important thing we should be doing? If we truly want to do the wisest thing, shouldn't we be digging into the Bible daily?

We hear a lot today about prioritizing. When we prioritize, however, we should always keep the most important thing as *the most important thing*. And number one on our priority list should be time with the Lord. Even Jesus, when He was on earth, frequently went off to be alone with His Father—our Father. Imagine how He must feel when we tell Him there's no room in our lives for Him! If we truly love God, we'll ache to spend time with Him. Make room in your day for Him—every day.

Lord, I'm sorry for the times I've thought I didn't have enough time for You. May You be my number one priority. Amen.





From Heaven to Manger

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

Luke 2:16 NLT

He is a king. In fact, He's the King of kings. Yet, when He chose—willingly—to leave the glories of heaven to come to earth, He came not as a king, but as a baby. Not on a throne, but in the feeding trough of a stable. Not wrapped in exquisite robes, but swaddled in strips of cloth. Attending Him, besides His earthly mother and foster father, were cows, donkeys, and sheep. Jesus didn't come as royalty; He came as a servant.

And He came for one purpose: to save us.

In His thirty-three years on earth, Jesus felt all the pain, heartache, and suffering we experience. He felt the bitter cold and the relentless heat; the temptations, rejection, loss, and torture. Why did He leave heaven? Why did He suffer and die? His purpose was to take the shackles of our sins and set us free. His reason was love.

Lord, Your love for me is beyond measure. Thank You for choosing to come to earth so that I can one day live with You in heaven. Amen.



Day 23

The Need for Hope



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope.

1 Peter 1:3

Sometimes the best part of a vacation is planning for it. We don't even think about the possibility of bad weather; we're confident the weather's going to be ideal all week, the activities are going to be safe and fun, the car's going to function perfectly, the scenery will be superb. Without this hopeful attitude, planning the trip would be scary and threatening and no fun at all. We all need hope.

In many of the Old Testament books, God's prophets warned the Hebrew people that they would face calamities if they didn't straighten up and fly right. Again and again the people drifted away from the Lord and His teachings. Again and again, God sent prophets to warn them. But God knew even people who need to be rebuked also need hope. Therefore, He frequently added a promise to His warnings: He *did* love His people; He *would* deliver them; His kingdom *would* be established on earth.

Even when I fail You, Lord, You're there to pick me up, remind me that You love me, and encourage me to try again. Thank You. Amen.



Day 24

The Greatest Love of All



This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

In 1985, Whitney Houston released her song “Greatest Love of All.” It had already been recorded by George Benson in 1977 and did well on the R&B charts, but few would argue that Whitney’s rendition is the one we all remember. Its lyrics include sentiments like, “I learned to depend on me” and, “Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all.” The song resonated with many people in a world where self-adulation is the goal.

Contrary to this much-recorded song, the greatest love of all is God Himself. And He doesn’t just love; He *is* love. The greatest love we can ever experience. And the greatest act of love a person can achieve is to love God. In fact, if we love Him as we should—with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength—we won’t have time for vanity and pride. We’ll be so busy looking at Him that we won’t even notice ourselves.

The greatest love I’ll ever know is You, dear God. Help me to love You with all that I am—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.





Love That Transforms

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you."

John 15:9

Love. What other word evokes such a range of emotions? Joy, pride, envy, bitterness, rejection, thrill, lust, anger, excitement . . . and more. There are those who would give their lives for it, others who would literally kill for it. Libraries overflow with books about it, movies tempt and terrify with it. And yet love, in its truest form, is intended to bring only good and favorable responses. In fact, love's purpose is to transform the world.

That's what Jesus' love for us does; it transforms us from sinners into saints. Because Jesus loves us so completely and purely, He gave His very life for us. And, almost two thousand years later, He continues to rejoice in every person who comes to Him and to grieve over every person who denies He is Lord. Nothing can turn His love from you. Won't you give Him the greatest gift you can—your heart—today?

Lord, I give You my heart, my life, my all. You are my Lord! Amen.

