

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps what moves us most during a moment of reminiscence in the winter of our lives is the realization of how frequently our Heavenly Father has worked for our good. When recalling various difficult happenings encountered on our earthly journey, many people remark, "How in the world did I ever get through that catastrophic event?" Then, when ruminating over each unfolding crisis, it is obvious that without the hand of God being present, a mere human could never have endured the hardships alone.

Consequently, when going deeper into a time of contemplation, the fact that our loving God acted on our behalf without hearing a request from our own lips becomes even more startling. Oh, dear reader, how many times have we failed to seek advice from our Father in a time of prayer? How is it we forget His great desire to be at work daily in our ordinary lives? After all, He is our Creator and knows what we are going to think before a thought ever enters our mind. He knows us better than we know ourselves! Our kind Father absolutely loves to hear the sound of our voice and be involved in every aspect of our daily schedule.

In addition, the knowledge that God so dearly loves us that He has been seeking our company all our lives should absolutely take our breath away. How is it ever possible for a human being to understand this kind of unfathomable love; devotion so strong that He literally came to dwell among us as a human for the purpose of drawing us back to Him? In His magnificent wisdom, having been "born crucified," He still said amen to the cross; a selfless act that would cover our sins with His blood. John 3: 16 says it all with the words, "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." Oh, sweet Jesus, please accept gratitude from the lips of someone so undeserving of this gift!

It was on a personal journey when the writer's mission was to improve her own prayer life that the JESUS IN LIFE, collection was born. Beyond a shadow of doubt, I knew that if I suffered from trying to navigate troubled times by myself, many others must be responding to life in the same manner. Thus, you will find the beautiful photographs with matching poetry designed to stress the fact that Jesus is truly in the ugly stuff of your life. He is not a supreme being that is up in the sky; out of touch and inaccessible to you. After all, when Christ breathed his last breath as a human on the cross, the curtain in the temple was torn, offering to all mankind the ability to communicate directly to God without an intermediary priest.

Last, please read carefully, a prayer written by Pastor Bob Casady designed to open the reader's heart to the concept of seeking help from God. As the writer of this collection, I implore you to use the prayer with the elderly, each time before you read a devotional of your choice, as a demonstration of how important prayer is in their lives.

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A GIFT TO THE ELDERLY.**