

FOR US, WITH US, AND IN US... FROM HIM, THROUGH HIM, AND FOR HIM

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We can sometimes struggle with thoughts like: *God doesn't love me; He doesn't care about what's going on in my life; God has forsaken me—He's rejected me and is against me.*
- B. But the Word of God tells a different story—God is *for* us, He promises to always be *with* us, and He wants to live *in* us! We then discover that *from* Him, *through* Him, and *for* Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!
- C. Six little words (prepositions connect us with God)—*for, with, in, from, through, for*—but these words can have a BIG impact on our lives. Let us search the Scriptures together...

II. GOD IS FOR US

- A. God is *against* the sinner, but the good news of the Gospel is that Christ died for us to change all of that!
 - 1. **Rom. 5:6-10:** ⁶*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, **Christ died for the ungodly.*** ⁷*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.* ⁸*But **God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, **Christ died for us.***** ⁹*Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!* ¹⁰*For if, **when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!***
 - 2. The Cross puts an end once and for all to any doubt about God's love and care for us!
 - 3. **Eph. 2:1-10:** ¹*As for you, **you were dead in your transgressions and sins,*** ²*in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.* ³*All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and*

God
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lost and
dead!

following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature **objects of wrath**. ⁴**But because of His great love for us**, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵**made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**⁹**not by works, so that no one can boast.** ¹⁰**For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

4. **1 John 3:16:** *This is how we know what love is: **Jesus Christ laid down His life for us**. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

B. Christ is interceding for us and defending us!

1. **Rom. 8:31-34:** ³¹*What, then, shall we say in response to this [“these things” NKJV]? **If God is for us, who can be against us?*** ³²*He who did not spare His own Son, but **gave Him up for us all**—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?* ³³*Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? [NOTE: The devil does day and night! (Rev. 12:10-11)]. **It is God who justifies.*** ³⁴*Who is he that condemns? **Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.***
2. **1 John 2:1** (NKJV): *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father** [“one who speaks to the Father in our defense” NIV], **Jesus Christ the righteous.***
3. **Heb. 9:24:** *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; **He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.***
4. **Heb. 7:25:** *Therefore, **He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.***

Jesus is our defense attorney, NOT the prosecutor!

C. God has plans for us!

1. **Jer. 29:11:** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*
2. **Heb. 11:40:** *God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*
3. **Eph. 2:10:** *For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

D. God cares for us!

1. **1 Pet. 5:7:** *Cast all your anxiety [“care” NKJV] on Him because He cares for you.*
2. **Mat. 6:25-34:** ²⁵*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?* ²⁶***Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*** ²⁷*Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?* ²⁸*And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.* ²⁹*Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.* ³⁰*If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, **will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*** ³¹*So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?”* ³²*For the pagans run after all these things, and **your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*** ³³*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and **all these things will be given to you as well.*** ³⁴*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*
3. **Luke 12:6-7:** ⁶*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet **not one of them is forgotten by God.*** ⁷*Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; **you are worth more than many sparrows.***

4. The Robin and the Sparrow

*Said the robin to the sparrow,
“I would really like to know
Why those anxious human beings
Rush around and worry so.”*

*Said the sparrow to the robin,
“Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.”*

E. Christ made a way for us!

1. **Heb. 10:19-22:** ¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by **a new and living way opened for us** through the curtain, that is, His body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
2. **Eph. 2:11-14:** ¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)—¹²remember that at that time you were **separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God** in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been **brought near through the blood of Christ.** ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has **destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.**

F. God will fight for us when we are on His side!

1. **Josh. 5:13-15:** ¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a Man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua went up to Him and asked, “**Are you for us or for our enemies?**” ¹⁴“Neither,” He replied, “**but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.**” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked Him, “What message does my Lord have for His servant?” ¹⁵The Commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

2. **Ex. 14:13-14, 21-25:** ¹³Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴**The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still...**” ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²²and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴During the last watch of the night **the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.** ²⁵He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And **the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”**

3. **Josh. 10:40-42:** ⁴⁰So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded. ⁴¹Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. ⁴²**All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, BECAUSE the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.**

4. **Ps. 124:1-8:** ¹**If the LORD had not been on our side**—let Israel say—²**if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,** ³**when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive;** ⁴**the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,** ⁵**the raging waters would have swept us away.** ⁶**Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.** ⁷**We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler’s snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.** ⁸**Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

III. GOD IS WITH US

A. We need to know that God is with us!

We're
going
nowhere
without
God's
Presence!

1. **Ex. 33:12-17:** ¹²Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but **You have not let me know whom You will send with me.** You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with Me.’ ¹³If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people.” ¹⁴The LORD replied, “**My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.**” ¹⁵Then Moses said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶**How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”** ¹⁷And the LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”
2. **Josh. 1:5-9:** [The Lord to Joshua]: ⁵“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, **so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.** ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ⁷Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law My servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, **for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**”

B. Do not fear, I am with you!

1. **Judges 6:11-16:** ¹¹The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹²When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “**The LORD is**

So many
questions
: "But? If?
Why?
Where?
How?"
God's
answer:
"I WILL
BE WITH
YOU!"

with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?"

Where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now **the LORD has abandoned us** and put us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" ¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon asked, "**how can I save Israel?** My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The LORD answered, "**I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.**"

2. **Isa. 41:10:** *So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

C. The Great Commission is *also* the Great Promise!

1. **Mat. 28:18-20:** ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
2. *And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

D. Never, no never, no never!

1. **Heb. 13:5-6:** ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**" ⁶So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
2. AMP: "I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]."

E. God with us for all eternity!

1. **John 14:1-3:** ¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to **prepare a place for you.** ³And if I go and prepare a

*place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.***

2. **Rev. 21:1-3:** ¹*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now **the dwelling** [lit. “tabernacle” NKJV] **of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.***

IV. GOD LIVES IN US

- A. The only thing better than God with us is God living *in us*! The Spirit of Christ comes to live in our heart when we are born again:

1. **Rom. 8:9-11:** ⁹*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, **if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰**But if Christ is in you**, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹**And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit, who lives in you.***
2. **2 Cor. 13:5:** *Examine yourselves to **see whether you are in the faith**; test yourselves. **Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you**—unless, of course, you fail the test?*
3. **Eph. 3:16-20:** ¹⁶*I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be **filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.** ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to **His power that is at work within us...***

B. Christ in us is a mystery:

1. **Col. 1:26-27:** ²⁶*The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.* ²⁷*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles **the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***
2. **Gal. 2:20:** *I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.** The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

C. We become the temple of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. **John 14:16-20:** ¹⁶*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Counselor to be with you forever**—* ¹⁷*the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for **He lives with you and will be IN you.*** ¹⁸*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* ¹⁹*Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.* ²⁰*On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and **you are in Me, and I am in you.***
2. **1 Cor. 3:16:** *Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple** and that **God's Spirit lives in you?***
3. **1 Cor. 6:19:** *Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,** whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

D. Greater is the One in us!

1. **1 John 4:3-4:** ³*But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the **spirit of the antichrist,** which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.* ⁴***You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.***
2. **1 John 2:18-20, 27:** ¹⁸*Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists have come.** This is how we know it is the last hour.* ¹⁹*They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they*

The
anointing
of the
Holy Spirit
remains
in us!

would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. ²⁰**But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth...** ²⁷**As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.**

V. FROM HIM, THROUGH HIM, AND FOR HIM

- A. Everything comes from God, everything comes through Him, and everything is for His glory:

Rom. 11:33-36: ³³*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!* ³⁴*“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?”* ³⁵**“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”** ³⁶**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

- B. David understood that everything comes from God and it all belongs to Him:

1 Chron. 29:10-16: ¹⁰*David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to You, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.* ¹¹*Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.* ¹²*Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.* ¹³*Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name.* ¹⁴*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand...* ¹⁶*O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building You a temple for Your Holy Name, it comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to You.*

- C. **Eph. 1:3-12:** ³*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blesed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*** ⁴*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love* ⁵*He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—* ⁶***to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.*** ⁷*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace* ⁸*that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.* ⁹*And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ,* ¹⁰*to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—* ¹¹***to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*** ¹²*In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, **might be for the praise of His glory.***
- D. **Rev. 4:10-11:** ¹⁰*The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:* ¹¹***“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will [“for Thy pleasure” KJV] they were created and have their being.”***
- E. **Phil. 2:6-11:** ⁶*[Christ] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,* ⁷*but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* ⁸*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!* ⁹*Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name,* ¹⁰***that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*** ¹¹***and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. God often assures us in His Word that He is for us, not against us; that He will always be with us for all eternity; and that He will live in us forever.
- B. At the Cross, God demonstrated and proved His love for even the worst sinner, but we must believe it:

1 John 4:16 (NKJV): *And we have **known and believed the love that God has for us**. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

- C. When doubts and fears arise, we must turn to God's promises for assurance: He is *for* us, He is *with* us, and He is *in* us to stay!
- D. We then need to acknowledge that everything comes from God and, because of that, it all belongs to Him also! To Him be the glory forever! Amen.