Reflect on God's Goodness

Meditations,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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Creator & Father Devotional

O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions. (Psalm 104:24, NASB)

You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:16, NASB)

When I look around at the wonders of nature, it reminds me that God is wise and strong and very much alive.

He loves us in so many marvelous ways.

But when I remember I am part of His creation,

I feel even closer to Him.

The life that He has given me is

His life.

Every breath I breathe is

His breath.

According to Psalm 139,

He knit me together

while I was still in my mother's womb, and

He patterned me after Himself.

The taste of food,
a beautiful scene,
even a conversation with a friend
tell me that He knows all our needs.
I read the creation story, and
it's obvious that
God devoted Himself to providing for us.

Just think about it:

we spend every moment of our existence, birth to death, wrapped in His presence and surrounded by His care.

But He is more than just our Creator.

He also calls Himself
our Father.
We belong to Him in a way that
only a parent can understand.
We are in His heart, and
His love never lets us go.

Father, You are
with me and
in me and
all around me.
I can't believe that
You devoted Yourself to
me.
How can I respond to You?

Hymn recording: **Surrounded by Your Greatness**

Surrounded by Your Greatness

Psalm 104:24-31a

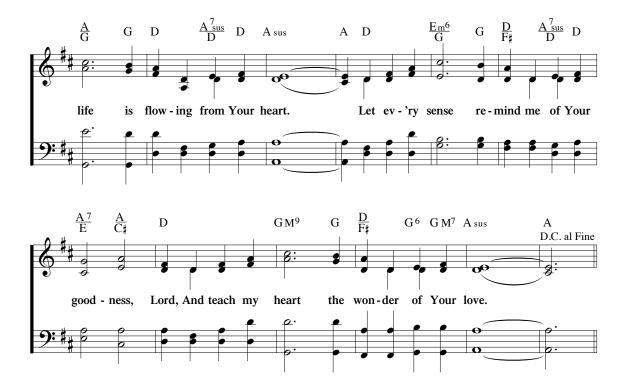


WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

SURROUNDED BY GREATNESS Irregular

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Time

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man back into dust And say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night. You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep: In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. *In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew;* Toward evening it fades and withers away. (Psalm 90:1-6, NASB)

When we consider the natural world, we begin to realize that **time hides from us many of the Creator's most spectacular miracles**. Some are too split-second for us to perceive; others are too gradual to appreciate.

For instance, on one hand, consider a single beat of a hummingbird's wing (up to 80 per second!). On the other hand, ponder the sculpting of the Grand Canyon.

Or think of the human body. Each simple function is a chain of inter-workings, incredibly complex, yet almost instantaneous. But just as marvelous is the transformation of a microscopic egg into an adult human being, capable of reason, imagination, love, work, and worship. (Growth seems to be God's favorite miracle. Up close, it's invisible. From a distance, it's breathtaking . . . too beautiful to rush.)

We are locked into the present, with narrow notions of fast and slow. We are caught in the blindness of time, space, and self. The Everlasting One blesses us, and we do not see Him coming or going. We fail to trace all the wonders of Him who is unhurried and unhindered by time, reigning in eternity. To the Overlord of all the ages, the Master of each moment, nothing is fast or slow. Time is not a barrier or a restraint, but a tool wielded by His wisdom.

How foolish, then, for us to pretend to be masters of our time. We frantically try to control what we cannot control. Rigid, rushed schedules are our attempts to bring productivity, consistency, and balance into our confusion and fatigue.

But the Lord reminded me years ago that **time anxiety is as foolish and unproductive as all other anxieties**. "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matthew 6:27, NIV)

Anxiety blocks our free and open response to God's moment-by-moment leadership. Worry produces only tension, selfishness, and insensitivity. It chokes out love, gentleness, and joy.

Turn to one of the Gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) and **read about Jesus. Notice that while He had so much to accomplish in so little time, He never rushed.** He was busy, but He never seemed tense or hurried.

That's because He focused on only one priority: following His Father's leadership step by step. Each moment was in His Father's hands, so Jesus simply did as He was directed to do and worked as He was enabled to work.

Our Creator, our Father gives us the same privilege. We don't need to juggle our priorities and obligations in our own wisdom. God wants us to lead and balance our lives by his wisdom.

He calls us to listen and respond to His leadership regarding time. We are to use our self-discipline there rather than toward our own arbitrary schedules. As we do, He breathes natural balance and joy, a peace and productivity into each moment, of both labor and rest. He slips accomplishments into our schedules that surprise and delight us.

He is personally with you always. He would be delighted to guide and provide for your time needs. This is just one more area in which He calls us into a closer, more constant fellowship with himself.

God's gifts are practical. They are more satisfying than we have tasted or imagined. He invites us to discover them all.

God is never in a hurry.

He is the master of time, not its slave.

Walk with Him in His peace.

Hymn recording: Lord of Time

Lord of Time

Psalm 31:14-15; John 15:5; Ephesians 5:15-16



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A Detail to Ponder

Here's an intriguing detail
I came across this morning
in Genesis 18:14.

God had sent three angels to tell Abraham that, at long last,
Sarah would bear him a son within a year.
Sarah was listening at the tent door and laughed at the news.

She couldn't believe that she would have such "pleasure," since both she and Abraham were past 90.

In v.14, God (apparently through the angel) answered her, "Is there anything too difficult for the LORD?" (NASB; NIV, "too hard").

But another translation, and perhaps a more literal one, is *"Is there anything too wonderful for Yahweh?"*

That translation makes my heart smile.

It brings to mind
 a flood of marvelous blessings
 the Lord has poured out over the years.

Truly, is there anything too wonderful for our God?

Hymn recording: Come and See the Works of Our God

Come and See the Works of Our God

Psalm 66

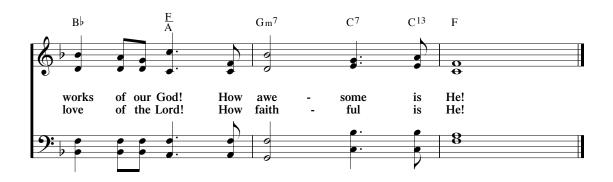


WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 66 8.5.8.6.7.6.7.6.8.5.

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Exodus 33:18 - 34:8

(NASB)

Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"

And [God] said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered. So be ready by morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. No man is to come up with you, nor let any man be seen anywhere on the mountain; even the flocks and the herds may not graze in front of that mountain."

So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord.

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

Seeing God's Glory

Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7; Psalm 16:11; 27:1; 118:14

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Father,
I bow in Your presence.
I look up and cry
with all my heart:

"The Lord!
The Lord!
The eternal, unchanging God, compassionate, gracious, patient and forgiving, overflowing with love and
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faithfulness! You are my light and

my salvation!

You are my strength and

my song!

You, O glorious God,

are my fullness of joy!"

Hymn: The Glow of Your Goodness

The Glow of Your Goodness

Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7; Psalm 16:11; 27:1; 118:1; John 15:11; 17:13



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Psalm 46

(NASB)

God is our refuge and strength,
[A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has wrought desolations in the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.
"Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Reflection on Psalm 46

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Almighty,
unchallenged God
      sovereign,
      eternal,
      all-wise,
      all-loving,
we rest in You.
We are threatened by change.
      We feel helpless before it.
But You are unchanging.
Nothing can touch
      Your goodness or
      the absolute certainty of Your rich gifts.
Where You are is
      peace, and
      You are forever with Your people.
What You say becomes
      reality, and
      You always speak blessings for those who trust You.
O God, our Father,
      be exalted throughout all the earth!
We rest secure in
      Your perfect will.
                                  Father, help me to
                                  trust in all You are
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the joy of all You are.

Hymn recording: Psalm 46

so that I may live in

Psalm 46



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WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Appalachian Folk Tune and Ken Bible

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EBB AND FLOW

11.11.11.11.

Do You Hear Him?

I will listen to what God the Lord will say, for He promises peace to His people.

When we suffer,
God speaks to us in the midst of our trouble.
He wants to draw us out of our distress
into deliverance,
into a spacious place that is wide open and free.
He wants to lead us to a banquet table
filled with all the best food.
(Psalm 85:5; Job 36:15-16; para.)

Creation is God's song about Himself.

Are you listening?

He speaks in the thunder.

Do you tremble at His majesty?

He speaks in a small whisper.

Don't let your desires drown out His voice.

He speaks in the silence.

Are you resting in Him?

He speaks through pain and distress.

Do you still trust His tender love?

He speaks through a thousand daily pleasures,

calling you to find constant joy in Him.

Your Father is always speaking. As you trust Him, you will hear Him.

Hymn recording: God Is Speaking

God Is Speaking



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional French Tune; arr. by Ken Bible ARE YOU SLEEPING? 4.4.3.3.6.6.3.3.

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Resting in You

The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:17, NASB)

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.
"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, 'What have You done?' (Daniel 4:34-35, NASB)

In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3, NASB)

Father, You are wisdom.
Your working is deeper,
higher, and
more far-reaching than I can imagine.

You are absolute power. You do what pleases You. No one challenges Your mighty arm. Nothing stops Your purpose.

Father, You are love. Nothing exhausts Your gentle compassion. Nothing strains Your joyful self-giving.

So when You whisper, I will listen.

When You lead, I will follow wherever You go.

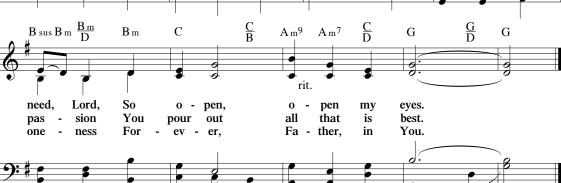
When Your will brings me
delay or
sorrow or
sacrifice,

I will love You and
trust You and
rest in the rightness of all You do.

Hymn recording: Good Gifts

Good Gifts





WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible PSALM 112 6.5.6.5.6.5.6.7.

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Mark 4:3-20

(NASB)

[Jesus said,] "Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.

And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

Grow Us in Christ

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Some soil won't receive and nurture the seed of God's Word.
But the life in the seed is so powerful that
wherever it is sown,
it finds receptive soil and
produces abundant fruit.
      So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but
      will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah
      55:11, NIV)
Read the book of Acts and watch the promise come true.
Struggles and problems come,
      but the Word keeps growing (Acts 6:1-7).
Persecution comes.
      but the Word keeps growing (Acts 12:20-24).
Opposition is strong and persistent,
      but the Word keeps growing (Acts 19:18-20).
God makes things grow, and He cannot be stopped.
And what is His task?
What is He doing?
He is growing a people (1 Peter 2:9-10).
He is growing
      a conquering Church (Matthew 16:18),
      a fruitful vine (John 15:1, 5),
      a living temple (Ephesians 2:19-22),
      a holy bride (Ephesians 5:25-27),
      the body of His glorious Son, Jesus (Ephesians 4:11-15).
Father, we want to be included in all You are growing.
Grow in us
      the grace of Christ,
      the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18),
      the faith of Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:3), and
      the love of Christ (Philippians 1:9).
Grow us more and more
      like Him,
      in Him. and
      unto Him.
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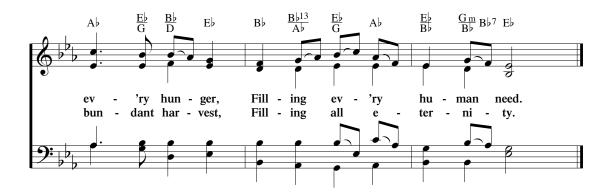
Hymn recording: See the Seed of Faith

See the Seed of Faith



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All You Made Me to Be

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13, NASB)

Father, You are all-in-all,

all life,

all love,

all beauty,

all blessedness.

You are the boundless ocean of

a thousand magnificent blessings still

nameless and

undiscovered.

As I trust You with the simplicity of a child,

I am in You, and

You, the Great All-in-all, are in me.

Because You are in me.

I am far more than this corrupted, physical creature.

You are life, and

I am truly, eternally alive.

You are love, and

I begin to love as You love.

You are wonderful, and

already Your wonders peek out through me.

But because You are the Gardener,

forever growing magnificent wonders,

who I am becoming is infinitely more wonderful than who I am.

For I am in Christ, and

I am growing in Christ.

And when He appears, I will be like Him,

because I will see Him just as He is. (1 John 3:2, NASB, adapted)

When I am perfectly like

Your perfectly pleasing Son,

I will be perfectly pleasing to You,

my Creator,

my Redeemer,

my loving Father. You will rejoice that I am all You made me to be.

Hymn recording: Now in Christ

Now in Christ

TUNE: Down to the River, alt. Psalm 23:1; John 10:2-4, 14; Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:10; 5:25-27; 6:10



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

DOWN TO THE RIVER 2 Irregular

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We Are Complete in Christ

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3, NASB)

Father, You have gone to such lavish lengths to help us know You.

This entire universe — vast and majestic, powerful and intricate — speaks of You and sings of You.

You made us part of this world so we could hear its every whisper.

You speak of Yourself through Your Word.
Its stories, songs, prophecies, and poems show You creating and giving, working and teaching, forgiving, loving, and even dying for us.

Your promises and pictures of Your coming Messiah were particularly vivid and varied.

He was to be a full and final revelation of Yourself.

Yet when He came, even those steeped in Your Word were surprised, confused, and even shocked

by Who He was and Who You are.

You and Your amazing love overflow
every image,
every metaphor, and
every name we have for You.
Creator God, You are more than we can imagine You to be.

Yet we know this:

All You are is complete in Jesus Christ, and we will be complete in Him.

Hymn recording: **Looking to Jesus**

Looking to Jesus

TUNE: All Through the Night (AR HYD Y NOS)



MUSIC: Traditional Welsh Melody; harm. by Luther Orlando Emerson

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Scriptures on Feasting on Christ

(NASB)

Isaiah 55:1-2

Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance.

John 6:35, 54

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Feast on Jesus

God feeds His people – lavishly,

abundantly.

We see it throughout the Bible and

throughout history.

As our Creator and Provider,

He gives us all the nourishment our bodies need.

Our original home was a garden,

rich with food.

He spread a banquet for His people

in the barren wilderness.

He fed the five thousand with more than they could eat, all from a child's lunch.

He cares about our physical well-being...

but, O, so much more!

He is eager to feed our complete selves,

our bodies, minds, and spirits,

not just to satisfy us for a few hours, but forever.

What is the banquet the Father spreads for His people?

The banquet He spreads is Jesus.

All God's blessings flow to us through Him.

In Jesus He offers us all we could ever need:

His peace and joy,

His innocence before God,

His holy, unending life,

His sufficiency in every situation,

His beautiful, unbroken relationship with the Father.

Gather with God's people and feast on Jesus.

Come feast on His Word,

His wisdom,

His Spirit,

His body broken and His blood poured out.

The feast is spread.

Come...feast on Jesus.

Hymn recording: Come and Feast

Come and Feast

TUNE: Steal Away
Isaiah 55:1-2; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20;
John 6:27, 32-33, 35, 48-51; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26



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