



## My Story Through His Eyes of Love

*Jeremiah 29:11; 31:3*  
*John 10:3*  
*Psalms 139:1-18*  
*Ephesians 3:14-19*

Let these questions guide your reflections on the morning. Ask the Lord to quiet your thoughts, help you listen, and give you freedom to share with Him whatever is on your heart. Let Him speak into areas of your own story now and in the days to come. † See **The Creativity of the Holy Spirit** on this page for different ways of expression, other than writing, that will help you respond to the questions below. Don't feel you must answer every question. During the coming week, go back to the ones that require more prayer and consideration.

- 1) **Nurture: Opening our stories** • Ask the Lord to show you how He would bring new life to you in the context of your story, acknowledging that He knows all there is to know about your experiences. (*What else would you like to ask Him? Take time to listen for what He wants to say to you.*)

~ **Prayer of invitation** • Entrust to Him the unique path He has for you based on how He sees your life—your story. Ask Him how He would make that love more real to you?

~ **New growth** • Ask the Lord to redeem areas of your life where He has new growth for you. Where, specifically, do you want Him to bring good out of something difficult, or new growth where you've given up on the future He has for you? What is on His heart for you today?

### The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

Quiet reflection—also called journaling, is meant to extend beyond processing of feelings and thoughts. One of its main values is in giving God time to speak to us! For example:

#### • Listen

Is He asking questions of you?  
Is He providing much needed counsel—His interpretation of your inner thoughts?

#### • Dialogue

Conversation with the Lord brings much understanding and draws us closer to Him.  
~ Invite Him to speak to you. Wait in the quiet. Respond. Wait again, etc.  
~ Write a letter, poem or psalm to express your heart.

#### • Images that Speak

~ Draw a picture or symbol of what is on your heart.  
~ Ask Him for an image that depicts how He sees you or something you're concerned about at this time.

#### • Editing Your Story

Ask Him to bring to light any assumptions or perceptions embedded in your heart and story that are not true. What is true that He would write in place of what is written there?

#### • Quiet

Invite the Lord to minister to you in the quiet. Whether with words or in the simple awareness that He is present with you, let Him "restore your soul" in whatever way you need. • You may want to journal and reflect on this time later.

**2) Messages of Phyllis's Experience |** Phyllis: *"Our prayer time with Sue and Tom was a sweet time of prayer. Ron and I felt the love of God in such a tender way. Hope instead of despair was rising up in my heart. They prayed over all our concerns. Tom said he had a scripture for me personally from Psalm 23. I've known that psalm all of my life. But he spoke the words over me " God's goodness ( and mercy) will follow me all the days of my life," and it was a rhema\* word to me personally. It became a revelation. I felt it in my spirit, body and emotions at the time. Then it became part of me, God reminding me of all the different situations in my life, all He had rescued me from, giving me hope and life deep inside of me. My focus changed from feeling down and in despair to joy and hope. His goodness is always with me.. Those words still are life to me in ways I can't fully describe. [\*Rhema word: a spoken word -- stands out with significant meaning or application for our lives.]*

~ How did Phyllis's story speak to you?

~ Listen for anything the Lord wants you to understand about your own life. Ask Him if He has a word for you this morning.

~ Our title for the morning is: My Story Through His Eyes of Love. Draw a picture of how **you see** your own story and how you feel the Lord sees it. Then, ask the Lord how **He does see** your story. Draw a picture of what He is showing you.

Listening: What is the Lord saying to you through these images? What do you want to ask of Him?

3) **See Ephesians 3:16-19** Through the apostle Paul's prayer, we realize that there is strengthening of our whole being at work all the time, in all dimensions of our being. • God's love is what nurtures and grounds our roots! For example: His love is there in the past, in the depth of our history. It is wide, comprehending everything about us, all that we experience. It is long, stretching forward as far as our road takes us. It is high – stretching to heaven, covering us and calling us to His high measures of love.

*Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

**Barriers** • Only the Lord can help us identify significant barriers to His love, and only He knows when and how He would renew us in His love at a given time. • In light of what He has for you **at this time**, is there a barrier He wants to remove, or an empty place He would fill with His love? (How does dealing with this issue reveal to you the value He places on your life?)

**Earning love? Proving ourselves?** Where does the Lord want to extend grace to you, calling you to accept His love? Again, ask: "Am I trying to earn Your love, or prove myself worthy of Your love?"

4) **Before Communion** | One of these questions may apply to you today, or, perhaps the Lord has put another question on your heart. Take a moment to open your heart to receive Him and His love in a fresh way today.

~ What would you like to lay at the Cross this morning?

~ How do you want to participate more in the flow of His love, into the lives of others?

~ Other