

*Letters  
From  
God*



TRADING **U**P  
a different way to do life.

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From his first encounter with Jesus as a teenager, Doug Sherman's walk with God has been deeply personal. Reading scripture has always been for Doug, as if God were speaking directly to him.

Doug has a unique gift of reading, and then interpreting scripture into first person and it has been powerfully transformational as he has shared it with others. He has shared this gift with you in the following "Letters from God".

Each day, take some time to read and reflect on one of the following letters as though God were speaking to you. The more you see and respond to God's revelation of Himself, the closer you'll be to Him and the more you will enjoy a God-centered life.



## DAY 1

**I love you more than you could possibly know.**

*You have read the story of how I came to Doug in a moment of crisis and rescued him from himself. What he remembered most is how I saw him. Don't miss this point; you must know the truth of how I feel when I look at you.*

*Most of My children think I am distant, critical and ever demanding. This is the picture painted of Me by My enemy and is a series of lies. You must embrace the truth in the Bible that I look at you with limitless fatherly affection. I didn't have to send My Son to die for you; but I wanted to so that you and I could enjoy each other forever! I will never condemn you, forsake you or leave you in disgust. People may do this but I never will.*

*I am the always God ... always friendly, always eager to give a fresh start, always kind and always eager to listen to everything you say.*

*I am much bigger and better than you think and love you more than you can possibly know!*

**Your Heavenly Father**

Psalm 149:4, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:31-35, Ephesians 1:3-8



## DAY 2

### **You were created for a relationship with Me.**

*I did not create or save you just so that you could learn to be "better boys and girls." You were created to have an extraordinary relationship with Me, not just a set a rules. Rules will keep you from ruining our relationship, but they are NOT the main thing. I created you because I wanted to father you and enjoy fellowship with you for all of eternity.*

*You owe me no debt! Everything I offer is a free gift. It is my undeserved kindness that will overwhelm you! And when you see things clearly, every step you take with Me is vastly better than life on your own.*

*My desire is to give you extravagant gifts, reward even the smallest act of trust and obedience, and to lead you on an extraordinary adventure to discover more of who I am. You were not built to be motivated by long lists of ought to's. Instead you were designed with a heart that longs for the best life possible.*

*I want you to become far more ambitious for more joy, satisfaction and adventure. It is what you were born for!!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Romans 8:1-8, Psalm 37:4, Ephesians 1:3, Philippians 4:4



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## DAY 3

### **I am a passionate God.**

*Before we talk about your passion to know Me, let Me tell you about My passion for you! You must learn that I am not cold or distant, but an infinitely passionate Person, doing only that in which I find infinite pleasure.*

*I am passionate to enjoy fellowship with you for all eternity.*

*I am passionate to father you and provide you the best life possible.*

*I am passionate to give you extravagantly good gifts every day.*

*I am passionate to reveal to you fresh glimpses of My greatness and goodness until you are stunned, captivated and struck with awe!*

*I am passionate to give you a great legacy of profound impact in a dark world and then to reward you for all eternity for your loyalty!*

*I know it is a stretch for you to believe that I am like this but get used to it because it is the truth. Because I love you, I will plan for you to enjoy many rich experiences with me every day.*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Psalm 115:3, I Corinthians 2:9, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 1:3



## DAY 4

### **I enjoy everything about you.**

*I know that your thoughts wander from the people you love. You simply do not have the ability to concentrate on them, watch over them or seek what is best for them.*

*But I am not like you. I do not have that limitation.*

*I have been thinking of you and looking forward to eternity with you since before I created the heavens and the earth. You are never out of my thoughts and I want you to know that I enjoy everything about you. My thoughts are pleasant and give me great joy just as when you think of your children, they can bring you joy as well. My joy is without limit. I like being this way and you will just have to get used to it!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Psalm 139:1-6, 17,18, Isaiah 55: 8,9, Ephesians 3:14-19



## DAY 5

### **I am closer to you than you think.**

*While it may seem to you that I am far off; as though you might need to travel to see Me; I am closer to you than your skin. I am constantly pursuing you!*

*I am continually initiating fellowship with you. The Son and the Holy Spirit are always praying for you, and Jesus is knocking at the door of your mind and heart to let Us in when you are not experiencing fellowship with Us.*

*Never think of Me as passive, inattentive or uninvolved in anything in your life.*

*Just turn your thoughts to Me and I am there!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Revelation 3:20, John 6:44, I John 4:10, Psalm 139:7-10, Psalm 16:8



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## DAY 6

### **I want you to enjoy Me.**

*I know you are tempted to believe I stand far off and wait for you to come to Me, But it's not true.*

*I am always pursuing you, always eager to partner with you in everything you do, to help you and I enjoy rich conversation together. But I will not force Myself on you.*

*You will learn to respond to My initiation more and more.*

*If you are ever tempted to be skeptical about this truth, just consider the enormous price My Son Jesus and I paid so that I could live in your heart and mind forever. The price I paid is enough proof of your value to Me and how much I want us to live in continual fellowship forever.*

*In this life, you won't be able to respond to Me all the time but you can make great progress with My help. I am devoted to help you enjoy Me more and more until you come home to live with Me forever!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Romans 8:32,35, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 5:8,  
Hebrews 13:5,6



## DAY 7

### **I want to give you the best life possible.**

*I know My enemy has tricked most of My children into to being suspicious of My character and motives. But the truth is that as your Father, I am infinitely devoted to give you the best life possible on earth and the best eternity in heaven.*

*I will never change, waiver, or fail to seek your best no matter how things may feel to you. I created you with a desire for joy, and I want to lead you every day to have more joy in relating to Me. I want your life filled with joy!*

*I created you with a desire to be significant and I want to lead you to the highest and noblest life possible. I want you to know that your life matters, that you are engaged in the most important work in the universe by living life with and for Me!*

*I created your heart with a desire for deep satisfaction so I could meet that need in a relationship with Me.*

*Nothing pleases Me more than to see My children find their greatest joy and satisfaction in walking through life together with Me.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

John 10:10, Matthew 13:44, Philippians 4:4, John 8:43, 44



## DAY 8

### **Following Me leads to a better way to live.**

*Most selfishness leads you to turn your back on Me; living indifferent to My presence and independent of My leadership- living life on your terms. It is what I call sin. I hate the walls created by this kind of selfishness because it keeps you from seeing Me clearly and responding to Me.*

*But there is a Holy selfishness that leads you to embrace Me, because of the pleasure, reward, rich life and safety that comes from knowing and following Me.*

*I created you to seek what is best for you. But in any given moment, will you decide My way is better than your way?*

*I want you to become opportunistic. Look for ways today to die to yourself so you can enjoy Me!!!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Isaiah 55:1-4, Psalm 81:10,13, 16, Romans 8:5-9



## DAY 9

### **I will mentor and strengthen you.**

*I want you to remember that I will always love you, no matter what kind of progress you are making in walking with Me! But I love to reward every step of faithfulness to Me. I love to honor My children for humble surrender to My will. There will never be a single act of obedience or trust I will not see and reward. I will exaggerate the eternal rewards for the good things you do and will turn even your mistakes into good.*

*Remember the law of sowing and reaping. The more you walk with Me, the more joy, peace, reward and benefits you experience. The more you are selfish, the more self-inflicted injuries you will suffer, the more you will be distant from Me, and the more you will lack vision for what is truly important. And, I do not reward selfishness.*

*But I am devoted to help you invest your life well. I will mentor you, strengthen you, and even correct you when needed.*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Galatians 6:7-9, Ephesians 6:7,8, I Peter 5:6, Hebrews 6:10,  
Hebrews 13:8



## DAY 10

### **I am eager for your return if you drift from Me.**

*Because I am your Father and love you deeply, I want to warn you about the very subtle danger of drifting away from Me. I will NEVER leave you, but you will drift away from Me. It could last for an hour, a week, or a season of several years.*

*Drifting will not cause Me to like you less, or make me reject you. But it will create a tragic loss of the life and the gifts I want to give you.*

*While every one of My children drifts away at times, My desire is that you recognize it quickly, and return to Me. I am always eager and passionate to have you back, and to give you a fresh start. But don't let yourself drift for long. The longer you do, the harder it will be for you to come back.*

*Guard your heart carefully. It is so easy to drift into a tragic state of indifference and independence from Me!!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Hebrews 2:1, Hebrews 3:12, Proverbs 4:23, Romans 7:22-23,  
Psalm 32:5



## DAY 11

### **I want you to trade your agenda for Mine.**

*Most people are living life on a single assumption: "If only I can get my circumstances to line up with my dreams then I will have heaven on earth."*

*But I tell you that a self-focused life is hell on earth. My Son came to rescue you from this kind of life not just the place in the after-life called "hell."*

*Every day, I will call you to trade your agenda for mine. Instead of resolving problems on your own, bring them to Me. Instead of making decisions on your own, let me lead. Each step you take to talk to Me, to let Me lead, or to trust Me in a situation will be a vastly better choice for you and for those around you.*

*The world thinks that following My Son is the absolute worst thing you could do. But the world is wrong, and one day they will ache over turning their back on Me to live their lives on their own terms.*

*I have vast, undiscovered continents of joy and adventure for you, if you will only trade your thoughts for Mine, your will for Mine, and your dreams for My vastly better ones for you!*

*I am passionate to give you the best life possible if you will let Me. Don't waste your life!*

**Your Heavenly Father**

Isaiah 55:1,2, 1 Corinthians 1:20,27, Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23



## DAY 12

### **Jesus was a perfect example for you to follow.**

*Pay close attention to how Jesus related to Me while He was on earth. He was the perfect example. He did nothing of His own initiative but humbled Himself giving up His right to lead His life. He perfectly trusted Me and the Holy Spirit for everything. He rejected every lie the devil threw at Him and stayed in perfect communication with Me. He modeled perfectly how to die to self, in order to live for Me.*

*At the terrible moment in the Garden of Gethsemane He faced a fate you cannot possibly imagine. His suffering and Mine was more than you could handle knowing. But My Beloved Son said this to Me, "Father, NOT MY will but Yours be done." These words should echo in your head as the ONLY path to the life I created you to enjoy. You will never be called to suffer as He did. But you are called to practice the pattern of life He showed you as the best life possible. The pattern can be applied in every circumstance you face on this planet.*

*In this very holy statement is the key to living the best life possible. Hear Me now, the ONLY way you can experience the abundant life is to make your life a series of choices to say no to your selfish desires and yes to My vastly better way, dying to self to live for Me.*

*Jesus now and forever will receive glory, honor and authority in heaven and earth for His sacrifice. You can share in these rewards too but you must walk as He walked with increasing love and loyalty for Him.*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

John 5:30, I Peter 2:21, Hebrews 12:2, I Corinthians 11:1,  
Luke 9:23



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## DAY 13

**There is so much more about Me to discover.**

*You would be shocked to know how much more joy, peace, excitement and adventure I want to give you. You have had only a taste of My goodness but there is so much more!*

*I want you to desire more depth and frequency of connecting with Me, to cry out for more and to seek it with all your heart. This Holy ambition pleases Me and I am eager to satisfy those with a true hunger to know and follow Me closely.*

*Never settle, always long for more. The further you go on the journey, the more you will see how much more there is in Me to discover and how much richer your relationship with Me can be. Don't become arrogant or complacent in your initial progress, you have just begun the journey!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Psalm 34:8, Philippians 3:12-14, Matthew 5:3, Isaiah 30:18,  
Matthew 22:36.37



## DAY 14

### **I reign over all of the details in your life.**

*Because I want you to live the best life possible, I want you to walk this earth, going from appointment to appointment and project to project, aware that I am ruling and reigning over every detail surrounding you.*

*I want you to look past your circumstances to see My goodness all around you. I am in charge of the air you breathe, the success of every project, the safety of every trip and am the Author of every good thing in your life. I planned it all before the beginning of the world and I never fail to execute My plans perfectly. The more you recognize My sovereign kingship, the more joy, peace and excitement you will experience.*

*Every time you see My hand, you open the door to see some of the greatness of My kingdom. This kingdom is more real than what you see in the physical world which tempts you to think that man is in charge and running things.*

*As you observe My majesty throughout the day, you can live beyond every good circumstance and above every difficult one acknowledging My role.*

*Don't miss the power raining down all around you!!!*

**Your Heavenly Father**

John 15:11, Psalm 111:2,3,4, Psalm 107:1



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## DAY 15

### **I am a Father who adores you.**

*You cannot possibly imagine how much I care about the mental image of Me that you carry with you as you go about your day. Because I want the best for you, I am passionate to help you obtain an ever-expanding picture of My greatness and goodness!*

*As a result, I am constantly revealing My true nature to you in My Word, in circumstances and in nature, so you will know the truth. These three things are shouting to you all day. The Holy Spirit is devoted to open your eyes, and help you become confident in the truth about Me, and to help you reject lies you have agreed to in the past.*

*I want your first thought of Me to be as a Father who adores you.*

*When you think of My infinite wisdom, I want you think of Me as a perfectly wise Father who cares for you. When you think of My power, I want you think of an all-powerful Father who cares for you. Each and every attribute of Mine is a descriptor of the kind of Father I am.*

*But it will be a daily battle for you to enjoy an ever-expanding view of Me. You will naturally wake up and think highly of yourself and low thoughts of Me. But as you choose to believe the truth and act accordingly; you will find you want to know and follow Me more!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

John 1:18, Matthew 7:9-11, Psalm 51:6, John 16:13



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## DAY 16

**You cannot imagine the life I want to give you.**

*You cannot possibly imagine how little of My greatness you have seen thus far in our relationship. In front of you are breath-taking moments of appreciating My power, wisdom and might.*

*You have only seen small glimpses of how good I am and how devoted I am to give you the best life possible. To date, you have only had a small taste of the life I want to give you. I want this statement to excite you, and cause you to look forward with great anticipation to all I have for you to see, feel and experience with Me.*

*I want to give you hope that there is so much more for you to enjoy, and that as your Father, I am committed to help you discover it. The adventure is epic, and full of great discoveries! Always think of yourself this way. There is an ongoing series of vast realms of discovery of who I am and how good life with Me can be.*

*Don't be arrogant about what you know. Never fear that you don't have it in you to live life with Me. That is a lie from the evil one. I will do 99% of the work, just choose to take the next step with Me, trusting the rest to My strength.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Ephesians 3:20, Psalm 84:11, Psalm 81:13,15,16, Psalm 63:1-3



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## DAY 17

### **The truth about Me is disruptive.**

*Remember, everything in life starts with a proper view of Me. The truth about Me is disruptive because you have accumulated a 'boat load' of lies about Me. Devote yourself to receive fresh revelation from Me every day which will elevate your view of Me and let the truth set you free from these destructive lies.*

*I love letting you get to know Me personally, and the profound change it makes in you. Let My word shape your view of Me, not your opinion, other's opinion or how you feel. The more you truly know Me, the more you will want to love Me and be loyal to Me.*

### ***Your Heavenly Father***

2 Corinthians 3:18, John 5:39, Psalm 19:1-3, Matthew 16:15,  
Philippians 3:8-10



## DAY 18

**I want you to live above your circumstances.**

*I will call you to die to your selfish nature in relatively small ways to help you gain momentum in enjoying Me. This practice will prepare you to enjoy Me even in the worst circumstances. In this way you will learn the secret of contentment so you can live above your circumstances.*

*Small steps might be: instead of complaining about a light turning red, asking Me what we should talk about, what attitude would please Me, or review My word.*

*A big step would be worshipping My wisdom, power, and love when you just lost your job. Or thanking Me for what I am about to do in your life to provide for you. If you lack momentum in dying to self in the small things you will likely do not do it in the big things either.*

*Tragically, those who do not follow Me closely find that their circumstances define them and determine their level of happiness. Instead, I want you to live a vastly bigger and better life than the world!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Luke 16:10, Philippians 3:20, Psalm 46:1-3



## DAY 19

**You only have to take one step at a time.**

*You think of Me as a perfectionist. In part, I am. For example, I will only do that which is perfectly brilliant, right, fair and kind. But as a perfect Father, I do not expect you to be perfect, but to mature slowly to enjoy more of life with Me. I am more realistic than you are about how fast you can make progress. I am gracious by nature.*

*Remember, nothing you do, or fail to do, will make Me love you more, or less. I will only call you to take one step at a time with Me.*

*A step could be just turning your thoughts to Me in the midst of driving around town, recalling my love and devotion to you.*

*A step could occur when you face a problem and you recall one of My promises, to help you to trust Me in that moment to help you.*

*It could be choosing to talk to Me about your day, your fears, or your frustrations. It could be asking Me for a fresh start after you have stumbled and disobeyed My will. But it is all about PROGRESS, not perfection! You will need to be patient with your own immaturity and foolishness - as I am. But remember, I will always strengthen you to if you will let Me help you!*

*Each step will bring more of heaven to your life!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Psalm 145:8,9, Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Corinthians 12:9,10



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## DAY 20

### A Prayer for You.

*Heavenly Father, I beg You to let me see more of your glory!*

*Overwhelm my mind with Your sovereignty over all human activity, every event in my life and over the entire universe!*

*Take me to a new place of awe in Your wisdom that is wider and deeper than the Universe.*

*Captivate my heart with your devotion to my best, your unwavering loyalty and the kindness I find every minute of every day!*

*Forgive me for accepting the lies that Your enemy has whispered in my mind questioning your motives and leadership.*

*Open my eyes to see more of the dimensions of your love and devotion to me.*

*Incline my heart to thank you more often and praise you more frequently.*

*Give me grace to trust You when it seems the world is falling apart around me.*

*Give me great confidence in your promise to empower me and overcome my weakness with your strength.*

*Call me to get out of the boat and walk in places with You as the only safety net.*

*Give me newfound joy in You so that I can live above my circumstances with the pleasure of seeing You clearly no matter what happens circumstantially.*

*Incline my heart to be bolder in your presence and to ask big things of You, knowing Your fatherly love.*

*Give me the gift of passion to know You, please You, and proclaim Your goodness to the world around me!*

**Amen**

Exodus 33:14-19



## DAY 21

**Let me lead you on a great adventure.**

*I will never forget the day you gave your life to Me and trusted Me to forgive all your rebellion and indifference so that you could become a child of Mine! All the heavenly creatures celebrated that moment!*

*You surrendered all your dreams, all your plans, all your possessions and asked Me to lead you on an extraordinary journey. I want you to remember that moment and that decision because it will be tested today and every day. You will have to answer this question: "Do you still want Me to lead your life on this great adventure?"*

*Never feel worthless that you need to renew this commitment often. Until you get to heaven it will be essential but I will help you in this daily, even hourly renewal. I always love fresh starts and am eager to give them. I am more realistic than you are!*

*Remember it is about progress-not perfection!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Romans 12:2, Romans 12:1,2, Colossians 2:6,7



## DAY22

### **I love you no matter what.**

*My eye can see right through you, to every thought and feeling you have. But I am not repelled by what I see, and love you no matter what is in your heart. But you have some skepticism about My motives toward you, My ability to lead you to the best life possible and My interest in everything you do.*

*This is all very normal, but I love you too much to not reveal the truth to you and help you become much more confident of My words.*

*I have given you the truth to set you free of destructive skepticism and cynicism. I have given you the Holy Spirit to help understand the truth and to strengthen you to actually believe it, not just know it.*

*Pay close attention to what I say about My love for you. It will draw you to Me.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Hebrews 11:6, Hebrews 3:12, John 14:6



## DAY 23

### **You can take Me at My word.**

*Most of my children are skeptical about My word in their inner thoughts. They cannot imagine that I am that good, that wise, that generous, or that I would make hundreds of promises and keep them all.*

*Too often, they trust how they feel or the way things seem, as opposed to what I promise them. Trust your own instincts and you will get lost in the woods every time! Take Me at my word, believe what kind of Person I promise to be for you and trust My word.*

*When you do, you will find your heart and mind in a state of rest, in a place of child-like optimism for the wonderful things I will do, and a place of humility trusting My leadership.*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Numbers 23:19. Hebrews 13:5,6, Hebrews 4:2, Hebrews 2:1, Romans 4:20



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## DAY 24

### **You can see My hand in everything.**

*You naturally wake up each day with a view of life that inflates your own wisdom, abilities and importance, and deflates mine. It is a continual resetting and renewal of some very basic ideas that will allow you to truly enjoy life with Me.*

*As a result I want you to see more and more of My greatness all around you. Every circumstance is full of My wisdom, goodness, and kindness to you. Every scene in nature, the birds, the sky, the weather is designed to transform you into a state of deeper love and loyalty to Me. This is the best place possible on earth!*

*Let My creation ask you questions such as:*

*If I am this great, this wise, this good, and this kind, am I more qualified to lead your life than you are? If I am this sovereign over everything, what is there to worry about? If I am this perfect in all that I do, is it not a trade up every time you turn to Me?*

*Don't miss what I am revealing to you today!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Psalm 95:7, Proverbs 3:5,6, Psalms 19:1-6



## DAY 25

**There is so much more.**

*I am so proud of your desire to have a more dynamic relationship with Me!*

*I want to encourage you that I have so much more to reveal to you about My greatness and goodness that will excite you and captivate you. I have so much more I want to speak to you in your daily life that will make you feel honored and loved.*

*I want to use you to change the lives of those around you in ways you cannot possibly imagine. I have gifts to give you that you have not yet seen. I will bring more healing to your heart and mind.*

*In walking with Me I will do 99% of the work. All you have to do is turn to Me and trust Me for the strength to enjoy Me in every circumstance.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

I Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 2:12,13, John 15:4



## DAY 26

### **Look for My Glory in creation.**

*I want to open your eyes further to the vast unseen world of My Kingdom. You have had a just a glimpse of My greatness and goodness thus far in life, but I want to give you more.*

*You are learning to see Me more clearly in the Word and in circumstances. Now I want you to see My hand in creation. I want to teach you to look past the weather, the animals and the galaxies to discover who I am and what I am really like.*

*Creation is tuned to shout at you all day long that I am with you, I am infinitely powerful, in complete control and that My wisdom is limitless. Let the rain teach you what I am like and then talk to Me about what you see and admire.*

*Practice looking beyond what you see with your physical eyes, to see My goodness, wisdom and power in it. Tell others about your experience in the Great Theater of creation and how it changes you and draws you to Me.*

*In fact, I have designed every circumstance and everything in the world you see as a stage for My glory! I use everything around My children to draw them to Me and let them live in awe of My majesty.*

*Don't miss the show today!*

**Your Heavenly Father**

Ephesians 1:15,16, Psalm 8:1, Romans 1:19-20



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## DAY 27

### **You can trust in My unseen goodness.**

*Tragically, most of My children will not follow Me closely over the course of their lives. Many start well, but few finish well. Many have a temporary joy in knowing and following Me but few grow year after year with more passion and desire.*

*The most common problem occurs when difficulties come their way and they cannot trust My unseen wisdom or goodness in their circumstances. Inwardly they call Me terrible names such as "unfair, unkind, uncaring, uninvolved, unimportant, cruel, or capricious." This erects a wall between us.*

*My children are easily tricked into thinking that life is about having Me line up with their agenda, rather than letting Me be their God and running the show.*

*But I want more for you! I want you to be able to "see" or trust My vast unseen goodness, power and wisdom in the midst of injustice, disappointment and grief.*

*Remember this: The only trials I will allow are those that are necessary for your heart and mind. I will never fail to give you all the strength you need in them. But in every trial I have extravagant gifts to give you; if you will receive them. I want to teach you to enjoy Me in any circumstance.*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

Peter 1:6, Mark 8:16-19, Isaiah 45:9, 1 Peter 1:6,7



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## DAY 28

### **Be careful!**

*One of the worst corruptions of our understanding of what life should be is not found in the secular world, but in my church. Many have substituted walking with Me for an academic model of mere "learning." They declare spiritual victory because they learned something new or felt bad for a flaw.*

*I have called you to far more than a classroom experience. I want to give you extraordinary glimpses of My majesty as you take steps to "see" Me. I want to utterly transform the outcome of a project, meeting, or problem as you take steps to trust Me. I want to excite you with the new places I will take you with every step you take to follow Me.*

*Life with Me is walking with a real Person through the wilderness of life's circumstances. It is active, dynamic, and full of rich experiences. Listen to what I tell you in the classroom but don't stay there. Follow Me, one step at a time. You won't be disappointed as long as you focus on Me!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:26, Luke 6:46, Rev 3: 17-20, John 5:39



## DAY 29

**Be grateful and you will learn to trust Me more.**

*One of the best places on earth is not geographical, but a condition of your heart where gratitude toward Me dominates your mind and heart.*

*Gratitude is one of my greatest gifts, but you must unwrap it in the situations you face.*

*When you are grateful, 100 spiritual, emotional and physical benefits come to you. A grateful heart is humble; able to receive more of My strength. A grateful heart finds joy in Me and lives above circumstances.*

*A grateful heart draws you to Me with greater love and loyalty. A grateful heart is a trusting heart, even when you are trusting My unseen goodness and greatness.*

*In every circumstance give thanks. The more you do, the more joy in Me you will have, the clearer life becomes and the greater your influence on others!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Psalm 100:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Luke 17: 12-19



## DAY 30

### **Keep learning, it leads to joy.**

*When you placed your faith in me, the Holy Spirit, Jesus and I came into your heart and mind for keeps!*

*We will always be with you. But it will take a lifetime to learn how to respond to My presence. You will learn how to have more frequent and deeper conversation. You will learn how to actively seek My will as you go about your day. You will learn to expect Me to do all that I promise and to be all that I am in the word.*

*You will learn to represent Me to a lost and twisted world around you. Finally, you will learn to return home to Me when you wander. These things are all the things you do in any relationship; but you must practice these five core responses often. As you do, your life will be filled with more and more joy and we will be closer with each passing day.*

### ***Your Heavenly Father***

I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Ephesians 3:14-17a, 2 Corinthians 5:14,15, Romans 5:5



## DAY 31

### **I am who I say I am.**

*Most of the world will live their lives today completely unaware of My work around them. They are blind to a God-centered reality and only see a physical world where man appears to be in control and pulling all the strings.*

*But I want you to see My works, to grasp WHY it is I am doing them and to be thrilled by them. I want them to draw you to Me. Seeing My hand will cause you to trust Me more and more, and to see that I am truly the kind of Person I say I am.*

*Every day you will find yourself in a cycle of thinking of Me, then forgetting I am there, then remembering and engaging Me in conversation. This is normal and I do not condemn you for it. But remembering My previous works is a doorway to seeing reality again, to regaining confidence, and to enjoying any moment, no matter what your circumstance. At any moment, just remember the many things I have done.*

*You must know that I will never change. I will always be just as kind, generous, powerful, wise and loving in the future as I have been in the past. But I give you memories of My faithfulness as a gift, to give you nutrition for walking with Me in the uncertainties of life.*

**Your Heavenly Father**

Psalm 106, Psalm 77: 11-14, Psalm 78: 40-42, Hebrews 13:8



TRADING UP

## DAY 32

### Prayer for you.

*Lord Jesus, forgive me for how self-absorbed I have been!*

*I have taken for granted the shower of good things You gave me yesterday as though I deserved every one of them. I have even taken for granted that You saved me from the worst fate possible!*

*I have complained about my circumstances as though You were making a mistake or not giving me enough!*

*I have taken credit myself for the the good ideas you have gave me, and failed to notice or say thanks.*

*Forgive me for not paying attention to You, for not listening to Your voice and not noticing Your handiwork.*

*Lord, I beg You to open my eyes to the reality of Your power over everything. Let me see You as the Source of every good thing; train my mind to look for Your hand more and more.*

*In every project, incline my heart to say thank You for every good idea that comes from You.*

*Let me not just see a tree, but see Your handiwork in giving it life and sustaining it every day!!*

*Lord, heal me of blindness-open my eyes that I may see!*

**Amen**

Isaiah 42:6,7, Hebrews 12:28, Romans 1:21, Philippians 2:14



TRADING UP

## DAY 33

### **I have so much to show you.**

*I want to open your eyes to see how vast My work is all around you. This will encourage, excite and strengthen you. I want you to enjoy living in a vastly bigger and better reality; seeing Me ruling and reigning over every event, every project and giving breath to every creature by My active work.*

*But most of the world will not see the shower of miracles going on all around them. They will take all the credit for success and assume the earth is a perpetual motion machine running on its own power, rather than by My active work sustaining every molecule.*

*However, you are My child and I want you to live in a much different world where you are thrilled in observing My hand.*

*To see Me working will require you to look past your circumstances to see Me present, in control and devoted to your best. You will have to train yourself to observe My hand at work and respond with gratitude and worship. Tell Me what you most admire or appreciate about what I am doing; and this will bring life, joy and peace to your heart and mind. Thank Me in advance for what I am about to do and you will have courage in every situation. I have so much to show you today, welcome to My kingdom!*

**Your Heavenly Father**

Psalm 145:9-13, John 9:39, Psalm 63:5, Psalm 73:28,



TRADING UP

## DAY 34

### **The Bible is an Epic story.**

*If you want to enjoy the majesty of mountains, go to a mountain range. If you want to be awed, wowed, arrested by the majesty of My goodness and greatness, then look for revelation on each page of the Bible.*

*The Bible is like no other book. It comes with the Author, the Holy Spirit, who takes great pleasure in shedding light on My Majesty.*

*You should never just read the Bible but rather enjoy amazing encounters with Me as you read! Each page should be a conversation starter between you and Me. The Bible's story is the epic story of Me, a Perfect Father pursuing My imperfect children with love, kindness, grace, wisdom, and power. When you ask The Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see how truly kind, generous, good, passionate, powerful, and how brilliant I am, you will be amazed and sometimes flustered that you have lived with such a low view of Me.*

*But as you see Me, tell Me what you admire, what you are grateful for, even apologize for lies you have believed about Me. Responding with words changes you on the inside. Then tell others what is revealed to you.*

*Remember, I don't need your praise to improve My self image, but you need to let your words lead your heart. The more you respond to what is revealed, the more your heart will follow with greater love and loyalty!*

*I could not love you more!*

### **Your Heavenly Father**

John 16:13, Psalm 119:18, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21



TRADINGUP

## DAY 35

### I love everything about you.

*I cannot tell you how much it hurts and angers Me, to know the lies that have been whispered in your ear about how I feel about you.*

*Often my enemy has used others to whisper to you; "You are just not good enough!" But the truth is that I love you just as much as I love Jesus. There is no limit to my love and you do not earn it. You simply are going to have to get used to it! I love every thing about you. I am not overwhelmed with your flaws but as your Father I want to help you, encourage you and patiently lead you. I am NOT like other people you know who will only love you if you meet their expectations! Whenever you hear voices that whisper you are not good enough for me, call them liars. It will never be true.*

*Another lie is that I am totally disgusted with you. This is such a terrible lie! You are family to Me. You are adopted and I choose you because I loved you, and I will never change. I looked forward before time began to fathering you for the rest of eternity. I like you! I only do what gives Me infinite pleasure and choosing to enjoy your presence for billions of millennia is why you are My adopted child. You are not My employee, not My slave, not My student. You are My child and I love fathering you and giving you the best life and eternity possible with Me!*

*While I am at it, I will never be too busy for you, will never lose concentration on what is happening, never lose My desire for fellowship with you, never want you out of My presence, never be overcome with anger, never indifferent to what you are facing.*

*Watch out for lies about Me!*

*Your Heavenly Father*

Romans 8:1, Romans 8:33-35, Ephesians 1:5



TRADING UP

## DAY 36

### **Trust My unseen wisdom in trials.**

*I take no pleasure in pain or suffering and only allow what I deem necessary.*

*Cooperate with Me in what I am doing in the midst of difficulty, it will greatly accelerate your progress in walking close to Me. If you resist, you will miss all that I want to give you.*

*Trials can strengthen your confidence in Me if you trust My unseen wisdom and goodness in them. They will deepen your walk more than you know.*

*Trials can crush the walls that come between us and to give you unhindered access to enjoy Me more. Every child of mine is tempted to become addicted to impressing others, to self-reliance, in looking to money and worldly success to give them what only I can give them in a relationship with Me. I love you too much to leave you enslaved to these things.*

*Embrace what I am doing in trials. Thank Me for the good results that can come from them.*

**Your Heavenly Father**

James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 1:6-8, Matthew 22:35-40



## DAY 37

### **Keep your eyes on Me.**

*Most of the world is passionately seeking more comfort and convenience in their circumstances. But this world is filled with injustice, disease, and man's inhumanity to man. Worse, most of the pain people experience is self-inflicted because they are looking for their core human needs in things that will not satisfy. You can't trust this world, or place all your hope on your circumstances or you will be greatly disappointed, maybe even bitter.*

*But I want you to make the main thing in life to relate to Me, regardless of what circumstances come your way. I want you to live above your circumstances, so whether things are easy or hard, in sickness or health, in prosperity or austerity - you keep your eyes on Me and trust Me to lead you in every situation you face.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Philippians 4:11-13, Jeremiah 2:13, Hebrews 12:1-3



## DAY 38

**There is an amazing adventure in store for you.**

*I want you to wake with excitement about the great things I have planned for you to experience each day. I want you to become the most optimistic person you know!*

*In every activity, conversation, project, and difficulty you will face, I have planned for you to see extraordinary flashes of my power. I want you to hear My voice lead you and encourage you. I want to excite you with how I will use you; and to recognize the amazing things that will happen in your day when you choose to follow My leadership.*

*True followers of mine are the most optimistic people on the earth. They know that regardless of their circumstances, I will reveal My power, wisdom and love in good times and in bad. I will not only give you sufficient strength for the hard things, but will eventually turn every difficult thing into something good for you and others.*

*I promise to lead you on a path of amazing adventure, full of incredible experiences with Me. But you must give me title to your dreams, to your possessions, and to your life.*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Psalm 118:24, Isaiah 25:1, Ephesians 2:10, Proverbs 16:3



## DAY 39

### **Listen carefully to Me.**

*I know everything that has ever happened in eternity past and everything that will happen in eternity future. I cannot learn anything new because I already know it.*

*I love my plans for your life; they are brilliant, perfect, and right. But you question my wisdom because I do not always do what you want when you want. Your inner thought is that I am wise when I serve your agenda; make life easy and fair, but unwise when I bring difficulty and disappointment into your life. You often turn your back to me in complaint and anger because you judge Me as not up to your standards. But I still love you when you act childish in this way.*

*But my Fatherly desire for you is to help you rest in My plans now, and not struggle by demanding your agenda. I want you to trust my leadership and to listen more carefully to My voice, so that I can give you secret wisdom which only a perfectly wise Father can give. I long to give you more wise counsel, to keep you from pain, and to lead you to the best life possible.*

*The more you trust Me and my wise plans and counsel, the more joy you will have!!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Romans 11:33-35, Isaiah 46:9,10, Job 42, 2-6, Romans 11:33-36



TRADINGUP

## DAY 40

### **Following Me will lead to the best life possible.**

*It may surprise you that most religion is just a worldly life with a lot of religious vocabulary and only token loyalty to Me in a nominal relationship.*

*Religion is life on your terms but pretending to live for Me. It is a life without dying to self.*

*Don't suffer the toxic effects of worldly religion. Don't just give lip service to following Me. Don't substitute knowing the truth for acting like it is true. Don't accept indifference and independence as normal or OK. Stop acting as though My leadership is not vastly better than yours.*

*I want you to truly become a wholehearted follower of Jesus, giving Him more and more authority to lead you to the best life possible!*

***Your Heavenly Father***

Matthew 15:7,8, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 23:23,24



## DAY 41

### What is Jesus like?

*He is the most decent Person you will ever meet. He is relentlessly affectionate, loving, honest, sincere, caring, and always has perfect integrity.*

*There is nothing in Him that is not good; He has never done an unkind thing and never will. No bad thoughts exist in Him, only perfect goodness and loyalty. His motive for His commandments is our well being and pleasure. He is perfectly fair in how He judges. He is perfectly truthful in all He says.*

*He is incredibly generous and compassionate toward all people. He is monumentally kind. His plan for your life is brilliant. He will magnify the results of the good things you do and even turn bad things into good over time.*

*Every act of His is perfect. He makes no mistakes and is competent to run not only the universe but also your life and mine. No purpose or plan of His can be stopped. He is courageous with no fear of anything and lives an infinitely high and noble existence every moment of eternity.*

*He is completely consistent in His character and never changes, tires, or slackens in His attention toward you. He is the smartest person in the universe; there is nothing He does not know, and He cannot learn anything because He knows it all.*

*He is angry at evil and injustice, He is grieved by pain and suffering. He feels compassion for the weak. He takes enormous pleasure in His children.*

### **The Holy Spirit**

Romans 8:31-35, Psalm 23:6, Psalm 27:13



TRADING UP

## DAY 42

### What is Jesus like?

*He is the best listener you ever met. He is the happiest person in the universe with a consistently sunny disposition. He is happy in who He is and what He does and finds infinite joy in the other members of the Trinity.*

*Everything He does makes Him happy, and He delights in the beauty and wisdom of His plans for the earth. He is a perfect Father in His affection for His children and His devotion to partner with us in every activity, conversation, project, and decision. He is a perfect King who desires to provide and protect His people.*

*He is a perfect Friend whose loyalty is infinite and who longs to be with you every moment for all eternity. He is a jealous Lover who longs for you to find Him compelling and attractive and to love Him with all your heart as He loves you with all His. He is a perfect Shepherd longing to bless you, lead you, and protect you though the wilderness of this world.*

*Standing in His presence you will find perfect, unchanging, and limitless loyalty and affection. You will find a real Person who does everything perfectly. You will discover that the rest of eternity will not be nearly long enough to explore in any real depth all of His perfect plans, His knowledge or wisdom, the unchangeableness of His affection, loyalty, and devotion, or the sheer generosity in His heart.*

### **The Holy Spirit**

Psalm 145: 1-19



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