

His Lovingkindness
toward You

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Old Testament, the names given to people often described a characteristic of their nature (1 Samuel 1:20), a desired attribute (Ruth 4:14-17), or an inevitable predisposition because of circumstances surrounding their conception (Genesis 16:11-12). Occasionally, God gave new names to people to reflect a work He accomplished in their lives (Genesis 32:28).

Because the measure of His being is inexhaustible, God has many names assigned to Himself that describe His greatness. We could spend hours pondering each name, but one of the most tender expressions of God's nature is in the name "Lovingkindness."

In the last days, more than ever before, God desires to reveal His name—and all that His name proclaims—to His people and to the world.

In His *name*, God chose every believer before the foundation of the world. Because of His fore-

knowledge—knowing everything we would do in time—God prepared a path of righteousness for every one of His people. On that path, God is working every situation together for good (Romans 8:28).

As you walk down the road of lovingkindness, let truth set you apart with a new heart, a new mind, a new purpose, and a new fellowship in the name and nature of God.

Chapter One

HIS NAME—A DIVINE DEFINITION

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin” (Exodus 34:5-7a).

In this passage, the Lord proclaimed or described His name by way of a declaration of definition or an infinite description. As He passed before Moses, the Lord proclaimed “the LORD God.” He declared that His name is the Lord God, who is “merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.” Then He went on to say that He forgives iniquity and transgression and sin but judges those who are not saved.

Twenty-six times in Psalm 136, the Psalmist declared, “His mercy endureth forever.” Each time, the definition of “mercy” (Hebrew, *cheched*) is equated with the summarization of that declaration, proclamation, and infinite description of God’s name: Lovingkindness.

God was saying, “I want you to know My *name*, not just *Yahweh*, but what it describes in its infinite meaning, divine definition, and available provision for every individual. I want you to know Lovingkindness.”

On the road of lovingkindness, God was in Christ, not imputing the world’s trespasses unto them. Instead, He made reconciliation available—a ministry of reconciliation with words of reconciliation. He removed all the barriers that sin and iniquity had created through wrong choices. This was the act of the name of God—Lovingkindness.

Rooted in Lovingkindness

In Exodus 3:15b, God said, “this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.” His lovingkindness is to be a memorial throughout all generations. Therefore Jesus said, “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments”

(John 14:14-15). If we ask anything in the name of Lovingkindness, He will do it.

Everything the believer experiences should be rooted in the lovingkindness that comes from God's nature, God's words, and God's life—*through* God's name. When we gather, we do it in the name of the Lord. When we sing, Jesus sings in the midst of the congregation. Administrative details also must be handled in the name of Lovingkindness.

Lovingkindness and Foreknowledge

Consider the depth of God's lovingkindness. Isaiah 46:10 tells us that God knows *all* things before they come to pass—*everything*. Billions of years ago in eternity past, He knew every sin and iniquity that each person would commit. Yet, He called and chose Christians based upon His foreknowledge of the choices we would make through free volition, or self-determination, which was the first gift God gave to man in the Garden of Eden.

God foreknew how I would respond to the Gospel—with either positive or negative volition. Knowing that my choice would be positive, His lovingkindness went to work when I was born, regardless of what He could see in my life.

Furthermore, He guaranteed that when I leave this body of death (or go up in the Rapture), my old sin nature will be gone and I will be perfected (Philippians 1:6, Psalm 138:8).

Now, can you imagine the conversation some of us might have had with God the Father had we been there when He was fashioning the plan for Jacob's life?

"Lord, do You know how deceitful and crooked Jacob will be?"

"Yes."

"Well then, how can You use *him*?"

"By grace. My name is Lovingkindness; My name is Mercy which endures forever (Psalm 136:1-26). My Lovingkindness will endure through everything for those who are saved by the Blood of the Lamb."

In Genesis 32:28, God said to Jacob, "Thou art a prince, and thou shalt have power with God and with men." In a magnificent passage in Jeremiah 51:19, the Lord declared that the God of Jacob is different from the other gods that were in the form of graven and molten images (verse 17). "The portion of Jacob is not like them; for [God] is the former [Creator] of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the Lord of hosts is his name."

God was saying, “Jacob, the God you reveal is not like the other false gods. Through all your battles with the flesh (going away for twenty years because of the way you cheated Esau), and with all your fears because of everything you did, Lovingkindness has decided to use *you*, Jacob, to declare My name throughout all the earth. Your twelve sons will be the heads of the twelve tribes of My people *because of My name.*”

His Irreversible Blessings

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it” (Numbers 23:19-20).

Jesus Christ cannot reverse the blessing because of His name—Lovingkindness—and because of what He did at Calvary, bearing all of our sins. His shed blood, His death, His burial, and His resurrection secured the blessing. Therefore, according to Numbers 23:21, God did not behold “iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.”

That is King Jesus, and He shouts that His name is Lovingkindness.

Billions of years ago, Lovingkindness foreknew that Jacob would be positive in his volition but very weak in his transitions. Billions of years ago, God decided to choose Moses, knowing even then that he would murder a man and spend forty years wandering on the backside of the desert. Yet, Lovingkindness said, "I am going to declare and manifest my lovingkindness to the world by Moses. My lovingkindness will make him the meekest man on the face of the earth."

Billions of years ago, Lovingkindness said, "I'm going to choose David, the son of Jesse, who shall fulfill *all* my will (Acts 13:22). Even though he will have some miserable failures, it will be said of David when he dies that 'he *never* turned aside and *never* turned to the left or to the right'" (1 Kings 15:5).

Blessed is David "unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Romans 4:6-8). Those are the words of God's lovingkindness toward David.

He Cannot Deny Himself

Lovingkindness is lovingkindness, and it endures forever. Even when we believe not, God cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). Our unbelief cannot make the Word of God of none effect. Let God be true and every man a liar (Romans 3:3-4).

Lovingkindness said, "Jeremiah, before I formed thee in the belly, *I knew thee*; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Before you were formed, Jeremiah, Lovingkindness knew you; so don't say you're a child, and don't be afraid to speak what I command you to speak" (see Jeremiah 1:5-7a).

Solomon, in Nehemiah 13:26, was called powerful, loved of nations, and beloved of his God who made him king of Israel. Though strange women made him sin, Solomon, when he died, was called beloved of God because the One who called him wanted to demonstrate His characteristics of lovingkindness toward a backslidden son.

Chapter Two

A LIFE OF LOVINGKINDNESS

He who shows lovingkindness shall be preserved (Psalm 97:10). He who shows lovingkindness shall be honored and will execute judgment upon all nations (Psalm 149:9). The person who reveals lovingkindness will show judgment upon the nations by revealing Lovingkindness!—revealing the *name* of the Lord, in place of the Lord, in Christ's stead to make God known on the earth.

David revealed His heart of lovingkindness in 2 Samuel 1:23 when he said "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions." In his thoughts, David put Saul right beside Jonathan, his dearest *dearest* friend, speaking of them as equally beloved by God. How could this be, when Saul—who died in shame at the end of his life—had tried to kill

David so many times? But David didn't see Saul the way he was. David saw Saul the way God looked at him. He said they were "pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided," both of them swifter than eagles and stronger than lions. David revealed God's lovingkindness, which doesn't impute iniquity or sin.

Ephesians 4:32 tells believers to "Be kind one to another," which really means to live in lovingkindness toward one another, just as God for Christ's sake demonstrates lovingkindness toward you.

Each one in a marriage—regardless of his partner—is to live in lovingkindness because he is here in Christ's place to reveal and proclaim His name through the Word of God and the indwelling Spirit under the grace of God. Partners in marriage are here to reveal the nature and characteristics of God's eternal life—eternal love, eternal mercy, eternal long-suffering, and eternal truth; for God, who is abundant in goodness and truth, shows lovingkindness to thousands, forgiving their iniquities and sins.

That's why the name of the Lord is sacred. His name is Lovingkindness.

Jesus' Mission

Reading from Isaiah 61:1-2a, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are *bruised*, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

The Greek word for "bruised," *thrauo*, describes a costly vase that has been crushed, broken into tiny fragments, unrecognizable in terms of its original design. Jesus' one mission was to put His lovingkindness into action, not to go into why people are the way they are. In His life on earth, He was interested in doing something about their condition rather than going into what caused it. Jesus was saying in Luke 4, "I'll preach the Good News to them. I'll preach deliverance to the captives, recover sight to the blind, and bring liberty to those who have been broken and smashed to pieces."

His Healing Power

In Hosea 11:3, God said of Ephraim, "they knew not that I healed them." The same is true for Christians. We will accept the Gospel of sal-

vation in the Finished Work, but we won't accept our *healing* in the Finished Work. Yet, even as the Gospel reveals our eternal security in the Finished Work, it reveals that Jesus Christ's healing has already been accomplished for the believer.

Consider Psalm 139:13-18: "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."

Can you picture that? "According as he hath chosen us *in him before the foundation of the world*, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). We were chosen *in Him* because of our positive volition toward the

Gospel, toward salvation, and toward the grace of God. We were chosen *before* the foundation of the world! Therefore, our sins and iniquities were not the issue but rather Lovingkindness, which was available to heal and deliver and set at liberty every person who has been smashed to pieces, unrecognizable except to the One who created them.

When the Lord came to the earth, He came anointed of the Holy Spirit, doing good, and sent by God to heal all who were “oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38).

The moment you accept Christ as Savior, God gives you a position *in Him*, above all principalities and powers, long before your heart is ever circumcised. In Joshua 5:9, Israel crossed over the Jordan River into Canaan long before their hearts were circumcised. The first place they camped was Gilgal, which represents a position that is complete and perfect in Christ. That was a demonstration of lovingkindness toward the people He had created, a people who had fallen by sin into human depravity through wrong choices.

Chapter Three

PUTTING ON LOVINGKINDNESS

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). *Chadash*, the Hebrew word for “renew” has a unique meaning in this verse. It means that David wanted a brand-new garment, an absolute change that only comes from lovingkindness. He was saying, “God, I want to be renewed. I committed iniquity with Bathsheba. I was wrong to hold contempt against my son, Absalom, when he conspired to overthrow the kingdom. O God, I want to be renewed!”

What was God’s response? “I cannot refuse a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart that makes a request like this” (see Psalm 51:17).

When we enter glory, we are going to see Jesus Christ, in His glorified body with wounds in His side, hands, and feet. The wounds will be fresh, but there will be no blood. And we will see all the people in heaven perfected with their

glorified bodies. Then He will begin to manifest the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us and this will go on throughout all eternity. Though we will see His wounds, He will wipe away all of our bad memories (Revelation 21:4), meaning we won't ever have to think about where we came from. Even today, God wipes out bad memories for Christians who choose to walk in the Spirit. We always have the option of remembering, but we don't have to choose that option.

God, the Father of all mercies, the God of all grace, the God of all comfort, is just waiting to execute lovingkindness toward the lost, toward Christians, toward *all* who have wounds and bruises. He wants to heal the brokenhearted. Beyond that, He wants to set at liberty those who have been smashed in pieces. He longs to preach deliverance to those who are in some kind of prison. Why? Because *His name is Lovingkindness*.

The Finished Work of Lovingkindness

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." This means when we gather together, we don't gather to talk about just anything. We gather together in His name, in the

nature of His lovingkindness, and not in sentimentality. Sometimes our love may be tough love, but His lovingkindness is still our environment. He is in our midst.

Satan's program is to move us into a system of works; he tries to make us think we will never be good enough. His plan is to make you remember everything you have ever done wrong, to make you feel so guilty and miserable that you have to *do* something to stop remembering the past. The devil's goal is to get you into a religious system—and he does it all to proclaim an “unfinished” work.

Romans 8:28 teaches that all things work together for good to those who love God *positionally* and then respond in a practical way in their life. While we may not even experience God's love for ourselves or others, God still works all things together for good. The truth is, we love God in positional truth even when we have no feelings at all. This is quite different from the view that says we have to love God *enough* in our experience to get Him to work all things together for good. That would make God's work unfinished.

But John 19:30 reveals that “when Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is

finished: and he bowed his head and gave up [his spirit]." His work was *finished*, once and for all (Hebrews 10:10)!

"And now," Jesus is saying to us, "through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, I want to reproduce in you the very nature that finished the work. I want to preserve you as you show lovingkindness. I want to make you rulers over nations *because* you show lovingkindness." Our purpose is to reveal Christ (Galatians 1:16) and to manifest His nature (2 Corinthians 4:10).

Whatever It Takes

It is really quite simple. God will teach us how to have victory and how to live through His grace quietly, soberly, and godly in this present evil world (Titus 2:12). And in this process of growing, He has given us a provision for recovery—seven times a day if we need it (Proverbs 24:16)!

But then the Lord says, "When it's all said and done, I will be merciful unto those who show mercy" (Psalm 18:25). "I'll give special privileges to those who reveal my name, which is Lovingkindness."

Abraham made so many mistakes, yet he became the father of our faith; he declared God's

name and became a winner in the end. God in His lovingkindness never thought of turning His back on Jacob, Samson, David, or Solomon. He never considered turning away from Paul in the midst of his Romans 7 struggles nor from Peter when he denied Christ three times. The Father used each one according to the call. Nothing they could do would hinder the nature and construct of the manifestation of God's loving-kindness.

HIS LOVING KINDNESS

by Ruut Sallinen

What is this amazing thing,
That makes me feel so rich inside?
What will keep me on this road
And never make me want to hide?

Where do I derive my strength
In time of great temptation?
What renews me day by day,
Leads me in the right direction?

His Loving Kindness...that endures forever.

What will fill all of my needs,
Supply divine provision?
What will always guide me through
Each detail and decision?

What will make me want to go
And leave my past behind me?
What will make me want to share
This life that is within me?

His Loving Kindness...that endures forever.

What will make us love each other
The way that He first loved us?
What will make us sacrifice
As selflessly as Jesus?

His Loving Kindness...that endures forever.

CONCLUSION

The words to this song were given to Ruut, a teenager in our Christian high school, after this message was preached on a Sunday morning. She is but one example of the transforming life of Christ and the keeping power of God who is Lovingkindness.

Do you have a broken heart? God's Finished Work is there to heal the brokenhearted. Maybe you are in secret bondage, or perhaps an area of your life has been smashed to pieces. Come to Him. Because of His great love, there is nothing you have done or anything you could ever do to make Him close the door on you.

Come to Lovingkindness and receive healing for whatever has been done. His healing will be a brand-new garment, a brand-new start for single people, married couples, and families.

And as you receive this renewal and this brand-new garment of lovingkindness, He will lead you in "the paths of righteousness for his

name's sake" (Psalm 23:3). Just come to the Father by faith.

Precious Father, we pray that as scores of people read these words, they will be healed because of Jesus Christ being manifested in His infinite name of Lovingkindness. Father, heal our emotions. Deliver from secret sin. Heal every pain and wound as your lovingkindness dwells inside of us. May we breathe, think, speak, and reflect the beauty of lovingkindness. We thank you in Jesus' precious name. Amen.