

# A JOURNEY — HE RESTORES MY SOUL

by Jerid Jones



Psalm 23:3

“May God grant us grace to dwell  
in the serene atmosphere of this most blessed Psalm.”

C. H. Spurgeon

“You will understand me as not speaking boastfully of myself when I say that every word you have read is personal to me, personal to my faith, personal to my soul.” James Inglis

“The fact that God is a perfect, suitable, and eternal good is of little comfort to those who have no interest in Him.” George Swinnock

“The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love.” Henry Scougal

## 1) **For His Name’s sake, God restored my soul to Himself.**

He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. C.S. Lewis

### a) **God and me — Galatians 5:16 “walking by the Spirit”**

A supernatural knowledge of God produces a supernatural experience, and a supernatural experience results in supernatural

fruit. That is to say, God actually dwelling in the heart revolutionizes, transforms the life... The supernatural experience is wrought in him by the Spirit of God, and that by means of the Word of God. The Spirit never works apart from the Word.... By that Word He makes the saint to grow. A.W. Pink, *Profiting from the Word*

The Psalmist's interest in God is the mouth whereby he feeds on those dainties that so exceedingly delight him. No love potion has ever been as effectual as this pronoun (my).... I have sometimes thought of how David rolls it like a lump of sugar under his tongue, as one who is afraid to lose its sweetness too soon, "I will love Thee, O LORD my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower" Psalm 18:1-2. This pronoun is the door at which the King of saints enters into our hearts with His whole train of delights and comforts. George Swinnock, *The Fading of the Flesh and the Flourishing of Faith*

**b) God and examples — book reading**

July 26 – ... Seem to be pulling out of one of my month-long spiritual-slack spells. Confession of pride-suggested by David Brainerd's diary yesterday – must become an hourly thing with me. How vile and base my thoughts have been lately. ... Jim Elliot

Friday, January 14, 1743. My spiritual conflicts today were unspeakably dreadful, heavier than the mountains and overflowing floods. I seemed inclosed, as it were, in hell itself. I was deprived of all sense of God, even of the being of God; and that was misery. I had no awful apprehension of God as angry. This was distress, the nearest akin to the damned's torments that I ever endured. Their torment, I am sure, will consist much in a privation of God, and consequently of all good. This taught me the absolute dependence of a creature upon God the Creator, for every crumb of happiness it enjoys. Oh! I feel that if there is no God, though I might live forever here, and enjoy not only this, but all other worlds, I should be ten thousand times more miserable than a toad. David Brainerd

2) **For His Name's sake, God restored my soul to my work.**

- a) **God and my business — Ephesians 6:9**
- b) **God and my new job — Ephesians 6:5–7**

I would like to say right here, at the risk of hurting someone, that the important thing in the world today is the presence of an invisible spiritual entity called the Church, and the Holy Ghost never works outside that entity. He works through that entity in some manner or other. That is why I am a churchman. A.W.

Tozer, *Living as a Christian*

3) **For His Name's sake, God restored my soul to my relationships. Ephesians 5–6, Colossians 3–4**

- a) **God and my wife — Ephesians 5:22,25**
- b) **God and my children — Ephesians 6:4**

We feel, therefore, determined, if God shall render us faithful to our purposes, to bring up your dear little grandchildren, as we are sure you would have us do, with the one great object supremely in view of fitting them for heaven. I have great confidence in the effect of religious truth upon the infant mind. Charles Hodge in a letter to his mother

- c) **God and my father — Ephesians 6:1–2**

4) **The Gospel**

- a) **Why did I need the Gospel? Isaiah 59:2, Romans 1:18–19, Romans 3:23**
- b) **What is the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1–5, Romans 6:23**
- c) **How did I receive the Gospel for myself? John 3:16, Acts 16:31**

*“The love of Christ which surpasses knowledge!” Ephesians 3:19*

**No love stoops like Christ's love.** It abandoned place and prospects and power — to save me! It traveled from the heights of Heaven, to the depths of sinful earth. God, pure and holy, chose voluntarily to make His home with me a sinner!

The sole qualification I need to commend myself to Him is not my conviction of worth, but my conviction of worthlessness — my knowledge that I am devoid of goodness and holiness! Then, when I confess myself penniless — He will invest me with His treasures. He banishes no self-destroyed and forlorn and penitent man outside the pale of His grace. **His love stoops!**

**No love suffers like Christ's love.** The test of affection is its willingness to suffer sacrifice and pain for another. Never has any affection stood the test like the love of Jesus.

“It is certain,” one writes, “that not for one hour on earth, was our Lord without the anguish of His passion.” And at last He made the supreme offering of His life for me. Such bitterness, such dereliction, such unspeakable sorrow--there were in my Savior's death. For me He bore the hiding of His Father's face on Calvary. It is an unfathomable pre-eminence of grief. It is a horror of great darkness which I may not pierce. **His love suffers!**

**No love gives like Christ's love.** Love is always giving. But when was there human love with such wealth to bestow, and such willingness to communicate it — as the love of Christ? In simple fact, He imparts nothing less than Himself to me! The most unholy, the most tempted, the most despairing — cannot desire anything more sufficient. **His love gives!**

**And no love lasts like Christ's love.** The truest and tenderest earthly love says farewell to its beloved in death. And too often, even on this side of the grave, doubts insinuate themselves, and suspicions arise, and covenants are snapped and broken. It is not so with the love of Christ. Neither things present nor things to come, the demands of today and the contingencies of tomorrow — chill that great heart of love! Christ's love is like Himself — eternal and unchangeable. **His love lasts!**

Does not His wondrous love deserve my whole soul and body — all that I have, and all that I am? Nothing is stranger, and nothing more sad, than that, bathed in Christ's love — I should be so indifferent, so forgetful, so cold!

Alexander Smellie, “The Secret Place” 1907 (emphasis mine)