# **Magnificent Life**

Readings, prayers, and hymns

Ken Bible

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### Contents

### Reflections, Prayers, and *Hymns*

Breath of His Breath <b>By Your Breath</b>	6 8
Created for Union with You  Created for Union with God	9 11
Live in the Allness of God  The Allness of God	12 14
Live in the All-in-all God Live in His All-ness	16 18
Infinite God, Personal God  One with God	19 21
Explore God  Explore God	23 25
Captive Simply God	26 28
As I Begin to Pray  Great Lord of All Reality	30 31
God of Endless Abundance <i>God Alone</i>	33 35
Reflection on Psalm 23  Psalm 23	37 39
Reflection on Psalm 36  Psalm 36	40 42
Seeing a Greater God  We Need You, Holy God	43 45
Living in God <i>Freedom in You</i>	46 47

God, I Need You	48
Living Christ	50
The Surpassing Value of Knowing You	51
Eternal Life Is Knowing You	53

## **Magnificent Life**

~

The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. (Genesis 2:7, NASB)

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has the life. (1 John 5:11-12, NASB)

~

Father, our lives are
from You,
in You, and
unto You
every moment,
not by our strength
but by simply trusting Jesus Christ.
We live and move in
Your river of holy life.
What an unspeakable gift!

#### **Breath of His Breath**

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host (Psalm 33:6, NASB).

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (Genesis 2:7, NASB).

When [Jesus] had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22, NASB).

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16, NIV).

For our Loving Father, giving to His children has always been deeply, thoroughly, passionately personal.

Whether He is forming us from dust, joyfully creating our beautiful home, or sharing His own life with us,

He does so with the

infinite wisdom and loving heart of the perfect Father.

His love for us,

His lavish self-giving,

is as personal and

intimate as

His own breath.

Like a mother, He wants nothing between

Himself and His dear child.

We are breath of His Breath, spirit of His Spirit, life of His own Holy Life.

~

will eventually leave us thirsty.

Each will prove to be partial and passing.

But the Spirit of Christ will flow forever within and satisfy every thirst.

O Living Christ, fill my mind, heart, and life!

(John 4:13-14)

~

Hymn recording: **By Your Breath** 

### By Your Breath

Genesis 1; 2:7; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 55:10-11; Mark 4:1-20; John 3:34; 20:22; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21



#### Created for Union with You

We are material creatures. animated only by Your breath. You are without beginning or end, unlimited by time and space. We are born and die in the blink of an eye, forever locked into the here and now. You are holy transcendent and pure in every way. We are fashioned from earth and for earth and are prisoners of our own evil choices. You are all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving. We are ignorant, weak, and self-centered. You are completely self-sufficient, constantly overflowing. We are completely and constantly needy, dependent on food, water, and air, temperature control, shelter, relationships, and so much more that is forever beyond are reach. We are not self-sufficient and never can be. We were designed to live in constant, unbroken relationship with You; You the joyful, all-sufficient Giver, we the glad and grateful receivers. Without You, we are unhappy, inadequate, incomplete, and doomed to die. With You, we are filled with glorious, never-ending, ever-flowing life. We were created to live in You.

You are a Spirit being.

You who conceived my purpose and my potential, You who made me from the dust of the earth, make me all You want me to be. (Psalm 119:73)

~

Hymn recording: Created for Union with God

### Created for Union with God

TUNE: Jesus Paid It All (ALL TO CHRIST)

Psalm 62:1-2; 123:1-2; Jeremiah 23:23-24; John 14:10; 15:5;

Acts 17:28; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:13



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MUSIC: John T. Grape (1835-1915); arr. by Ken Bible

6.6.6.6.w.Ref.

#### Live in the Allness of God

I find that living the good life,
the holy life,
the peaceful, joyful, and loving life
flows more fully and naturally when
lived in response to the living, present God.
It flows from living face-to-face with Him.

Thus as the years pass, I increasingly hunger to know God more deeply, more personally.

I want to have continually imprinted on my consciousness the

I want to have continually imprinted on my consciousness the transcendent, incomparable God in all His greatness.

I want to see Him
always and forever
with the eyes of my heart.
As I see Him and know Him for all He is,

I truly see myself.
I truly see daily life as
the wonderful gift He is making it to be.

I want to live every moment in the reality of Romans 11:36:

From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. (NASB)

I want to live in the truth of Colossians 2:9-10:

In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete. (NASB)

I want to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge and be filled up to all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:19, NASB)

~

Father,
You make promises that
no one else can.
Your promises flow from
Your all-ness,
unhindered by time nor space nor
any limits of
power,

wisdom, or love.
Your promises lavishly share the magnificence, the changelessness, the pure goodness of all You are.
What You promise is grander than we can understand or even imagine.

~

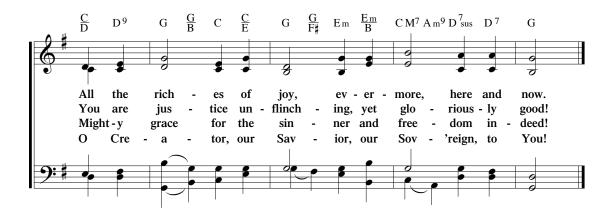
Hymn recording: The Allness of God

### The Allness of God

TUNE: How Firm a Foundation (FOUNDATION, alt.) Exodus 3:14; 34:6-7; Psalm 36:9; 104:27-30; John 8:36; 17:13; Romans 11:33, 36; 16:27; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; James 1:17; Revelation 1:8; 4:11-14; 22:13



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional American Melody; arr. by Ken Bible FOUNDATION 2 12.12.12.12.



#### Live in the All-in-all God

From Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36, NASB)

Before creation, all existence was God alone.
Everything comes *from Him*.

He is the source of all.

All things come *through Him.* He is

the initiator, the planner, the doer.

He is the goal, the destiny of all life.

All that exists

is moving toward Him.

He is the completion of all things.

So for us,

as for all creation,

He is the Source of

all that we are and all that we need.

He is the Doer,

planning for us, doing for us, growing us, drawing us.

And He is

growing us and drawing us toward Himself.

How should we respond to

this amazing reality,
this All-in-all God?
With reverence for all that He is.
With trust.
With sweet humility.
With praise.
With a constant, eager desire for Him alone.

~

The All-in-all is all I need.

~

Hymn recording: Live in His All-ness

### Live in His All-ness

Acts 17:28; Romans 11:36; Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 22:13



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

SWEET HUMILITY C.M.w.Ref.

#### Infinite God, Personal God

```
For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
      from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
       that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
      to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
      so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
      and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
      may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is
         the breadth and
         length and
         height and
         depth,
      and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,
      that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
      (Ephesians 3:14-19, NASB)
Infinite God.
      personal God,
You are the God beyond my highest thought.
      You are the God nearer to me than my own breath.
You come to me in Jesus Christ.
You come in skin and fragile flesh and bone.
You make Yourself just like me.
You come because I came from You.
You come
      to call me.
      to draw me.
      to bless me back to Yourself.
Infinite God,
      personal God,
      Father God.
I bow to You and
      lift my hands to You.
Make us one again in Christ!
```

but Jesus Christ is
the beginning and the end,
the first and the last,
the source and the goal of all life.
Our entire selves are
from Him,
through Him, and
to Him.

~

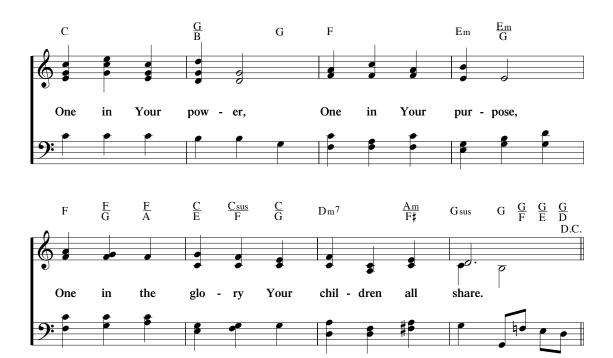
Hymn recording: One with God

### One with God

John 14:15-23; 17:20-24



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ken Bible, based on Johann Sebastian Bach MINUET 5.5.10.T.



#### **Explore God**

```
God is endlessly fascinating
      and endlessly surprising!
He is transcendent.
      He is infinitely above all He has created, yet
He is immanent. He is
      constantly,
      personally,
      intimately with us.
God is humble.
How can an
      infinite.
      all-powerful,
      all-knowing God
be humble?
He lowers Himself to interact with us,
      to care about all the little things that concern us.
             Who is like the Lord our God,
             Who is enthroned on high,
             Who looks far down to
             The heavens and the earth?
             He raises the poor from the dust,
             He lifts the needy from the garbage heap. (Psalm 113:5-7, NASB)
      He overflows all physical reality,
             yet He concerns Himself with
             everything that concerns us.
He completely knows all that is,
and He loves completely,
      with His whole magnificent being.
Even judgment is enacted out of love.
You cannot discover Him
      by your own effort and determination.
But He waits to reveal Himself to any person who
```

He is All-in-all, the Source of all that is good, yet simply knowing Him is

reveres Him and

trusts Him.

His greatest gift and richest blessing.

So day by day,

desire to know Him better.

Read.

Pray.

Trust.

Explore God.

~

God of all the arts, the truth about You is so beautiful, how can we help but try to express it in a beautiful way!

~

Hymn recording: **Explore God** 

## **Explore God**

Proverbs 9:10; Amos 4:12-13; Luke 11:9-13; John 14:6; Romans 11:33; Colossians 1:16-17; 2:3; 1 John 4:7-21



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible BARBARA ALLEN M-2

#### **Captive**

I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. (Ephesians 4:1, NASB)

```
You are the Source of all being.
You are Creator and
Sovereign.
You are all beauty and
splendor,
all truth,
holiness,
goodness, and
love.
```

Father, I am held captive by You.

I am Your humble prisoner.

You are all, magnificent Father, and
I am Your prisoner.
I am held captive
by Your greatness,
by the flood of Your tender mercies,
by the amazing possibility of
knowing You and
sharing in You
fully and forever.

O Father, how can I do anything else but love You and serve You in wonder and worship?

 $\sim$ 

If we throw aside our selfish anxiety,
then God's will is enough.
We can rest in it and
be at peace as it unfolds.
Even behind the injustice of human beings
we will see nothing but the

#### wisdom, justice, and unfailing goodness of our God. (paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

~

Hymn recording: Simply God

### Simply God

TUNE: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Psalm 18:1; 73:23-28; 104:1; 116:12; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 2:8

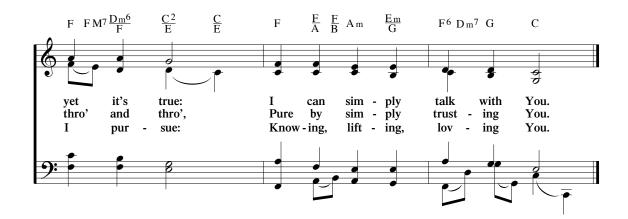


Alt. tune: DIX

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#### As I Begin to Pray

Father,
as I walk through this false and foolish world,
reshape my false and foolish thoughts
by Your reality,
by the beautiful truth of all You are.

Help me see You and know You in Your transcendence. Purify my desires by the holy breath of Your Spirit. Keep me joyful in the unending flow of Your pure goodness. Give me peace in the assurance of Your never-failing love. Flood my being with the light of Your unspeakable greatness.

Give me a heart and mind that are conscious of Your presence and are fully responsive to You, my Father.

Make me like Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Father,
help me to think and live
in the reality of
who You are and
who I am.

Hymn recording: **Great Lord of All Reality** 

### **Great Lord of All Reality**

#### TUNE: KINGSFOLD

Psalm 90:1-6; John 14:6; Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27

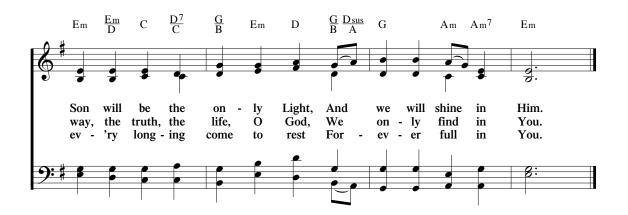


WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional English Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

KINGSFOLD C.M.D.

Alt. Tunes: CLEANSING FOUNTAIN, ELLACOMBE

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#### **God of Endless Abundance**

My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19, NASB)

God of endless abundance,
God of glad, unbounded giving,
You have made me
Your child,
Your heir.
I am rich beyond measure
in You.

Father, help me turn my back on everything that distracts me from You.

Help me flee from all anxious grasping, all foolish desires, and all self-glory.

Instead, help me wholeheartedly embrace generosity, contentment, humility, gratitude, and joyful, self-giving love.

Father, You are the one eternal God.
Help me love You
with all my heart,
with all that I am and
all that I hold.

Father,
You are all-in-all.
I am always
complete and
sufficient in You.

Hymn recording: **God Alone** 

### **God Alone**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28

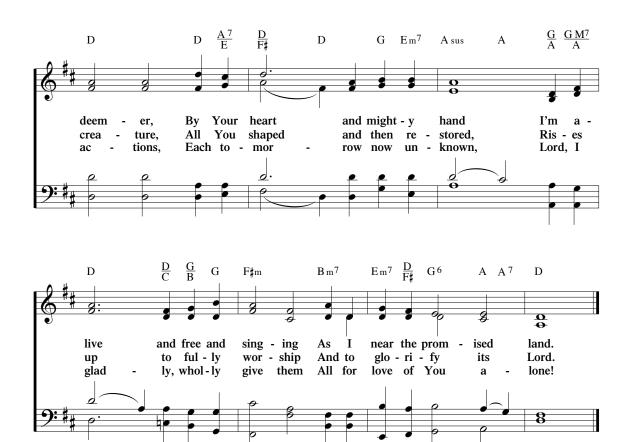


WORDS: Ken Bible, inspired by Dr. Joseph Coleson MUSIC: Adapted from Gregorian chant by Lowell Mason; arr. by Ken Bible RIPLEY 8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tune: NETTLETON

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#### **Reflection on Psalm 23**

```
Eternal God,
the Boundless One,
the Source of All,
      is my shepherd.
I lack
      nothing.
He faithfully,
      patiently,
      wisely
provides everything I need:
      food and rest,
      guidance,
      correction, and
      renewal.
Even as I walk through life's deepest, darkest valleys,
      in the looming shadow of death,
I will not fear.
for You, my Lord, are with me,
      comforting,
      strengthening
      protecting, and
      walking me through.
Even as fierce threats surround me,
You pour out on me Your
      rich abundance and
      eternal blessings.
Every day of my life I
      walk and
      work and
      rest in Your presence;
and I will live in You, O my Father,
      every moment
      forever.
Praise to You!
```

Father, You give me everything I need. You nourish me, rest me, renew me, and lead me in the right paths. Even when all seems dark and threats surround me, I will not fear. Your care for me overflows even then. Your goodness and love are always with me, encompassing me, pursuing my very best. I am always with You, my Father, my faithful Shepherd,

Hymn recording: Psalm 23

my God!

# Psalm 23



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PSALM 23 7.8.7.8.7.8.7.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

#### Reflection on Psalm 36

When we are wrapped up in ourselves, God,

You rarely cross our minds.

Our wrongness flatters us and

keeps us blind to

how deceived we really are.

We become the center of our own tiny universe.

"Truth" and "right" are flexible terms which

we bend for our own convenience.

But God, Your love and Your truth are

unchanging.

They are as vast and immeasurable as the heavens themselves.

Your justice and rightness are a bottomless abyss.

You are so good to all!

Like a mother bird,

You hide us under Your wings.

You let us drink freely from Your goodness, which is

a mighty river,

full of delights.

You are the fountain of all life.

And only in Your light can

we see reality clearly.

You, Creator -

You are what we need!

You are all that is

lovely and good,

right and noble.

Only as our relationship with You is right

can we be right and true and good again.

Forgive us, Father.

We turn to You.

We ask You.

We trust You now.

~

When our hearts are wrong, we ignore the good and

savor the deadly.
But I look to You, Father.
You are unfailing love,
absolute dependability,
pure rightness,
abundant provision for every need, and
a river of delights!

~

Hymn recording: Psalm 36

# Psalm 36



MUSIC: Appalachian Folk Tune and Ken Bible

PSALM 36 11.11.11.11.

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### Seeing a Greater God

Even after many years of following You, Father, much of my life makes no sense in light of who You are.

You are perfect power,

perfect wisdom, and perfect love.

Yet the faith I live is so weak.

My thoughts and actions proclaim a God who is only a vague shadow of You,

a God who is limited and

unreliable.

So much of me is still unmolded by the truth of all You are.

My daily walk is clouded by ignorance,

fear, and

self-centeredness.

Almighty Father, I long to know You in a way that is all-transforming.

I want to respond to You always,

constantly,

for all You are.

I hunger to think and speak and walk each moment in the light of Your full greatness.

Continue to draw me to Yourself.

Through prayer,

Your Word, and

Your loving discipline, Father,

help me to see You more clearly and trust You more simply.

~

Father, continue to grow my faith.

Help me to live

more and more

in the light of

Your magnificence.

Hymn recording: We Need You, Holy God

# We Need You, Holy God

TUNE: Rejoice, the Lord Is King (DARWALL)

Psalm 42:1-2; 62:1-2; 63:1; 123:1-2;

John 5:19-20, 30; 14:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 2:5-8



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: John Darwall
6.6.6.6.8.8.

### **Living in God**

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36, NIV)

Father, You are transcendent,
above all need and
all insufficiency.

Thus You are peace, and
trusting You brings us into Your peace.

As our grasping surrenders to You,
we are sufficient in You in every circumstance
as Christ was sufficient in You.

In You, we are without need.

We are fearless and free to love as You love, selflessly and lavishly.

We are free for joy.

We are free for sacrifice.

We are free for fruitful living in You.

We are free to live as Christ lived, from and through and unto You.

Father,
teach me to live in all the
freedom and
completeness
that comes from trusting
Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: Freedom in You

# Freedom in You



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

FREEDOM IN CHRIST 9.9.9.7.7. w. Bridge

#### God, I Need You

Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help. (Psalm 28:2, NIV)

My God, I cry out to You from my smallness and darkness. Help me, Lord. Forgive my self-centeredness. Take me to You. Absorb my life into Yours.

I want You.

I feel the need in my heart and try to verbalize it but don't know how.

Come and take me, Creator Lord.
Come in and make me entirely love, eternal Savior.
Purify me in love,
not to please me,
but to please You wholly and entirely.

Swallow my smallness in Your greatness, in Your length and depth and height.

Swallow my concerns in utter praise to You. Swallow anxiety in thanksgiving. Swallow wanting in giving.

Take me entirely into You, my Lord Jesus.

Father, we are so proud, blind, stubborn, and small in this wide universe of reality. We search for You, all the while we live and move and exist entirely in You.

Hymn recording: Living Christ

# **Living Christ**

Ephesians 1:3; 3:14-21; Philippians 3:7-14; Colossians 3:1-3



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by John Dowland

DOWLAND 7.6.7.6.3.3.7.

## The Surpassing Value of Knowing You

John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 13:9-12; Philippians 3:7-11; Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Peter 1:2-3, 5-8; 3:18

#### You are

Transcendent God, boundless, all-encompassing Spirit, Sovereign Creator, knowing all, giving all, being all, needing nothing.

You form us from the dust of the earth.

And You long for us to

know You,

trust You,

seek You,

love You, and

live in You.

You immerse us in a physical world that

sings unceasingly of

You.

You call.

You whisper.

You bless.

You teach.

You draw us to Yourself.

You make promises -

promises so rich and deep that

we cannot fully grasp them,

much less fully desire them.

But gradually we begin to realize that

all Your promises are really

one promise.

You promise Yourself.

You promise Yourself

in Your Son,

One who is exactly like You and

exactly like us,

but whole and

pure.

He is the embodiment of all You are and all You created us to be.

As You draw our eyes more and more to Him, our minds, our hearts, and our deepest desires are filled with the growing discovery and deepening mystery that is Your holy, human Son, Jesus Christ.

The eternal life we long for is knowing Him.

The grace and peace we crave is knowing Him.

All that we need for holy and fruitful living is knowing Him.

O Father, we set aside
all other goals and
all other desires.
We want only to
know You in
Jesus Christ.

Father,
how wonderful our world will be
when You are known,
loved, and
trusted for
all You are!

Hymn recording: **Eternal Life Is Knowing You** 

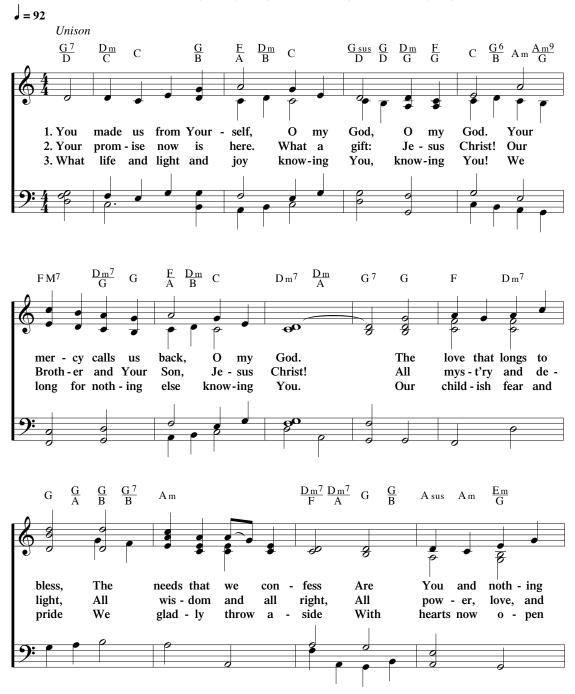
# **Eternal Life Is Knowing You**

TUNE: What Wondrous Love Is This (WONDROUS LOVE)

Genesis 2:7; Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 1:23; John 17:3;

1 Corinthians 13:9-12; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Philippians 3:7-11;

Colossians 1:9-10; 2:1-3, 9-10; Hebrews 2:11; 2 Peter 1:2-3, 5-8; 3:18



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. by Ken Bible

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.6.6.12.9.

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