

The

Beloved

[-adj, much loved.
n, much loved person.]

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Preface

This book contains a collection of real stories, poems, wise words, meditations, love songs and huge encouragement to know that you are God's beloved child.

Throughout this book I pray that you will hear God whisper in your ear that he is so in love with you! I am praying that you will see through the content of this book that you are an amazing creation and a person of great value. You are someone who has been chosen and is loved unconditionally. You are God's beloved and he is well pleased with you.

Any time you are feeling down, unloved or critical of yourself; any time someone speaks an unkind word to you or life hits you hard, then pick up this book and flick through the pages. Each page is designed to bring you words of encouragement and hope. Pick any section and read it and allow what you read to restore your joy and build up your soul. Take it with you wherever you happen to be. Leave a copy by your bed and remind yourself before you go to sleep just how special you really are.

In this book you will discover love, acceptance, joy and laughter as you realise afresh that you are indeed God's beloved.

THE BELOVED

*“Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him
for he shields him all day long,
and the one the Lord loves rests
between his shoulders.”*

Deut 33:12

You are God’s beloved!
Today, remember he shields you all day long
therefore take time to rest your weary head
on his chest.



Love At First Sight

A friend of mine who is a singer/songwriter told me many years ago about a time when he was singing at a huge concert in the States. As he sang, his eyes caught sight of a beautiful girl sitting in the audience. He could not take his eyes from her and felt an inner voice say, "This is your future wife." Even though I am sure he was thinking, 'this is ridiculous, I don't know this woman! She might be married for all I know! I might not like her if and when I meet her', during his concert, he could not stop his eyes from looking in her direction. She had captured his heart. She was the most beautiful person he had ever seen. Her eyes glistened with joy and her face seemed to sparkle. She was a vision of gentleness and beauty. From that moment on, he was smitten! His heart was telling him that he had to meet her. My friend said a simple prayer, "If she is the one for me, then arrange for me to meet her."

When the concert was over, my friend went into the audience and this same beautiful girl walked towards him. He saw his chance and said "Hello." From that one conversation, they met, started a relationship and eventually got married. They have now been married for many years and have two grown up children. It was love at first sight!

When God looks at us, he too is smitten! He looks at you and says, "WOW! What a creation! You are beautiful from head to toe! You are absolutely flawless." When God first laid his eyes on each of us, he fell in love! He chose us and wanted to be with us always! It says in Song of Songs 4:9 'You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you've stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes....' He took one look at you and said, "I'm in love!"

You are My Beloved

Isn't it strange that we often don't see ourselves the way God sees us? An amazing creation? Yet, it is so true! You are a person of outstanding beauty. Whether you are a man or a woman, you are a wonderful creation. Both genders need to know that they are special and experience the love of God.

One day, whilst Ray, my husband, was spending time alone with God, he heard the Lord's voice so clearly. God told him to come closer to Him for there were things he wanted to say. As my husband is a pioneer, he thought God wanted to give him more vision and therefore the next morning, Ray got up even earlier in order to spend more quality time with God. As Ray sought God's face, the Lord spoke a simple word to him and said, "Ray, you are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Those words impacted him in a deep way with the love of God and he hasn't been the same since. Tears poured down his cheeks as the truth of those words became real in his heart. You see, he had known for many years that God loved him, yet it had not impacted his heart like it did that morning. Something significant happened to him; it was like a fountain overflowing within as he realised in a deep way that he was God's beloved son. He was a changed man!

Do you know that you are God's beloved; do you know that he loves you so deeply? Do you know that he has given everything he could give in order to have a friendship with you? Do you know, really know deep within that God thinks you are wonderful and sees you as priceless. This is the truth; believe it today. This truth changed my husband's life; let it change yours!

I'm Wild About You!

A number of years ago I heard a story about a nun who attended a seminar of a well known speaker. The speaker was leading people in spiritual exercises. He gave them a Christian meditation to do and then asked for some feedback. The nun asked if she could share what she had experienced. She said, "The moment you told us to close our eyes, I saw a picture of myself sitting on a chair at the edge of a dance floor. A man came up to me and asked me to dance. I raised my head to say 'No thanks', but when I looked into his eyes I found myself saying yes and walking with him to the dance floor.

When we started to dance it was as if we were made for each other. We turned, twirled and danced so well together that the others on the dance floor all stopped dancing and watched us. I thought to myself, "Who is this man? Who is this one who has captured my heart? Just one look in his eyes and I am his." At that point she said as they danced she saw the palm of his hand and noticed the nail prints. Immediately she knew who he was and she thought to herself, "Oh, I don't want this dance to stop! I want it to go on forever." However, the dance did stop and as the music died, the man leaned over and whispered in her ear. At this point in the seminar every eye was on this lady and with tears pouring down her cheeks, she said, "He leaned over and whispered in my ear, 'I'm wild about you.'"

Have you ever heard the Lord tell you that he is wild about you? Have you ever heard the Lord tell you that he is crazy about you? The truth is that he loves you so very much. There is nothing about you he does not love.



Diamond

Knowing that we are loved and accepted is something that is essential to all of us. There is a need deep within us to know that we are loved and valued. We can at times be hard on ourselves, feeling that we do not quite hit the mark; that we are not quite accepted by ourselves never mind others. If you feel the need to know you are loved; if you have feelings of loneliness or pain at being alone, then come with me as we explore the truth about who we are.

Close your eyes and begin to see a man walking in a field. As he looks down to the ground, he sees something sparkling from the earth. As he bends down to examine it closely he realises he has found a beautifully crafted diamond. As he gently wipes the dirt away and as the stone shines, he realises this is a diamond of immense value. He carefully puts the diamond back into the ground and then goes and sells everything he has in order to buy the whole field. It doesn't matter to him how much it costs for he knows the field contains the beautiful diamond. Once the field is bought, the diamond is then his. How valuable was that diamond! It cost him everything, yet his joy was complete.

As you watch the picture, hear the man of truth speak to your heart. "You are that beautiful exquisite diamond. You shine like the sun in the sky sending your beautiful fragrance far and wide. You are not ugly, unloved or rejected. You are not forgotten or abandoned, for I will never leave you nor forsake you. You are beautiful, absolutely flawless.

While you were in your mother's womb, I fashioned you and chose you. You have been loved from before you were born.

I know sometimes you feel forgotten and unloved. Thoughts come to you – does anyone care? I care and always will do. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. You are beautiful beyond compare. I have bought you with a huge price. When I looked and saw how much you were worth, I chose you and chose to set you free to enjoy life in all its fullness. Enjoy living in the freedom I have given you. You are special!"

So any time you feel tired, down, unloved and not cared for, remember the truth – remember you are special, you are valuable, you have been bought with a price and you are and you always will be surrounded by love.

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