

The Great *I Am*
Knowing God By Name

A Study On The Hebrew Names of God
By Sheryl Aeschliman



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unless otherwise noted.*



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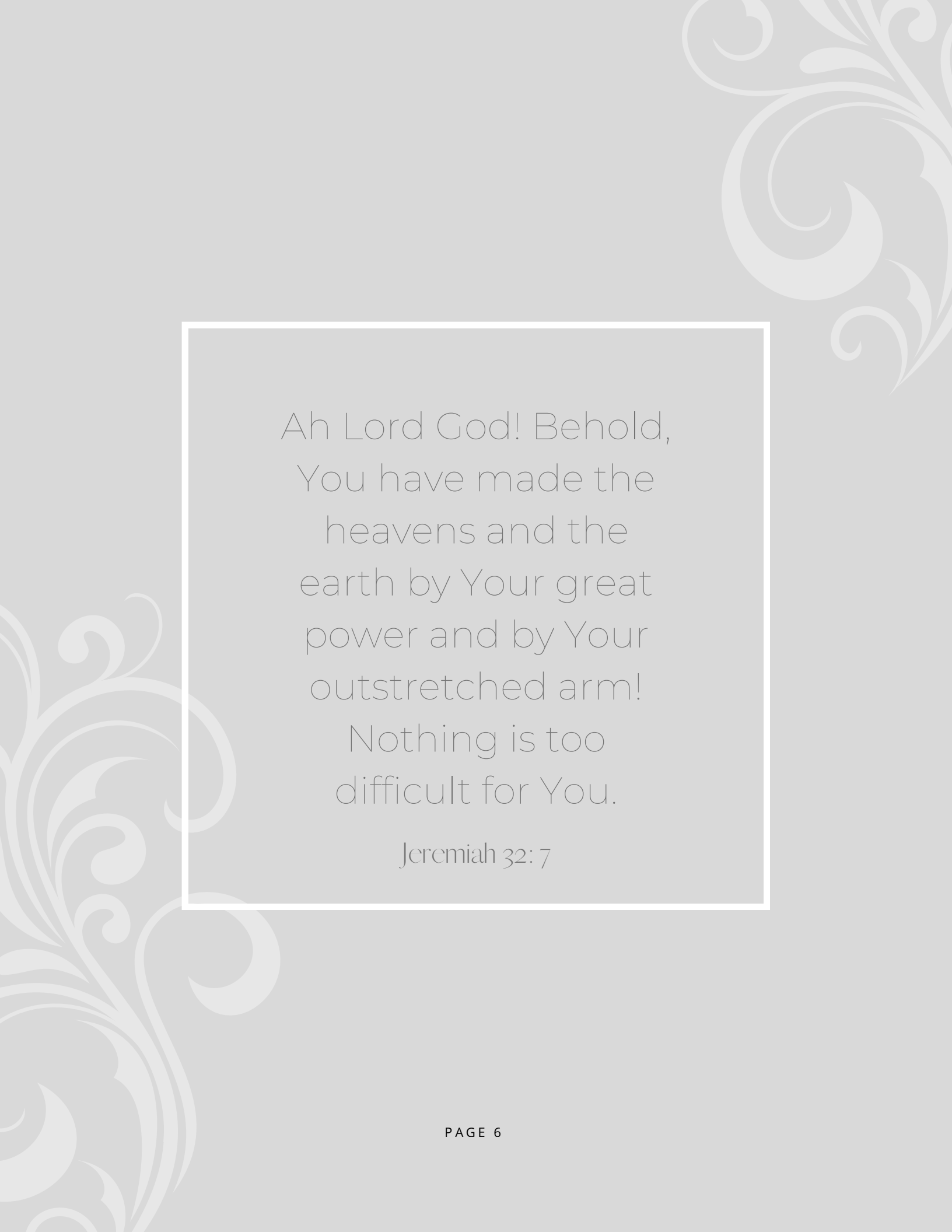
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Ah Lord God! Behold,
You have made the
heavens and the
earth by Your great
power and by Your
outstretched arm!
Nothing is too
difficult for You.

Jeremiah 32: 7

SPECIAL FEATURES FOR THIS STUDY

SIMPLY COLOR©

Coloring your Bible is a great way to slow your reading down and really soak in the rich meaning of each passage. Do you want to go deeper and learn how to use the Simply Color© Bible study method? Feel free to use the Simply Color© code located at the back of this book in "Additional Resources." (This is OPTIONAL!)

BE STILL AND KNOW

You have the opportunity each week to declare the names of God in your life through the journaling section titled "Be Still and Know." Use this space to slow down and reflect on your time in the Word or write out specific prayers. You may want to ask yourself the following questions:

What do You want me to know about Your name?

How do You want me to apply it to my life?

What lies am I believing about You?

What truths can I declare and praise You for?

Are there areas of confession and repentance that I need to address?

What changes in my life do You want me to make based on faith and trust in Your name?

NOTES

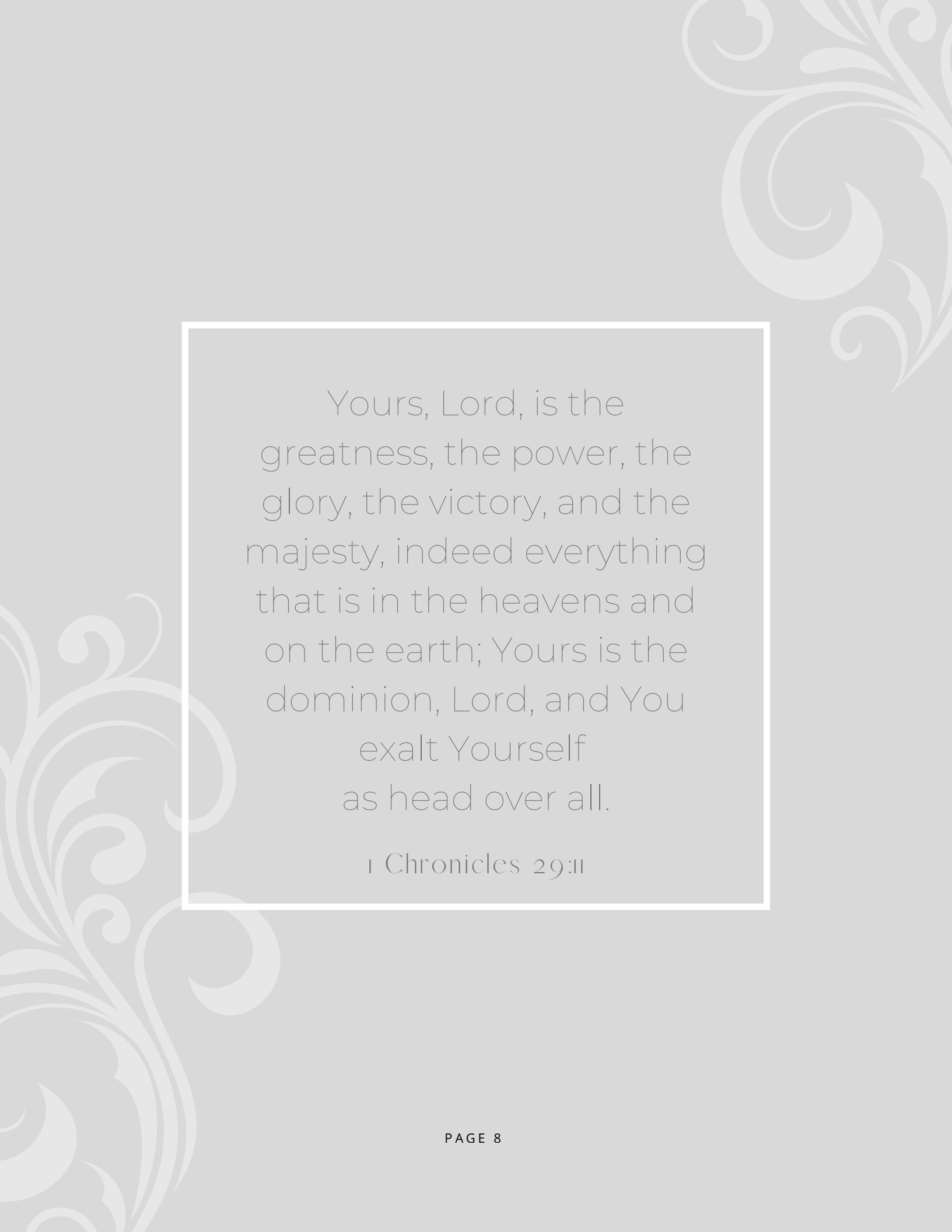
I have also provided a section at the end of each week for additional notes. This can be used for jotting down extra thoughts during the week or for note-taking during the teaching videos.

PLAYLISTS FOR WORSHIP

There's nothing as intimate as worshipping The Great I AM! I have compiled eight different worship playlists for this study. Each week you can access worship songs specifically chosen for the attribute of God you are focusing on that week. If you have a Spotify account, search "sherylaeschliman5" to find my public playlists, or you can also access the Spotify link through the Spotify icon on my website at www.simplyscripture.co.

PRAYER CARDS

Each week has a targeted prayer card for you to pray through! Be sure to keep it in your Bible or post it in a spot where you can use it to pray throughout your week.



Yours, Lord, is the
greatness, the power, the
glory, the victory, and the
majesty, indeed everything
that is in the heavens and
on the earth; Yours is the
dominion, Lord, and You
exalt Yourself
as head over all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Dear Sister—

At some point, God wakes each one of us up, and we find out we are part of a much larger, more epic story than we ever realized—whether we want to be or not. We come face to face with a God we can't comprehend and can't control. It feels scary and sacred all at once. We all wrestle with the question of who God is and how we fit into His plans. We struggle with doubts, obedience, anger, and trust. And we've found ourselves here, saying, God, we don't know who You are—but we want to.

Can I ask you a few questions? Is your current situation feeling completely out of control with God nowhere to be found? Do you doubt that God is good, and He is working in the middle of your mess? Are you pretending to be a polished Christian on the outside, while doubting God even hears your prayers? Are you too ashamed or too proud to admit that's where you are stuck? Rest assured, you are in the perfect place to take off your shoes, sit back, and talk with The Great I AM.

I see you in your exhaustion. I see God chasing you down as you wearily wrestle against what weighs heavily on you. I see the fear as you watch the enemy mess with your kids. I see the anger that rages as you watch relationships burn to the ground. I see the grief as you watch God answer your desperate prayer exactly opposite of what you want, and then I see your dreams crumble.


I see the doubts, the anxiety, and the questioning of where God is in the midst of your pain. I see the guilt for not feeling faithful in your time of waiting, and remorse for not trusting the God whom you profess to love and serve. It's a cycle. I know, because I am there too. Do you know what else? When you dig into knowing the character and the nature of God through His names, you will learn to trust Him with the deepest pains in your heart. You will begin to be still and know that He IS God and that He IS good regardless of your circumstances. Then the cycle will stop and you will enter into The Strong Tower of Mercy Himself.

My prayer for you, sweet one, is that you begin the journey of walking intimately with your Creator, your Yahweh. As you do, may every fiber of your being shout that there is no one higher, no one greater, no one more worthy of your praise! Your Yahweh is alive and moving on your behalf, and He creates a space where you can be still and know Him.

It is an honor and privilege to take this journey together. So, sister, let's take off our shoes and feel the fresh dirt between our toes, shall we?

In His Great Name,

Sheryl



None can stand
against my God.

00

"BE STILL, AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD; I WILL
BE EXALTED AMONG THE
NATIONS, I WILL BE
EXALTED IN THE EARTH!"

Psalm 46:10 NIV

00



At the mention of Your name
every kingdom will crumble
every knee will bow
every tongue will confess

You alone are God.



INTRODUCTION

Where do you even start with trying to define the undefinable, describe the indescribable, or know the unknowable? I think it would be easier for me to drink the ocean dry than for this mere mortal to attempt such an incredible task. The entire world can't contain the amount of books that could be written to express who God is and what He has done through Christ (John 21:25).

God desires for you to know Him as much as humanly possible. He gave you the Bible filled with stories, parables, poems, and proverbs that point to His incredible heart. By knowing His names, you are able to have a firm foundation when it feels like the whole world is shaking. Are you ready to take off your shoes, step on sacred ground, and walk this journey with me?

Yahweh

BAREFOOT WITH YAHWEH

I am not a glam girl. My shoes never have bling and rarely take me very far off the ground. I am a practical, basic kind of gal. I envy the cute shoes and stylish boots of others, and some days my heart wishes to slide into a pair of black stilettos that make me look like something else! Truth be told, most days my shoes have unmentionables that need scrapped off the bottom. That is hazard pay of farm life, I guess. I have a pair of muck boots that help me manage farm living and some ratty tennis shoes that cover the rest. Those smelly boots are the last thing I slip on before I head out to the barn, and the first thing I take off when I come back in the house. Don't get me wrong, I do have a wide variety of cool shoes. My family is glad to know I am aware of social cues and wear appropriate attire for any given situation. Although my shoes do not define me, they can sure make a statement about where I am going and what I am doing.

Do you remember the joy and fun of going barefoot when you were younger? The feeling of running through freshly cut grass, mud oozing between your toes, or maybe dipping your feet in cool lake water was so freeing. As a farm kid, I remember accidentally running over thistles, stones, and other unwanted elements that left negative impressions. Without shoes, I experienced the reality of where my feet were taking me and what I was standing on. Going barefoot was freeing but also had a few painful moments as well. I don't know about you, but that pretty much sums up my entire Christian life. I have joy and freedom, but when the road gets painful, I begin second guessing where God is taking me. How about you?

Your heart wears shoes and makes statements about you, too. You have the cute, trendy heart you wear conveniently in public, on social media, and in social gatherings. You know, the one that makes you look pretty, and deep down you hope everyone else is a bit envious of it. This heart makes you feel happy, put together, confident, and impressive. Then, there's your practical heart that gets you through your day. It's comfortable, necessary, and functional. But let's not forget the dreaded stinky work boot-wearing kind of heart. You know, the mucky one you keep in the dark corner and hope nobody smells? Yeah, that one. And when the yuck becomes obvious to others, you continue pretending to be oblivious to the trail of footprints you leave on the backs of other people. Shoes and hearts can be, well...let's just say deceitful.

Moses experienced a heart check in Exodus 3:1-16. He was confronted by a Holy God who opened his eyes to the reality of where he was standing—in front of a burning bush on holy ground. How did Moses respond? He took his shoes off, falling to his knees in awe and surrender. He was at the beautiful crossroads of being still and knowing his Yahweh. The ground became holy because it was exactly where Yahweh's presence was manifested. God chose to reveal Himself in order to draw Moses into deeper intimacy and prepare him to be a vessel of deliverance to His people. And sister, you are exactly in the crossroads where your reality needs to line up with God's presence. This is your burning bush moment. Moses came face to face with his God, and his heart was ready and open wide to respond. It's the same sacred place He is calling you now.

God wants you to stop and go no further until you see Him as *your, I am*. It's time to stop pretending you are all put together and comfortable in your mucky boots. No more running or hiding from your past or your present. He wants you in the here and now of your reality. *Is God really your God? Is your heart ready to be still and know Him?* God told Moses the very same thing He is telling you: Take your shoes off! Where you are standing at this moment is holy ground, and it requires surrender. It is *His* ground, not your territory. God is in charge, and He wants your full attention. In this place, a relationship is formed between you and God because it is where His heart dwells. He will freely speak if you will have ears to listen and a heart that will receive His counsel. My friend, He wants you to know Him. *This raw, sacred soil can only be a reality when nothing comes between you and the Lord. You have to meet Him barefoot, surrendered and ready. Where can you find this freedom? On the pages of your Bible.*

THE ONLY WAY TO BE STILL AND KNOW GOD, IS TO HAVE A HEART THAT RUNS BAREFOOT.

But how can you run barefoot and carefree in front of a Holy God? How can you draw closer and feel secure enough to let your guard down? If you find it hard to let go of all the spiritual baggage you have accumulated over the years, it is time to be still and consider the beautiful names of Your God. It is through His name that He reveals His amazing nature and incredible character.

One thing that drives me crazy as I barrel past the half-century mark is trying to remember everybody's name. My husband and I were trying to remember a person's name just the other day. We both looked at each other, and in perfect harmony we said, "Oh, What's-his-name?" I could clearly see this person's face in my mind's eye. I could vaguely recall where he lived, where he worked, and even when I saw him last. But for the life of me, no amount of tapping my forehead, snapping my finger, or staring into heaven was going to draw that name from my lips. Sigh. For the rest of that conversation, we politely referred to that person as "what's-his-name." Wouldn't you know it that two topics and five minutes later, I awkwardly blurted out the name. It was totally irrelevant by that point, but for some reason I still felt the need to dig through my memory bank and figure out the name. I guess it made me feel like dementia was more than ten years away for me, and that was a win.

Why couldn't I remember the name? Was it because of my age or was it because I hadn't connected with that person in decades? Maybe both. As I sit here recalling that event with a smile, something dawns on this mid-life mama. I remembered things about that person, but I had forgotten the one thing that defines him: his name. I knew a lot of facts about this person, but I didn't have a close relationship with him.

Names are important. They can identify us, sometimes define us, and most obviously tell others a bit of our story. Let's try this little game. Think of the nature and character of these people just by reading their names. Ronald Reagan, Mister Rogers, Mozart, and Corrie Ten Boom. Did you picture in your mind someone with character, beauty, gentleness, or perseverance? How about this list? Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson, and Joseph Stalin. What pictures flooded your mind? Ah, not so pretty. Names help you associate the person with the character and attributes they possess. The flaw with word association is that we all have different perspectives based on our experiences. The same person could be loved by one person and loathed by the next. Just take a look around at your next family reunion and see if that theory pans out! Perspective and personal experience make a world of difference in relationships, don't they?

What picture comes to your mind when you think of God? Loving? Harsh? Distant? Are you basing His qualities on biblical facts or cultural/personal feelings? What if you began defining God based on the unchanging truth of who He is and not based on your circumstances?

WHAT WOULD YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE IF YOU LET YOUR HEART RUN BAREFOOT TOWARD HIM?

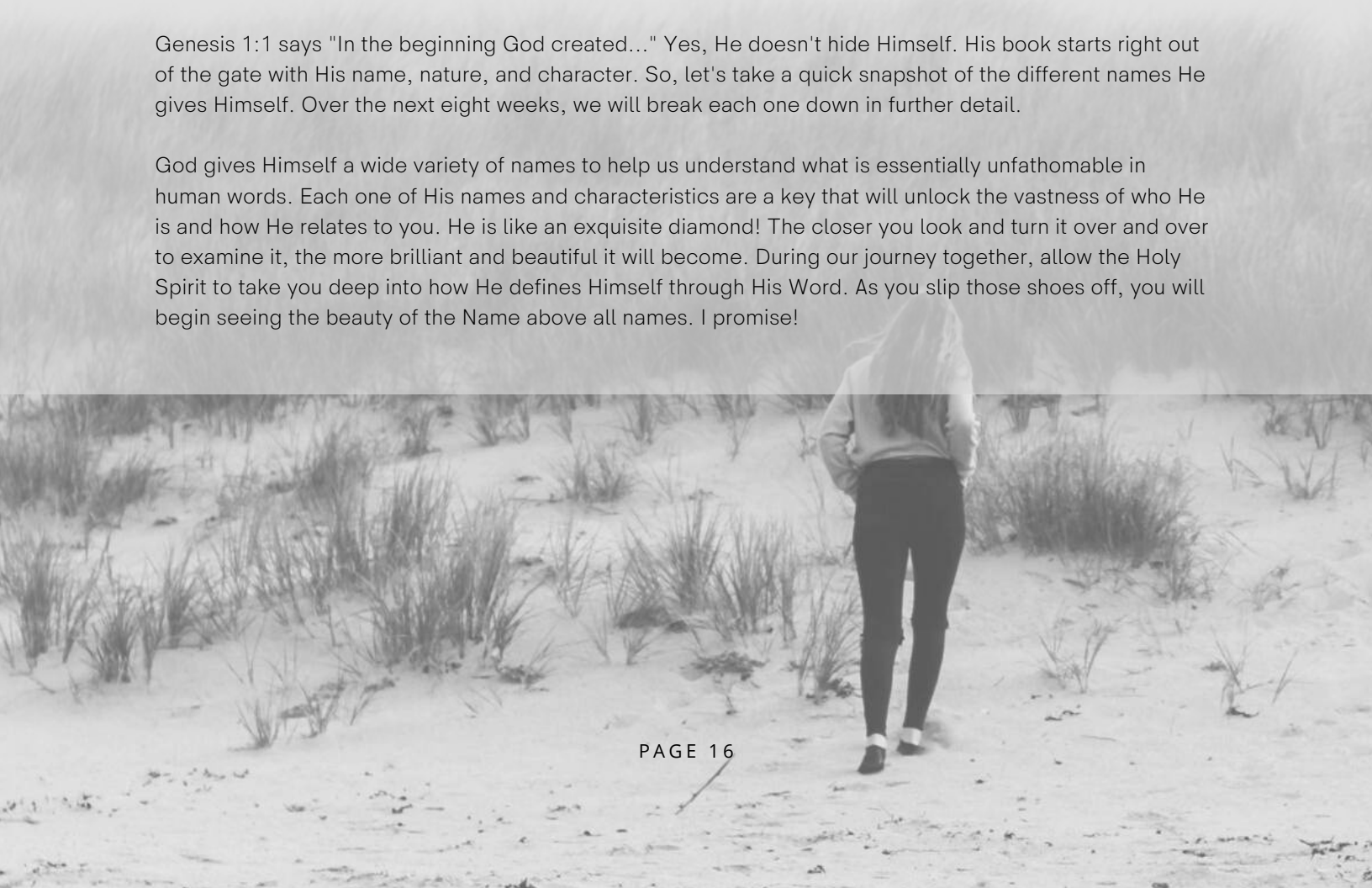
If you want your heart to run barefoot in freedom toward God, it will require you to die to self in order to live for Him. That will require you to put your flesh on the altar and reposition your perspective of His Word. Sister, that means you need to have a biblical worldview that places Christ in the middle of everything.

Now this might come as a shock to you, but the Bible isn't about you; it is about God. Let me say that again because you might not have read that correctly. *The Bible isn't about you; it is about God.* It is easy to read the Bible like it's a personal counseling session that will fix every problem. Some approach it as a college textbook to make one wise, and others read it simply to avoid Hell. While those attitudes are noble, they are off center. The Bible is about what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do in the future. It is about Christ! Trying to make the Bible all about you when it actually is all about Him will leave you feeling frustrated, and you will miss the beauty of running barefoot in His presence.

The God of the universe, with all of His knowledge and power, poured Himself into sixty-six books. Every word in your Bible is a showcase of His nature and heart toward His creation. It was written by the Holy Spirit through mortal men, and it was perfectly designed to help your finite mind wrap around the infinite. There is no need to look elsewhere to find God. He is right there in the pages of your Bible, and all He asks is that you find Him there, and in His way. If you want to know His name, then you must first come from the perspective that ultimate truth is found in Him, and He gets to define Himself based on His Word alone. Put your circumstances, experiences, and emotions down and run barefoot toward the truth of His Word. My friend, I promise you will find the soul-rest your heart has been longing for.

Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning God created..." Yes, He doesn't hide Himself. His book starts right out of the gate with His name, nature, and character. So, let's take a quick snapshot of the different names He gives Himself. Over the next eight weeks, we will break each one down in further detail.

God gives Himself a wide variety of names to help us understand what is essentially unfathomable in human words. Each one of His names and characteristics are a key that will unlock the vastness of who He is and how He relates to you. He is like an exquisite diamond! The closer you look and turn it over and over to examine it, the more brilliant and beautiful it will become. During our journey together, allow the Holy Spirit to take you deep into how He defines Himself through His Word. As you slip those shoes off, you will begin seeing the beauty of the Name above all names. I promise!



Yahweh

He was. He Is. He always will be.

HEBREW NAMES OF GOD. PRONUNCIATION. REFERENCE.

El-Shaddai (el-shad-di') Lord God Almighty (Genesis 17:1)

El-Elyon (el el-yone') The Most High God (Genesis 14:18)

Adonai (ad-o-noy') Lord, Master (Genesis 15:1-2)

Yahweh (yah-weh) Lord, Jehovah (Exodus 3:13-15)

Elohim (el-o-heem') God, Creator, Judge (Genesis 1:1)

Yahweh Jireh (yah-weh yir-eh') The Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:14)

Yahweh Shalom (yah-weh shaw-lome') The Lord is Peace (Judges 6:24)

Yahweh Raah (yah-weh raw-aw') The Lord My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Yahweh Raphah (yah-weh raw-faw') The Lord That Heals (Exodus 15:26)

Yahweh Shammah (yah-weh shawm'-maw) The Lord Is There (Ezekiel 48:35)

Yahweh Tsidkenu (yah-weh tsid-kay'-noo') The Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)

Yahweh M'Kaddesh (yah-weh M-qadash) The Lord Who Sanctifies (Leviticus 20:1-8)

YAHWEH - JEHOVAH - YHWH

"I AM WHO I AM" Exodus 3:14

LAM: TO BE -- TO CAUSE-- TO CREATE
LITERALLY MEANS TO CAUSE TO BE.
IT SIGNIFIES THE TOTAL ABSOLUTE POWER OVER ALL BECAUSE HE IS SELF-EXISTENT
AND ETERNAL.

YAHWEH OR JEHOVAH: HE IS ACTIVELY CAUSING AND CREATING FROM
A POSITION OF TOTAL REST.

God defines Himself as:
I am the Self-existent, Eternal One
who is actively causing and
creating from a position of total rest



O my soul, abundant
hope and redemption is here.

01

I AM LORD
AND MASTER
-ADONAI-

01



My heart will sing
great are you, Lord!

01 I AM LORD & MASTER

I am the Self-existent, Eternal Lord and Master with absolute authority, ultimate rule, and total power.

I am actively causing and creating Lordship over, in, and through My creation from a position of total rest.

Adonai

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

God rules with absolute authority, right? So, why does the world and your situation look and feel so out of control? If He is sovereign, why doesn't He snap His finger and make your situation go away? Why is there so much sickness, injustice, and suffering in the world? If He is in control, then WHY isn't He at work fixing this? That is a great question. Let's talk about God's sovereignty.

I have heard over the years both sides of the freewill/sovereignty theology debate. I want to share a few thoughts with you, and then let God show you who He is in His own words.

Every human being on the face of the earth was not born "good." We were born evil, separated from God and deserving of His wrath. (Romans 3:10, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23) You and I have a free will, but it is totally depraved and unable to choose rightly apart from the Holy Spirit. Our "free will" will always bend toward evil, every time. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we are powerless against our own sinful self-will. Folks boast of having a free will like it's a badge of honor. Honestly, my free will typically makes me do a glorious swan dive into the mud. The older I get, the more I realize I don't want to be in control of me—I want Him to be in control.

The classic comment I have heard swirling in various circles is, "I do not want to be God's puppet! I have the right to make my own choice!" I have always been intrigued by that maverick thought, as if people are simply God's marionette on a stage. This conclusion leaves you with the negative thought of being merely a child's toy to be manipulated for entertainment's sake. I would agree—nobody would want that seemingly fatalistic life.

But our God does not love us like that.

I view this theological debate not from the perspective of a puppet, but as a musician. The Greatest Composer of the most beautiful musical score ever to be created has called you to a concert. He is The Great Conductor, and He takes center stage in the most epic event of all mankind. He alone created each note, cadence, and crescendo. He created you, the musician, out of the dust and gifted you with specific talents and abilities. This incredible Maestro calls you to sit before Him with your copy of His sheet music, instrument in hand, and play for His glory. As you keep your eyes on the sheet music and watch the cues of this Great Composer, His graceful music flows. My sister, you have a choice to play that instrument well, or be out of tune. One thing is for sure. You and I are not the Maestro.

As much as you and I want control, the Bible says God is the one in absolute control even when we don't agree or understand. Honestly, I am thankful that I am not in control of my life. It seems as though it is the very times when I thought I knew what I was doing, that I have made the biggest messes. How about you? I am glad that I can defer all of my situations into the hands of the One who has written my music.

What is your biggest hang-up with trusting in God's Sovereignty? What area is God showing you He has authority over right now? What makes you afraid of trusting God fully?

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As you ponder the following verses, use your colored pencils to highlight His sovereignty. Write down insights and thoughts for each verse.

1 Chronicles 29:11

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Psalm 33:11

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Psalm 103:19

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Psalm 135:5-6

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Isaiah 46:8-9-10

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Daniel 4:34-35

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Ephesians 1:11

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THE LORD WHO KNOWS ALL THINGS

God is omniscient. He knows ALL things and possesses ALL knowledge. Therefore, absolutely NOTHING is beyond His comprehension. He operates beyond all time, space, and human reasoning. He has perfect knowledge of all things past, present, and future. He has the BIG picture in mind, and there is not one circumstance or event that causes Him to feel unsettled. (Remember, He operates from a position of total rest and authority.) Because God is eternal, He knows everything immediately, effortlessly, simultaneously, and exhaustively. He has all of the facts, Jack, and He interprets them with perfect wisdom and insight. That brings immense comfort to the lives of each and every believer who calls Him Lord and Master!

You are fully known by your loving, Heavenly Father! There is not a hair on your head, a thought in your mind, or a difficult situation He is unaware of. He is The Great Knower, and He doesn't even break a sweat as He works all things out for your good and His glory. He does not panic, or have to come up with a new strategy when we get into a jam. You cannot dupe, out-manuever, or swindle God—ever. Since you can't out-think God, you can securely rest in the fact you are known. You can loosen your grip on the anxiety, fear, and restlessness because your Master is in total control of you and everything that concerns you. You can wrap yourself in the safe, warm blanket of an all-knowing God whose love is forever kind. *Oh sister, you can be still and know He is Lord and Master because you are fully known. Oh Yahweh, You are the God who knows!*

As you ponder the following verses, use your colored pencils to highlight His Sovereignty. Write down your thoughts on the beauty of His Omniscience.

1 Samuel 2:3

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Psalms 147:3-5

.....

Isaiah 46:9-10

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Jeremiah 17:10

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Hebrews 4:12-13

.....

He knows what you need before you ask. Read Matthew 6:8. What do you need from your all-knowing Father?

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JESUS CHRIST YOUR LORD

*He is the Self-existent, Eternal Lord and Master.
He is the Sovereign, Omniscient ruler over all.*

God Himself is bringing you into a right relationship with Him THROUGH Christ. He actively is causing, creating, and using every circumstance and situation to be an opportunity for you to relinquish control and surrender everything to His loving and kind will for your good and His glory.

When you think of Jesus, what comes to mind? My guess is you instantly think of Christmas, Easter, or maybe even remember a few of His miracles. Most generally, Jesus is taken as a good teacher or a great example of how to be a good person. Whoa! (Insert screeching car tire sounds.) Stop. Let's reconsider what God Himself calls Jesus in His Word. Jesus is Lord and Master. Read and color Acts 2:36. Who made Christ the Lord and Master?

All too often we find Jesus to be our happy, warm fuzzy place. We give rote Sunday school answers...He died to forgive our sins, He rose again to give us right-standing before God...yawn. On Sunday mornings, we thank Him for all that He has done for us to fix our blighted souls, and we stumble through the week as if we had no Savior. We have angst and don't know why. We know about Jesus, but we don't know Him as Lord.

Do you worship Him for what He does FOR you or worship Him because He is Lord OVER you? Is He your Master with absolute authority over your life? Are you willing to be His servant regardless of the cost? Do you want the benefits of being saved without the day-to-day obedience He requires? Do you joyfully submit your will to Him as Lord even when it is excruciatingly difficult or makes no sense at all? Knowing about Jesus is completely different than being still and knowing that He is Yahweh Adonai. Lord and Master.

The Bible calls you a servant or a slave. As painful and humbling as it is, *you are not your own*. Ouch, the flesh will wince at that truthful statement. His Word is clear that you have two masters you must choose between. The devil with fleshly desires, or Christ with godly desires. Make no mistake. Your heart will serve one or the other, and the direction your life is headed will reflect who your master truly is.

You were a slave to a cruel taskmaster, but Jesus set you free to be His servant. Read the following verses. Color each one and consider your position before Jesus your Lord.

Isaiah 43:1

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Romans 6:16-23

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1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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1 Peter 1:18-19

.....



We seem to not struggle so much with Jesus as Savior, but we can spend a lifetime arguing with Him about His Lordship. Is that true for you, my friend? Yes, I struggle with wanting my own way, too.

Jesus is referred to being our Savior twenty-four times in the New Testament. But did you know Jesus is referred to as Lord AND Master seven hundred and twenty times? *Seven hundred and twenty times! Let that sink deep into your bones.* Yes, Jesus saves, and that is an incredible thing, but He also is *Lord*, and that name demands our attention.

Why is it so hard to accept Jesus as Lord and Master? Is it because your sin-sickened will lurks just below the surface and is naturally in total opposition to Him? Do you keep Jesus at a distance because it would radically change your entire life trajectory, something that seems terrifying? Would it change your friendships, priorities, and choices? True Lordship requires obedience, and sometimes it is completely uncomfortable and painful. It requires *change*. You become your own worst enemy by pushing away His loving Lordship to maintain a false sense of control. Only the Holy Spirit can take a stony heart of self-will and soften it into a servant heart. Honestly, most of my messes come from the struggle of surrendering my will to His Lordship. How about you?

My sweet friend, surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord is only terrifying if you don't know His nature and character. Once you begin to understand His mercy, kindness, and love that was secured at the cross and guaranteed at His resurrection, it is easy to tell Him, "Yes Lord, not my will but Yours be done."

Struggling with Lordship is simply a trust issue, and we all have some degree of trust issues, don't we?

What if God went beyond a servant/master relationship and adopted you as His child? Well, He did. *He chose you to be His daughter through Christ.* You are not only a beloved and treasured servant, but also God made you a daughter and friend. You see, we serve a massive, incomprehensible God who longs for us to take our shoes off and be with Him. Jesus Christ came as God in human form to put His own skin in the game. He was crucified and resurrected so you would be with Him for *eternity*. Our God is not some distant, uncaring being. He is knowable in the here and now. Take your shoes off and experience the power of being still and knowing you have a loving Heavenly Father who identifies with you, because He became just like you. Human.

Take a few moments to consider these verses as you revel in knowing you are His.

John 15:14-16

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Romans 8:14-16

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Galatians 3:26

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1 John 3:1-2

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notes,

A large grid of small dots for taking notes, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots.



You are working out
everything that concerns me.