



Be-Loved Devotionals

Green Shoots

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his **wonderful light!***

1 Peter 2: 9

It is Gods deepest desire for you to flourish and grow through the process of allowing him to love you, even when you think there is nothing about you that is lovable. God wants a deep relationship with you, a relationship not based on performance, but based on genuine heartfelt face to face conversations about who we are and who he is.

God wants you to come into the light of his love and grow!

*[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son]. **And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very centre and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit],** so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people),*

(Ephesians 1:17-19)

*During these conversations with God and for you to emerge and grow, you must leave no stone unturned, stop hiding, refusing to look, avoiding, you must at times **force your way into the light!***

Meeting with God in this way requires courage, a belief that God really loves you even at your messiest times, that he has plans to prosper you and not harm you, and that he really wants to develop a close and fruitful relationship with you even when you don't have it all together.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 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)

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

*Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? **No one**—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? **No one**—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

(Romans 8:31-39)

As well as spending time in the light of God's presence through worship, prayer, or meditation it's also vitally important that we read his word regularly and illuminate our minds with the truth of his word.

The word is described in the bible as follows:

A light that illuminates our path!

A light that extinguishes darkness!

A light that the darkness cannot comprehend!

Christianity is not a programme of behaviour management or religious practices, only through the process of cultivating a deep relationship with Christ and entering his presence regularly can we expect our soul to be flooded with light, so that we can push through the dark soil of our lives and finally grow and emerge.



Reflection Suggestions

Reflect on everything you have heard as a part of this devotional and through the previous **Be-Loved** video teachings linked on the web page. Maybe journal your thoughts, do something creative or take some time to worship God.

Some suggested questions you might ask yourself as part of this process are:

Do you feel lovable if not why?

Is there an area of your life that you feel has been dark for a long time, an area you rarely share with anyone that you need to allow God into?

Do you have fears or other things that distract you and prevent you from coming into God's presence and praying?

Do you have regular rhythms of bible reading, meditation and worship if not could you develop a plan to make this happen?

As a last step I would strongly recommend the following prayer

Heavenly Father,

I know I am not perfect, never have been and never will be. Despite this Lord I am willing to believe that you still love me and want to bring me out of darkness into your marvellous light!

I believe that Jesus died and paid for all my mistakes and today I open my heart to receive your forgiveness, light, and love.

Help me to grow Lord and flood my soul with light Lord I pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

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