

When God Speaks God Creates - When God is Creating, He is Speaking

John 1:1-4

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life..."

Introduction

In the story of Creation, the Bible teaches us that God has not only spoken us into existence, but by His master design and divine intent, He breathed the spirit of life into us.

But God the Creator did not stop there. He continued to speak, and when God speaks, He creates; and when God creates, He speaks.

Well, in the beginning, He spoke, and He created the heavens and the earth, and nothing created was created without the spoken Word of the Creator. We are also told in Scripture that through the authority of His eternal Word and the power of His

Spirit, He continues to speak and create new life in us. He speaks His precepts and His promises, and through them, He creates His divine provision and His unimaginable ways for us; He speaks His good and perfect will over us and His plans and purposes for us; and when He does, He creates the opportunity for us to know who He is and then to learn to trust Him in all that He does.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Creator continues to breathe the breath of life into us, and because of the breath He breathes, we live, we move, and we have our being. It is there and only there that we find the righteous meaning and true context for living a life worth living. His breath and His Spirit are the essence of life and the "why" to live. His breath is the air we breathe.

He who has a "why" to live can bear almost any "how."

...Fredrick Nietzsche

If you have the meaning for life and the purpose of life, it is very rare that you lose hope in life - no matter how difficult or painful it gets. God speaks to purpose, creates meaning for us, and stirs our human spirit. And when the Spirit of God stirs us, He creates

a deep passion and endless energy for living our lives for His Glory. It is the meaning of life - God spoke and God Created.

Let's take a few moments today and unpack a few obvious biblical truths that I believe will most certainly help make a connection for us between when God speaks, God creates, and when God creates, God speaks. The connections we make regarding God speaking and God creating can build a bridge of better understanding as to how God and why God created us in His likeness and image. We can best start by laying the Biblical groundwork for us (mankind) as the crown of His creation.

Genesis 2:7

"... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

Acts 17:24-25

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything."

since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”

Acts 17:26-28

“And He (God) made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for In him we live and move and have our being. For we are indeed his offspring.”

Psalms 8:1-8

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have given him dominion over

the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."

Psalm 139:13-16

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. *14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.* 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are his masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus (The Word) for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

God Spoke, and all of Creation Existed - God Spoke and We Had Our Beginning.

Genesis 1

[The Creation Story: Acknowledging Who We Are - Knowing How We Were Made - Understanding Why We Were Made]

God spoke to the earth when He created the vegetation, plants, and trees - they were made for the earth and the soil.

God spoke to the waters when he created the sea creatures and every aquatic swarming animal - they were made for the seas, rivers, and lakes.

God spoke once again to the earth when He created the animals of the earth and beasts of the field, each of the own kind - they (each kind) were made for the earth and the skies above.

However, God spoke to Himself when He created mankind - every man, woman, boy, and girl was made for God.

Who we Are: We are God's Creation - Made in His image and likeness.

How we were Made: We were made from the dust of the earth - He breathed the breath of life into us.

Why we were Made: We were made to love and worship our Creator - To live and dwell in Him.

9.22.24

Three Creation Realities

Biblical worldview Christianity believes in a Sovereign Creator God, that is, a God who authored reality. God, as author and authority, has the right to institute the rules of behavior for what He has created. One writer puts it this way: *“In the ultimate sense, if there is a supreme being higher than humans or anything else in the created order, he has the right to determine what we are to believe and how we are to live. From the Christian standpoint, God is the authority in these matters because of **Who He Is.**”* This is what I call a *Creation Reality*. The idea of a sovereign creator God speaks to His creative realities: freedom, transcendence, and otherness but also particularly of Omnipotent power to be and to act independent of any and all external constraints or limits. Conversely, here is the biggest creation reality - we as His creation, are utterly dependent upon

Him as our Creator; our author and finisher, judge and justice, and our source for both meaning and purpose.

CREATION REALITY ONE:

We have forgotten the greatest Creation Reality - The Reality of the ***Uncreated Creator***: We were made BY GOD - FOR GOD. When God spoke He not only created the heavens and the earth and everything in it - but, when He spoke, He spoke into reality both His authority and His order over all things. Within His authority and His order, are also His sovereign protection, and His natural provision over all of His creation. Sadly, the masterpiece and crown of His creation which manifested as mankind, rebelled against the Creators sovereign protection and natural provision - revealing a breach and an attempted shift in authority and a change in the order of the Creator bringing into the world, *Mankind vs. The Creator of All Things*.

Since that time, mankind has continued to challenge the Creation of the Creator, deconstructing the Creation Realities into something that is no longer recognizable to the eternal Word of the Creators. It is something that compulsively feels real to mankind. This deception and emotive based filter generates a force field of unsustainable, unreliable, and unrealistic feelings. Feelings that pulls one into a wickedly narcissistic arrogance that

ultimately attempts without success to satisfy what is unsatisfiable outside the authority and order of the Creation reality. In this mode of willfully sinful living we do nothing more than construct “shadow or sub-realities” apart from our Creator in our foolish attempts to create our own. According to the spoken and eternal Word, here is what the Creation reality of humankind should look, and sound like.

What the Creation Reality is Not About - *Me Myself and I. I was made for my blessings, my turn, my feelings, my gifts, my season, my purpose, my truth, my marriage, my authority, what works for me, my priorities, my agenda, my decision, my personal interpretation, my issues, ...the common theme here is - me myself and I.*

What the Creation Reality Is All About - *God the Creator, God the Word, and God the Spirit. We were made for God. We exist for Him and to live with and in Him, made for His worship, His purposes, His will, His truth, His good works, and His righteousness. If we do not have a sound and solid Biblical theology for Who God Is as our Creator, then when we hear a word like today telling us we are made in His image to live, move, and breathe in Him, it doesn't even move the needle for us. Why? Because too often we love ourselves, more than we love our*

Creator. Far too often we want someone validate us and to tell us how good and amazing we are. Instead, we need to hear someone validate and proclaim the authority and order of God the Creator by teaching us WHO HE IS; without the enticement of what He's is going to do to promote, favor, and cater to me. Our value and worth is inside of us, and it is fully realized only in the reality that we are Created by God - for God; made in His Likeness and In His Image, and that is more than enough.

TWO:

The trees and plants need the richness and nutrients of soil of the earth; that for which they were created to live and grow - when separated from the habitation for which they were created, they die.

Fish need the water; that for which they were created to live and grow - when they are separated from the habitation for which they were created, they die.

The roaming animals, the soaring winged birds need the fields, streams, and skies; that for which they were created to live and grow - when they are separated from the habitation for which they were created, they die.

Mankind needs God his Creator, the presence of His Spirit, and the breath of His Word; that for which he was created to live and grow - when he is separated from the habitation for which he was created, mankind dies.

THREE:

Unlike any of the other of God's creation, in His supreme love and ultimate act of His sovereign perfection, God gave mankind the will to reason and to choose whether we live with Him, or to live without Him. This is one of the single-most profound realities of God's love for mankind. C.S. Lewis provides a powerful perspective in his exploration of free will in his classic "The Problem of Pain." Lewis argues that when mankind chooses to live apart from his created habitation in the Creator, mankind suffers consequences. The conclusion - the suffering and evil in the world are a result of the wrong choices of the human free will. However, Lewis contends, *"Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free-wills involve, and you find that you have then excluded life itself"*. The Creation reality is that God granted humans free will as an essential component of love and moral goodness, but this essential created freedom also includes the responsibility to rightly reason and the possibility of mankind choosing to be apart from God; including the harsher reality of choosing evil which

carries with it the eternal consequence of a forever separation from the Almighty Creator.

However, before one can fully unpack the reality of God's first order and priority - one must go back and acknowledge that we were made to live with and in Him, and not apart from Him. In addition, we should also know that we were spoken into existence as the masterpiece and crown of God's creation - having been given dominion over all that He spoke into existence. This creation reality is so that mankind can declare the Glory and Majesty of his Creator and dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:28-29

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over

the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” [29] And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

These are but three of the creation realities that must be acknowledged and understood in order to for us to fully appreciate and benefit from what God is speaking and creating in us right now. Another notable Creation reality of significance is the reasoning and reckoning as to *why most of our kind continue to choose to exist and live apart from the Creator?* Scripture teaches that through the willful disobedience of one man - Adam, that sin against God, and man’s separation from the Creator came into the world. When this happened, both man and woman in their shame, immediately hid from God their Creator; in doing so, separating themselves from the dwelling place for which they were created - in the presence and purposes of the Almighty. The harsh result of one man’s use of his willful choice, brought about a curse and consequence upon all mankind (remember, God’s most prized creation). All mankind thereafter would be born under the curse of sin and separated from the Holy presence and righteous relationship with the Creator.

Since that time, mankind has been like an uprooted tree, a fish out of water, an animal in a cage, or a bird without its wings. The Word reveals to us that this separation did not please the Creator, for God so loved the world, and all His Word had created. This betrayal was not the plan He desired for His creation. So, in His love for mankind, and in His authority and order for all things, God has always made a provisional way back to Him His priority. This provision and priority is for all men and women of all race, of all color, and of all creed. A way to live once again in the habitation of His Spirit for which we were created. In the merciful and loving provision of sacrifice, as a priority of His love and mercy, He has promised the way back to Him by the Word of His Covenants.

God Speaks a New Beginning and Creates A New Creation

The Word of His covenant was fulfilled to all mankind through one man - the Word became flesh, and God now spoke to His creation through the sacrifice of the living Word. The way for man to live in His Holy presence and in righteous relationship with Him would be fulfilled through a new covenant with mankind.

Romans 5:11

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, [20] by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, [21] and since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Mankind was no longer an uprooted tree, or a fish out of water, a caged animal, or a bird without wings. Jesus proclaimed, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me. He continued, “Come to Me, I will give you rest.”* Who does that include?

John 1:12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of

blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Now mankind (God's creation) can hear His Creator speaking over him. We can breathe in the breath of His Spirit - the breath of life. We can sense ourselves once again back in the garden-back in the presence of our Creator God. This is not unfamiliar to us - the soul of mankind has longed for the voice and presence of his Creator.

Isaiah 26:8-9

In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul. 9 My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

The voice of the Creator is not an unfamiliar one - we know the His voice, and as He speaks over us He is creating in us a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 8:35; 8:37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As the Creator speaks over His creation, He creates. Listen to His voice speak as He creates in us a clean heart, renews a right spirit, pulls us into His presence, fills us with His Holy Spirit, and restores to us the joy of His salvation! (Psalms 51)

Surely we have made the case that God is our Creator, and we are His prized creation. That in spite of our choice to sin and separate from our Creator God, He has continued to love us with an everlasting love. In His love for His creation, He has continually made a provision for human creation to find their way

back to Him - back to our designed and intended habitation/
dwelling-place - in His presence, in worship and adoration of the
great and almighty Creator God. The curse and consequence of
man's sin and disobedience has been lifted. We are free to live
with Him.

Romans 8:1-2

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in
Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in
Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

Psalms 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie
down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He
restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his
name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod
and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my
cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*

**AS WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO BEING CONTINUALLY
DRAWN BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR CREATOR INTO OUR
CREATED HABITAT OF THE CREATOR - WE FIND OUR
PLACE IN HIM; IN DOING SO, WE ELIMINATE THE RISK AND
RUIN OF BECOMING AN UPROOTED TREE, A FISH OUT OF
WATER, A CAGED ANIMAL, A BIRD WITHOUT WINGS, OR A
MAN LIVING APART FROM HIS GOD AND CREATOR.**

...WHEN GOD SPEAKS GOD CREATES - WHEN GOD IS
CREATING GOD IS SPEAKING

10.6.24

When God Speaks God Creates

Part II - Made by Him (*Hesed and Shalom*)

Introduction

I don't like what I'm about to tell you, but I agree with it. We humans seem to think that there is some magic power in the Bible, and that, if we do nothing more than open its pages and skim over its words, we will be blessed and highly favored. And, of course, we will get the ultimate good out of it.

In reality, in order to get value, understanding, and the full benefit of God's Word, a verse must oftentimes be read and re-read, and then read again before the transformative message of the love and power that God has put into it begins to appear. With that in mind, let's move forward to unpack and understand the "*why* and the *what we were made for*." We were made **by** God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth - **for** God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. To unpack and understand the why and what, we will begin by looking at the nature of God through two of the most significant and frequent terms used in the Bible - ***Hesed*** and ***Shalom***. This will be an eye-opening experience! Let's first begin with the term *Hesed*.

Hesed is a Hebrew word and a covenantal term describing God's covenantal character. Many of you might remember the series we did a few years back "*Karat B'riyt*," If you do, then you might remember that in a biblical context, a covenant is a promise God made with His Creation - mankind. He made covenants with individuals, covenants with groups, families, generations, and nations. The OT teaches us that God made covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. These covenants were made for blessing, land, seed (offspring) and future generations. They are everlasting covenants, and God's covenants carried with them very specific parameters. The parameters were most often supported and affirmed by a "sign or symbol." The Hebrew word for covenant is *b'riyt* בְּרִית.

God's covenants, as well as biblical Hebrew covenants, are relational and personal. They were not signed contracts, they were agreements, oaths, and promises that were made good (fulfilled) by the collateral of one's character, integrity, reputation, respect, and mutual relationship. Covenants with God are generational and everlasting, which is why biblical covenants were relational and not transactional, yet, they were binding. Since God does not lie, God does not go back on His Word. He chose in His eternal love for us as His Creation to live in covenant relationship with us. We cannot rightly and righteously understand

the meaning to the ***why we were made***, and the purposes of the ***for what we were made***, until we know Him as the Creator (Father), believe in Him as the Word (Son), and worship Him as the Spirit, (Presence). These mean very little without a revelation of the *Hesed* - God's covenant nature.

Hesed - חֶסֶד; pronounced [chah-sed]

Hesed is a Hebrew word and a covenantal term describing God's covenantal character, and is the word that encompasses all of the positive attributes of God. *Hesed* is one of the most important aspects of God's character. It is repeated hundreds of times in the Bible. You can find this word used 126 times in the Psalms alone.

Hesed is central to God's promise-keeping, His perfect identity, and His unfailing nature. God never gives up on His people. In all reality, there is not just a single English word that can truly define *Hesed*. When reading the Bible, we find all sorts of attempts at translating *Hesed*, such as:

- Mercy
- Benevolence
- Charity
- Kindness

- Compassion
- Covenantal faithfulness
- Grace
- Lovingkindness
- Steadfast love
- Rich in faithful love
- Abundant goodness
- Loyalty
- Enduring commitment
- Unyielding
- Promise keeper
- Abounding in loyal love
- Unfailing and unending love

I guess one could "bundle" all of those words and still barely describe one uniquely incredible Hebrew word: *Hesed*.

Exodus 34:6

"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,"

These attributes of God describing Himself as He passed in front of Moses, in the most quoted scripture by scripture, includes the translation, "abounding in love" which is "*hesed*."

In His Word, God describes Himself...

Numbers 14:18

The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.

Nehemiah 9:17

But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Psalms 86:15

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Psalms 145:8

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Jonah 4:2

[Jonah] prayed to the Lord, "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

Psalm 103:8

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in love.*

Joel 2:13

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and
he relents from sending calamity.*

Psalm 89:1

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I
will make your faithfulness known through all generations.*

Psalm 89:2

*I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have
established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*

Psalm 89:14

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.*

Psalm 89:24

*My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his
horn will be exalted.*

Psalm 89:28

I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail.

Psalm 89:33

but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness.

Psalm 89:49

Lord, where is your former great love, which in your faithfulness you swore to David?

Those passages from the written pages of God's own Word are nothing more than a small beginning to Him revealing Himself to His Creation. If we only could only know how much we do not know - if we could only see and hear what He wants us to see and hear. To know Him for *who He is*; to see in Him *why He has made us*, and to hear from Him *for what plans and purpose*. If we would only care enough to seek Him in the ways He desires us to seek Him, He says...

Deuteronomy 4:29-31

But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. 31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Any English biblical translation attempting to interpret the meaning to *hesed* must first bring attention and insight to God's unconditional and non-negotiable loyalty and love. It is unbreakable and everlasting - ***lasting forever***. He promises His "**none like you**" love and loyalty to His people to the very end, no matter the circumstances or the cost. It is without limit, and like God Himself, timeless (before and after the human constructs of time). From the revealed *hesed*, through to the fulfilled *hesed*...

Isaiah 54:10

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. ESV

Lamentations 3:20-24

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: 22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” ESV

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ESV

We find God’s covenantal *hesed* with King David. Despite David’s sin, God’s *hesed* was rock solid and unmovable. In the book of Ruth, even though her sons had died, Naomi asked God to

continue to include and cover her daughters-in-law with His covenantal love. This term reflects the commitment and unlimited distance the love of God will go in making good on His promises.

Biblically, we can find people imparting God's *Hesed* as well. God's covenantal relationship with His people always show His:

Compassion and Mercy

Loyalty and Love

Everlasting Promises and Faithfulness

Because these characteristics are God's covenantal nature (not just something He does or does not do), He is revealing to us in His nature the answers to the questions we are seeking...

WHO HE IS - WHY HE MADE US - FOR WHAT PURPOSES

Here is what is most remarkable and unbelievable about the *hesed* of God - even when we are unfaithful to Him, or when we are faithless (have less faith) in Him, His *Hased* remains true it is unmoved. The *Hesed* of the Creator God Almighty - the Loving Father God is abundantly, generously, and endlessly given.

Here is a practical way to approach and understand the *Hased* of God. Each day, set aside time to think, read, or write about the evidences and realities of the covenantal nature of God:

- **God's Promises**
- **God's Attributes**
- **God's Faithfulness and Mercy**
- **God's Love**
- **God's Provision**

This daily practice will bring a conscious and meaningful revelation to you about Who God is and why He made you. The revelation you receive from this will bring to you the ***Peace/Shalom, Presence/Pa-neh, and Power/Ko-ah of God.***

My wife lives by something very similar to this - she calls it "The Grid of Truth." It is how she processes the grind and the pressures of day to day living - it is how she lives fully in the *Hased* (covenantal relationship) with her heavenly Father.

I would suggest making a personal list of the attributes (character and nature of God), promises (His Word), and provisions (where and when He has provided for you). Use this list throughout your week to sustain you, strengthen you, and empower you as a son

or daughter of the most high God. Who has a sheet covered with words of God's attributes? Fill up a page and use it at home, at work, during travel, temptation, or weakness, and most importantly, in worship and prayer. I promise it will make you laugh, make you cry, bring you joy, hope, strength to navigate your sorrow, eliminate your fear and discouragement, and lead you to forgive and be forgiven.

You see, when we focus on all the good that God is and not solely on what He does, every day we can see with clear lenses why we were made and for what purpose we are here - His covenantal *Hesed*.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

10.13.24

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