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JOHN BURKE
AND KATHY BURKE

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OF
HEAVEN
DEVOTIONAL

60 REFLECTIONS ON THE
HEART OF GOD FROM THE BIBLE
& NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

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Imagine the God of Heaven Devotional: 60 Reflections on the Heart of God from the Bible and Near-Death Experiences

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Introduction

When I (John) first came across near-death experiences (NDEs), I was an agnostic. I did not believe in Jesus, and I thought God probably didn't exist—there was just no evidence. That's when I saw the book that coined the term *near-death experience* on my father's bedside table. He was dying of cancer, and a friend had given him the first book researching when people clinically die, with no heartbeat or brainwaves in many cases, yet they are resuscitated. They come back declaring they were more alive than they've ever felt, in a place more real than earth, and often in the presence of a God of Light and Love whom they never wanted to leave. Many also claimed to meet Jesus on the other side.

I read the book in one night, and it opened my closed, skeptical mind. Because so many in the book talked of God and Jesus, I started to study the Bible, and I eventually came to faith in Christ. Over the past thirty-five plus years, I have studied close to 1,500 near-death experiences, and I went from a career in engineering into ministry, also becoming an intense student of the Bible. In 2015, I wrote the *New York Times* bestseller *Imagine Heaven*, showing how over forty commonalities that people describe during a near-death experience correlate with what God has revealed in Scripture about the exhilarating life to come. In 2023, I wrote *Imagine the God of Heaven* because these

people would consistently tell me, “Nothing could compare to being in the presence of God.”

The book you hold in your hands is a devotional written by my wife, Kathy, and me based on *Imagine the God of Heaven*. Kathy has been a partner with me in all the books I’ve written, and she has a spiritual gift of encouragement that will inspire you and build you up. We wrote this devotional to help you meditate daily on the heart and character of God so that you draw closer to God with all your heart. Colossians 3:1–4 tells us, “Set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”

That is the aim of this devotional—to help you imagine God as he truly is. We hope these daily reflections help you better imagine God’s splendid glory, unconditional love, overwhelming kindness, never-ending patience, extravagant joy, and so many more amazing qualities. We pray you’ll realize, “God is the love I’ve always wanted.” And you will see just how crazy in love God is with you—his unique child—so that you long to trust and follow him daily because he loves you more than you can imagine and desires the very best for you.

Each devotional reflection focuses on a different aspect of God’s heart and character. There is a Scripture verse to anchor the reading and meditate on, as well as short testimonies by people from across the globe who encountered the God of the Bible during their near-death experiences. These testimonies are not meant to replace Scripture, but to add color to what the Word of God already tells us about God’s heart and attributes. You will also find an encouraging pastoral reflection to

inspire you, along with a suggested prayer—all to help you grow in your relationship with God as you better understand each aspect of his character.

We believe this devotional will help you imagine God more accurately, not because God is imaginary, but because God remains unseen for now. Imagination is God’s gift to help us set our minds on what is unseen. We all put God in a box to some extent, and we do that because we are finite and God is infinite; we are time-bound and God is eternal. So our prayer is that this devotional expands your mind and deepens your heart as it helps you “see with faith” what Scripture says about our mysterious, wonderful, extremely loving, and personal God. We hope and pray the words of Scripture come to life as they are illustrated through the eyes of those who experienced what each quality of God felt like in his presence, and we pray our commentary and reflection will inspire you to apply these truths to your life today.

We do not advocate blindly believing what everyone who has had a near-death experience says. In *Imagine the God of Heaven*, I show the difference between what people *report* experiencing and how they may *interpret* what they experience. I have made a strong case in *Imagine the God of Heaven* that the experiences most commonly reported are testimonies to the God of history, revealed through the Jewish prophets and through Jesus. I also make the case in the book for why Scripture should be used to interpret near-death experiences, and not the other way around. However, we hope that the testimonies in this devotional will draw your heart to the reality of God’s heart revealed in Scripture, and that it becomes your heart’s greatest desire to connect with God’s heart.

As you meditate daily on the heart of God through these reflective readings, we pray God’s presence would fill and

surround you with the love and delight he holds uniquely for you, his beloved child.

*Blessings,
John and Kathy Burke*

.....

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Boundless Love

.....

May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

EPHESIANS 3:18-19

When people who have a near-death experience find themselves in God's presence, they experience an overwhelming, immeasurable, incomparable love—a powerfully brilliant love, exploding with radiant light, that they struggle to describe with limited human words. Imagine being in the presence of this supernatural love—too amazing for our minds to fully comprehend!

Sarah, a young teenage girl who died in a car accident, experienced God's boundless, extravagant love during her NDE. Prior to the accident, Sarah had suffered abuse during her entire childhood. As the ambulance raced her to the hospital after the crash, Sarah remembers thinking she was going to die and realizing she did not have even one happy memory in her fourteen years of life. Yet during her NDE, she felt the deep and overwhelming love of God. She describes it this way:

In a flash, the light was coming right at me. . . . I put my hand in first and it felt so incredible. One's mind can't express in words the feelings of immense LOVE. I put the rest of what I sensed to be my body into

the light, and I was in LOVE! I became ONE with the light. I was held immediately so close and tight. It felt like someone was hugging me. I was thinking I never wanted to leave the light. . . . I allowed my walls to come down for the first time in my life. I allowed myself to get lost in the experience. I danced in the light and spun around. I was so happy to have felt good for the first time in my life. . . . I can't tell you my feelings through all this. I wish I could download it and send it to everyone. Like every particle that is making up who you are is bursting with LOVE and BLISS.¹

Erica McKenzie describes the same unfailing love of God during her own NDE. After years of battling with an eating disorder and diet pills, Erica's heart started failing one night when she was alone in a hotel room. As a registered nurse, Erica recognized the signs and ran out into the street below, looking for help. A driver pulled over and took Erica to his nearby church where her heart stopped as the pastor called 911. Erica recalls experiencing God's love that night as she never had before.

I went up and up, and I knew I was going to Heaven. It seemed as if I rose infinitely past the stars and farther into the all-encompassing light until I had finally reached the end of the tunnel. Once there, the most all-encompassing feeling of love overwhelmed me. My human words cannot accurately describe the enormity of the feeling that filled each cell in my body with more love than imaginable. This love was so tangible I could touch it. While I could not see a physical image, I distinguished this brilliant Presence as the voice I had

heard all my life. . . . It was God. This Presence was so powerful and intense.²

Psychiatrist Dr. Ron Smothermon, who was attacked by a man having a psychotic break, remembers the love of God washing over him so powerfully during his NDE. Since that time, he has been filled with a driving passion to share God's love with others.

All his qualities are contained in his love, *for love is his overarching nature*. And his love is not an enhanced version of human love. . . . It is a love beyond our experience, simply overpowering. . . . It fills you with his essence, and you know him intimately. . . . When your time comes, and it will, it is you and God, and no one else, swimming in an ocean of love. It is hard to describe what happens—you become his love, and you are together in his light. . . . Confronting God's love person-to-person inspires an intense desire to make his love known to every life form in the universe.³

.....

Scripture says, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). In other words, God is the very definition of what pure and genuine love actually is. Yet it is often hard to fully grasp what this means and how God's supernatural love can revolutionize our lives. Understanding more about God's love and the power it contains is important in experiencing the fullness of life God desires for us.

As humans, we tend to define love based on our own personal experiences of the love we show one another, which we know is fallible and flawed. We must remember that God's love

is perfect, and he loves every person with relentless and extravagant love to which no human love can compare!

There is nothing God does or could ever do apart from his love, for love is the essence of who God is. God's love is radiant and brilliant, steady and unchanging, solid and firm, complete and whole. God's love cannot be contained or restrained; when we are filled with it, we are compelled to love others as he does.

Imagine being loved with such boundless love—because you *are*! Today, meditate on how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is for you, and allow it to fill every part of you. Right now, God's radiant light of unfailing, never-ending love surrounds you. Feel the warmth of his light and love as you draw near to him today.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for loving me with such relentless, perfect love. Help me to feel the reality of your love more and more, as I draw near to you. Please fill every part of me and radiate your love through me to bless others.

Our Merciful Forgiver

.....

The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

EXODUS 34:6-7, ESV

CEO Randy Kay felt his body shutting down as he lay in a hospital bed with a MRSA (staph) infection and the critical threat of a pulmonary embolism. Randy was a follower of Jesus, yet he was flooded with anxiety about meeting God. Randy knew all his own sins, and the judgment and shame he expected he would experience before God was overwhelming. Yet when Randy's heart stopped for thirty minutes, he cried out the name of Jesus and describes being pulled into God's presence. He felt surprised by the magnitude of grace he experienced as he and Jesus watched a replay of his life.

In my preconception of God, before Heaven, I thought initially he would judge me, and that he would be disappointed. Because I was seeing in my Life Review . . . the good and the bad, the times I had failed him. And I was looking at the times I had failed, and he told me he had forgiven me, and I looked and said, "Really . . . even that?" He said, "Yes—even that." And I was amazed. . . . Since I've come back, I

can remember every detail, every facet of Heaven. It was more real than this world. But you know what is interesting? I can't remember when he showed me those failures. I can't remember those times. I asked the Lord, "Why?" He said to my heart, "Because I've removed them as far as the East is from the West . . . gone!" And I realized that he showed me the failures not to condemn me, but to show me the grace of Jesus Christ in all things.⁴

Others who have had a near-death experience report similar incredible encounters with God's grace. Commercial airline pilot Jim Woodford ignored God his whole life, seeking only after wealth and holding little regard for other people. Eventually, Jim contracted Guillain-Barré syndrome, an extremely painful condition that pushed him to his breaking point. One night, he drove out to a field on his horse farm and accidentally overdosed on opioids. Just before his head collapsed on his truck's steering wheel, Jim cried out to God to forgive him, seconds before he died. Jim soon found himself in the presence of Jesus and his guardian angel. The angel was showing Jesus Jim's book of deeds, but only those done out of love for God. Jim realized then he'd prioritized the wrong things, yet he received undeserved mercy and forgiveness, and it changed him.

Here I am looking at this magnificent being [Jesus]. The angel was holding up the book of my life. I am ashamed to say that with all the resources and wealth that I had and all the kindnesses I could have done, instead I was focused on a life of luxury and accumulation of wealth. . . . I was so full of arrogance. My nickname was "Diamond Jim." I was so

self-consumed. Overwhelmed with sadness and shame, as I'm crying, the angel said, "James, what did you do with the life God gave you?" I had no answer except remorse and sorrow. Then Jesus turned toward me. And he smiled at me. He *smiled* at me . . . and when I looked into those eyes of gray, green, blue—I saw such sadness for the way I had lived my life—such sadness for the way mankind has disregarded our Father's message. But I also saw love for me. Forgiveness. And in his eyes, I saw my tomorrow . . . and I was forgiven. . . . I've been given the rarest of second chances, and this time I'm doing it right. From that moment forward, whatever happened, I was his.⁵

.....

No matter what we've done or will do, we are never too far gone from God's forgiving reach. He will always forgive us and give us a reset whenever we turn back to him. God honors a humble and willing heart that admits wrong and desires to change. In fact, he not only forgives us, but he gives us a completely fresh start, never holding our wrongs against us.

This is such a radical departure from our human ways. We hold grudges, keep lists of wrongs, often desire revenge, and might even find pleasure in forcing penance on someone who has hurt us. But this is not God's way—God is a forgiver. "God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14).

Jesus paid for all our wrongs, so that "now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). He forgives, offers restoration instead of condemnation, and

removes the wrong. Surrendered to him, we can become all he created us to be. He still allows us to experience the consequences of our mistakes so we can learn from them, but he walks through them with us, guiding us as we are restored to his perfect will for our lives.

We don't need to fear admitting our wrongs to God—he already knows everything about us. He loves us completely, and nothing we could do would ever change that. However, our unconfessed sin saddens him, because it keeps us from experiencing his will and ways in our lives. But as 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong” (TLB).

God is never overwhelmed by your failures, and he will always welcome you back into his loving guidance as you seek his presence in your life. God says, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you” (Hebrews 13:5). So today, trust him with your failures and ask for his help to overcome. He loves you and will welcome you with open arms—no questions asked, no grudges, no condemnation. Remember, you may be overwhelmed by your failures, but God is not. He forgives them all through Christ, so that you will turn back to him.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your love and forgiveness offered to me every moment of every day. I confess my sins to you, and I want your leadership over my life. Thank you for guiding me in your loving will and ways to be the person you created me to be.

A Heart God

.....

*When a prayer or plea is made by anyone among
your people . . . then hear from heaven, your dwelling place.
Forgive, and deal with everyone according to all they do, since
you know their hearts (for you alone know the human heart).*

2 CHRONICLES 6:29-30, NIV

Pilot Jim Woodford grew up in a Catholic family in Newfoundland, but he never prayed. Jim admits, “My one goal in life was to have things. I had a yacht, an airplane, and nineteen British sports cars that I kept in the garage on my horse farm. I enjoyed things, but never once did I even have an urge to talk to God.” All this changed when Jim accidentally overdosed and died. With his last breath, he cried out to God, and his experience in heaven with his guardian angel forever changed his perspective about the importance of prayer.

I looked up in the sky, and it was a cerulean blue—it was a sunless sky, deep, deep blue, and I spotted something like streaks of brilliant light going straight up. [To me] as a pilot, they looked like the white contrails of ice left behind by jets. I thought, *Are those contrails?* I was stunned, seeing six contrails across the sky. I asked the Guardian [angel], “What are those?” And he said, “James, those are the prayers of your family for your soul, as we speak.” When I got back, I found

out my family all came to the house and six of them prayed, “If it be the will of Jesus, please send Jim back.” And I was in Heaven seeing those prayers. . . .

We came upon a beautiful building made of the same shimmering material as the others. I asked the angel, “What is this magnificent building?” He replied, “James, this is the hall of knowledge. It is the repository of all the prayers and petitions that mankind sends to Heaven and the throne of God.” I was reassured again that nothing is ever lost to God.

So the knowledge spoken of is God’s knowledge of the heart of man and his deepest longings, which are cataloged there. Along with prayers, there were accounts of the deeds of people both good and evil. Again, nothing is lost to God. The halls of knowledge are where the books of each of our lives are kept.⁶

Dean Braxton, a youth probation supervisor, became septic during a routine kidney stone procedure that led to an hour and forty-five minutes of clinical death. He shares that during his NDE, he was traveling very fast on his way to heaven, and just like Jim, he saw prayers from his loved ones like shooting stars. Dean went before the throne of God, where he witnessed something profound: Our prayers reach into God himself, because prayers from the heart matter to God.

The prayers of people who were praying for me were moving faster than I was. . . . They were like shooting stars passing me. . . . The prayers went straight to the throne and the Father. Not only did they go to Father God, but they went inside him. To try to understand this, you will have to realize that the throne of God is

not a seat. It is a place. He is the throne! There were millions upon millions of prayers entering the Father. I saw these lights of prayers like shooting stars entering the Father. I came to understand that he answers our prayers with himself.

Jesus downloaded information into me about prayers. I saw mighty warring angels, and I knew that prayer is what moved them. God hears our prayers and sets angels into motion in response.* I understood that our prayers must come from our hearts. Our God is a heart God, and he is looking for us to talk to him from our hearts. He hears us if we are praying from our hearts. He hears your heart. He understands your heart. He only hears prayers from the heart.⁷

.....

God is a heart God. Jesus reminds us of this in his remarks about the Pharisees: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Mark 7:6). These religious leaders prayed flowery, eloquent prayers for people to hear and admire, but their prayers were not from the heart at all, and God knew it.

God wants our hearts, poured out to him in prayer—honest and humble communication is what God desires from his children. And the encouraging news is that every prayer from the heart matters to God! No genuine, sincere prayer spoken is ever lost to God, for it goes into the very heart of the Father. He promises, “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Our

* In Daniel 10:12 an angel was sent because Daniel prayed.

humble, heartfelt prayers set things into motion in the unseen realms. And the Father responds, sending his angels into action, moving heaven and earth to accomplish what is best for us and others for whom we pray.

It is comforting to know that we don't have to "get it right" to move the heart of God. We don't need to say the right combination of words, or be convincing or eloquent—we just have to be ourselves and be sincere as we communicate to our loving heavenly Father. We don't always see the direct answers to our prayers, but we must not let that stop us. God is recording every prayer so that one day in heaven, we'll be able to see that God did answer every one. Yet he did it in a way that respected the free will and choices of all those involved, working it for the good of us, others, and the world.

Take some time today to pray from your heart. Don't worry about your words—God will understand you perfectly no matter how you express yourself. As you pray, feel his heart filling yours with his love in response, and hear his heart give you heavenly wisdom. Remember, he is always ready to encourage, guide, and support you as you draw near to his heart through prayer.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, you alone know my heart. Thank you that I can bring all that's in my heart to you, and you will hear me and draw near. Here's what's on my heart today, Lord, and help me hear what's on your heart too.

Healer of the Soul

.....

He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.

PSALM 147:3

Kevin Zadai had an unexpected reaction to anesthesia during dental surgery and suddenly found himself above his body, having a near-death experience. While Kevin observed his own surgery, Jesus appeared and began talking with him about darkness in his soul that had been caused by lies spoken over him as a child. Jesus saw the deepest parts of Kevin and offered him healing.

[Jesus said], “Kevin, there’s a part of you called your soul that is hindering you.” And he showed me my spirit. My spirit was lit up [with light], and I had this robe of righteousness on me, but I also saw this black part of me, and he said, “Kevin, do you see how that’s obscuring your beauty?” And I said, “Yes.” He said, “That’s your soul. Look real closely.”

And when I looked really closely, I saw all these words, these phrases and statements that were spoken. And I remember them being spoken to me when I was a little child. People said things, and they actually cursed me, and they said things that weren’t true about

me. And they changed the way that I perceived God, and my whole observation of this life was tainted by the enemy, because people had spoken wrong [untrue] words over me. People would say things like, “You’re never going to amount to anything.”⁸

While Kevin was unconscious for forty-five minutes, Jesus showed him how things in his mind needed to be renewed for his soul to be healed.

[Jesus] said, “We’ve got to take care of this. . . . You need to build yourself up, praying in the Holy Spirit and staying in the love of God. And then you need to always meditate on the Word of God, and you need to allow your mind to be changed.”⁹

When Kevin came back, he began meditating on God’s Word as Jesus told him to do, and he has experienced deep healing and a restored identity.

Dr. Colin Perry had grown up a Christian but turned away from God as a young adult, smoking marijuana and occasionally doing hard drugs. Eventually, he left that lifestyle behind, got married, and even got his PhD. But he also experienced a great deal of hardship. His first wife left him, and then three years later, his seven-year-old daughter was struck by a car and left brain-damaged, unable to walk or talk.

While gardening one day, Colin felt his heart failing. As he died, Colin remembers calling out for help and being pulled upward into the presence of Jesus.

And I looked back to Jesus because I couldn’t take my eyes or attention off him. I wanted to know more, and

he said to me, “I need to do some work, some healing, on you. You’ve been through a lot of trauma.” He then started to . . . I don’t know how to explain this . . . it was like Jesus’ whole being just came into me and began to shift things around, break down barriers, rearrange things within me. And I could feel, literally feel, things within my soul restoring and healing. It was a beautiful and amazing sensation.¹⁰

.....

God is a healer, and Jesus demonstrated this by miraculously healing people while on earth. In life, we often seek physical healing if something is physically wrong. But there’s a healing of the soul Jesus wants to do in us that may be even more important.

Internalized words, curses, lies, and traumas left unhealed can hinder God’s work in and through us, keeping us from experiencing the fullness of joy God wants us to have. God will shine his healing light into the hearts of his children who long for healing. Just as Jesus asked the man paralyzed for thirty-eight years, “Do you *want* to get well?” (John 5:6, NIV, emphasis added), he asks us the same. We must be willing to let him search out and rearrange the deepest recesses of our souls. In the presence of his light of love, the wounded, infected parts of our souls *can* be made whole.

It is also comforting to know that no matter what physical or mental challenges our earthly lives may continue to hold, one day in heaven, we will experience the complete healing we have longed for all our lives! Where do you need healing in your soul today? Sometimes facing what needs healing feels scarier than staying wounded. Have you asked the Healer to show you

what needs his touch, and are you seeking his healing? Today, share your longings with God, and allow the Healer to restore you to wholeness in him.

.....

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you that you heal my broken heart and gently bandage my wounds. Show me areas of my soul that need healing, and help me to trust you. Thank you that you will restore my wounded soul and make me whole again.

.....

Sovereign over All

.....

I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." . . . What I have planned, that I will do.

ISAIAH 46:9-11, NIV

Dr. Mark McDonough was only a teenager when he had his near-death experience. After trying to rescue his mom and younger brother from a house fire, Mark fell to the ground unconscious with burns over 65 percent of his body. Later, while undergoing surgery at the hospital, his heart stopped, and he left his pain-racked body.

I felt the presence of God—a love that is just so difficult to put into words, but a sense of love and security that's almost indescribable. Everything is okay. It always has been, it is now, and it always will be, and there's nothing to be afraid of.¹¹ It had seemed like time stopped. Now I didn't want time to start. . . . I just wanted to linger in this blissful state. . . . All things—past, present, and yet to be—had a specific purpose and reason. . . . Everything was perfect, exactly as it was intended from the beginning of time and would remain so forever. And all of this was so plainly apparent that I felt like giggling at the

simplicity and impeccability. *Oh . . . God! Of course! Who else?*¹² . . . The euphoria, the happiness, the laughter—as quickly as I could think of a question, the answer was there. And the answers were so simple, so joyful, and so clear. I thought, *Oh, yes, of course—that makes complete sense. It all fits together and makes perfect sense. And I'm right where I should be, and things are just the way they should be. It's going to all work; it's all going to be okay.*¹³ . . . And I knew that God was saying, “This is a difficult challenge, but it’s one we can do together, and I’m with you. I won’t leave you.” [With] the provision of the Father, and my buddy, Jesus, we’re going to make this. It’s not going to be easy, but we’re going to do it together.¹⁴

God sent Mark back into what would be a very challenging life ahead. He would be a teenager with no mother, suffering through excruciatingly severe burns that would require over thirty surgeries to repair. Yet despite these hardships, Mark had this assurance: God would work everything out for good, and he was not alone in his suffering. God was with him.

Diana Shepherd had a massive panic attack that stopped her heart in the gym at USC. Jesus sent her back from her NDE, and later during a time of prayer, Diana felt Jesus give her an analogy about God’s sovereignty and our choices:

When we choose Jesus, we also have choices to make within his plan. He works with us; however, he guides it overall. Like a mobile navigation app. The navigation app would be like the Holy Spirit you’ve decided to download. Jesus decides on locations but gives you routing options. The routing options all end

in the same place, but there are different things you'll see along the way—different obstacles, different paths, all leading to the destination. You make the choice of which route. Think of all the choices we make throughout the day. Jesus knows of alternate routes and plans for them all, depending on your choice. Now multiply that by billions of people. That is a snapshot of just how incredible and smart, brilliant, really, our God is!¹⁵

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God is sovereign. He's not bound by time like we are, and his knowledge and power are so great that he can accomplish all his purposes for the ultimate good of everyone, even while taking into account the billions of decisions and choices we all make each day. Knowing the loving heart and character of God can bring great peace and confidence—even in the chaos and sufferings of life—reminding us that we are safe with him.

God is always with us, even when we don't acknowledge his presence in our lives, and he will oversee our lives in line with his plan. He's promised that he "causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them" (Romans 8:28). As we love and follow God, we can be confident that he will accomplish every good thing he has promised, and one day in his presence, we will understand how the trials and difficulties of our lives worked together for our good and the good of humanity.

Let this truth give you assurance that you can and will accomplish everything that God has planned for you, as you follow his guidance to the best of your ability each day. And if you happen to make a mistake and wander off God's path, just

admit it and turn back to him for forgiveness and guidance as soon as you realize it. Similar to how GPS can reroute you to your destination, God's Holy Spirit has an infinite number of ways to get you back on track! Today, allow the powerful sovereignty of God to bring you comfort and confidence as you walk out his plan for your life with him as your guide.

PRAYER

Lord, sometimes I worry that my bad decisions or even my difficulties have ruined your plan for my life. Thank you for your promise that you can make good out of every situation and will get me back on your path as soon as I turn back to you. Help me follow your leadership today and rest in the peace and comfort that your guidance brings.
