

# What the Bible Says About...

## **GOD'S LOVE FOR US**

"I have loved you deeply," says the Lord. - Malachi 1:2

I have loved you with an everlasting love. - Jeremiah 31:3

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. - Psalm 56:8

Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for a child she has borne? But, even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on my hand. - Isaiah 49:15-16

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever. - Psalm 118:1

God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. - 1 John 4:9, 10

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!" - Lamentations 3:22-24

For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone. - Psalm 91:11-12

## **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (RULE & POWER)**

"Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish." - Isaiah 46:10

The Lord shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken. - Psalm 33:10-11

I am the one who creates the light and makes the darkness. I am the one who sends good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things. - Isaiah 45:7

Look now; I myself am He! There is no god other than me! I am the one who kills and gives life; I am the one who wounds and heals; no one delivers from my power. - Deuteronomy 32:39

"From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can oppose what I do. No one can reverse my actions." - Isaiah 43:13

The Lord does whatever He pleases throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths. - Psalm 135:6

Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad? - Job 2:10

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. - Psalm 139:16

The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From His throne He observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so He understands everything they do. - Psalm 33:13-15

God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11

For the Lord sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought. If you seek Him, you will find Him. But if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. - 1 Corinthians 28:9

"Who makes the mouth?" the Lord asked him, "Who makes people so they can speak or not speak, hear or not hear, see or not see? Is it not I the Lord?" - Exodus 4:11

The Lord makes one poor and another rich; He brings one down and lifts one up. - 1 Samuel 2:7

In his heart, a man plans his ways, but the Lord determines his steps. - Proverbs 16:9

Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. - Matthew 10:29-30

He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does He deal with us as we deserve. For His unfailing love toward those who fear Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a Father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him. For he understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust. - Psalm 103:10-14

When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? God has every right to exercise his judgment and power. - Romans 9:21-22

The Lord has made everything for His own purposes, even the wicked for punishment. - Proverbs 16:4

We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall. - Proverbs 16:33

Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is to understand His decisions and His methods! For who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who knows enough to be His counselor? - Romans 11:33-34

For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen. - Romans 11:36

## **GOD'S PURPOSES IN SUFFERING**

These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold- and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. - 1 Peter 1:7

I have refined you, but not in the way that silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. - Isaiah 48:10

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart. - Proverbs 17:3

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. - James 1:2-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. - Romans 5:3-5

God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. - James 1:12

And since we are his children, we will share in his treasures- for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But, if we are to share in his glory, we must also share in his suffering. - Romans 8:17

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands. Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of the Lord. - Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. - Ecclesiastes 7:3

The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise. - Psalm 51:17

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. - Job 23:10-12

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. - Romans 8:18

## **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. - Isaiah 53:10

But you followed God's prearranged plan. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to the cross and murdered him. - Acts 2:23

In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan. - Acts 4:28

Something to think about... If God is willing to plan and allow Jesus (a perfectly sinless man totally undeserving of punishment) to be tortured and crucified, in order to bring infinite good, glory, and our salvation out of such a horrific and seemingly unjust act, how much more can He do the same with us? If given the opportunity (at the time) to observe God's treatment of Jesus, we all would have said that God doesn't know what He's doing, He's being unfair, He's being hateful, and unjust. But, upon further review upon seeing the results and God's greater plan, we all would look back and say, "Wow, God, You are awesome! I never could have conceived that You could accomplish such good from such a horrific thing." And, it's the same with our circumstances of suffering. It may seem that God doesn't know what He's doing or that He's taken His hands off the steering wheel, but the reality is that He knows what He's doing and He is in control, and He is good. All His ways are perfect, righteous, and loving, and we are the apple of His eye, His dearly loved children. God is accomplishing good in our lives, and in the lives of others, through our sufferings.

## **GOD'S PROMISES IN SUFFERING**

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart."  
- Isaiah 40:11a

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." - Luke 12:32

The Lord's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over. - Psalm 12:6

Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promises.  
- Hebrews 10:23

"Jehovah will perfect that which concerneth me." - Psalm 138:8

For the mountains may depart and the hills disappear, but even then I will remain loyal to you. My covenant of blessing will never be broken," says the Lord who has mercy on you. - Isaiah 54:10

But the Godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. - Psalm 92:12

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. - 2 Chronicles 16:9a

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair. For the Lord has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory. - Isaiah 61:3

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."  
- Psalm 32:8

The steps of the Godly are directed by the lord, he delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall. For the Lord holds them by the hand. - Psalm 37:23-24

And your ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it; when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left. - Isaiah 30:21

Trust me in times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory. - Psalm 50:15

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. - Isaiah 41:10

Do not be afraid as you go out to fight today! Do not lose heart or panic. For the Lord your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and he will give you victory! - Deuteronomy 20:3b-4

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord is the one who goes before you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor forsake you. - Deuteronomy 31:8

"The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." - Zephaniah 3:17

When they walk through the valley of weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs, where pools of blessing collect after the rains. - Psalm 84:6

When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. - Isaiah 43:2-3a

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest. - Psalm 126:5-6

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." - Jeremiah 29:11

And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. - Romans 8:28

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. - 1 Corinthians 2:10

I am leaving you a gift- peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give you isn't like the peace the world gives, so don't be troubled or afraid. - Jesus (John 14:27)

"I will repay you for the years that the locusts have eaten..." - Joel 2:25

Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But, take heart: I have overcome the world. - Jesus (John 16:33)