“Healing Grace”, Good News About Grace, Part 4 of 7 – January 26, 2014 at SBC

 Psalm 147:3

Nobody, . . . sails, through life. We all, have problems. We all, . . . have hurts. You have some, . . . hidden wounds. You have some emotional scars, that nobody else sees, . . . but they're there, . . . and, they hurt.

One of the deepest causes, . . of those hurts, . . . is **rejection**. We all face it, at different times, in life. Rejection from parents, or rejection from peers, or rejection from an ex-spouse, from a so-called friend. Some of you, can even remember things, that were said to you, on the playground, 20, 30, 40 years ago, . . . and, they still hurt, today. We don't, let those things go, . . . lightly.

Today, I want us to look at, God's Healing Grace, . . and, how He heals, the hidden wounds, of our life. Today, I want us to look at, . . . Healing Grace. Psalm 147:3 – *"God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up, their wounds."* Some of you say, . . . "That's great! I can sure, use that. I've got, a broken heart. I've got some, hidden wounds, . . . that, need to be healed." **How does God heal, . . . a broken heart?**

How does, He do it? How does God heal, hidden wounds? The Bible tells us, **by changing, the way we think**. By changing, . . . our minds. By changing how, we see God, how we see the pain, and particularly, how we see ourselves. Romans 12:2 – *"Let God transform you, into a new person, by changing, the way you think."* If you want to change your life, if you want to get well, get over hurt, you've got to change, the way you think.

The Bible says, *"As a man thinks, in his heart, so is he."* If you see yourself, as a loser, you're going to tend, to be a loser, . . . in life. If you see yourself, as a victim, you're going to tend, to put yourself, in situations, . . where you're victimized. If you see yourself, as a failure, you're going to tend, to reinforce, what you feel about yourself, and you're going to fail. It's, very simple. The Bible says, our beliefs, . . determine, our behaviors. The way we think, . . . determines the way, . . . that, we act.

There's a problem, . . . with that. The problem is, . . . some of your beliefs, . . . are false, . . . they’re just wrong. You picked up, all kinds of beliefs, growing up. Because, some adult, said it to you, . . . you tended to accept it, . . . as gospel fact. You believed it, and many of you, are still acting, on those beliefs, . . . even though, . . they're, not true. They're, not right. Today, I want us to look at, what God says, . . about you.

Remember, when they used to, have those fun zones, and fun houses, . . where they had those warped mirrors in them, and you could look at yourself. When you look at, a distorted mirror, . . . it gives you, a distorted picture of yourself -- bigger, skinnier, taller, parts of your body, would be real big, . . and other parts, real small.

 If you look at, a distorted mirror, you get a distorted image, . . . of yourself.

Growing up, the adults, in your life, . . . were mirrors. You tended to accept, whatever they said, as the truth. If they said things like, "You're never, going to amount, to anything", . . you filed that away and tended, to believe it. Or, if they said, "You're not good, . . . You're dumb, . . . Can't you do, anything right?, . ." You filed, all that data, in your mind. Some of you, today, are still acting, on that wrong material, . . . that, incorrect data.

I want us to look at, how God, . . changes, our mind, and helps us, not only see Him, in a new light, . . . but, see ourselves, . . . in a new light. I want us to, look at, . . . God's view, . . . of You. God always, tells you, the truth.

When an adult, was a mirror, in your life, . . . have you ever met, a perfect adult. You have never met, a perfect adult, . . and, as a result, their image of you, . . . was incorrect. Even, some of the good things, they said about you, . . . were incorrect. But, God never, tells a lie, . . . He always, . . . tells the truth.

Today, I want us to look at five things, that God says about you, . . . that are true, . . . because, of His grace. When we finish, today, . . . you will be glad, you came. If you grasp, these five truths, . . . this could be, a life changing day, . . . if you'll not only, understand these five things, . . . but, begin to feel them, and begin to act on, this new data -- you'll be different, . . . radically different. And, you'll be free, . . . from some of those scars, and hidden wounds, . . . that, have been holding you up, in life.

\*\* What does, the Bible say? What does, God say, about me? Because, of God's grace, . . . the Bible says, . . .

**1. I AM, . . . ACCEPTABLE.** That's pretty good, to start off with, because most of us, spend our entire lives, . . . trying to be accepted, by others. We want to be, acceptable, . . . to our parents, to our peers, to our enemies, to people we envy, . . . by total strangers.

Most of us, do not realize, that the drive, to be accepted, . . . is behind many of the things, you do, in life. Your desire, to be accepted, . . . influences, the way you dress, the kind of car you drive, the kind of house you live in, the career you choose, . . . and, many other things. People will do, the craziest things, . . in order to, . . . be accepted. People do, all kinds of crazy things, . . . just, to feel accepted, . . . by somebody.

Remember, as a kid, when you were dared, to do something. It was stupid, . . . but, you went ahead, and did it, anyway. Why? You wanted to fit in, with the crowd. You wanted, to be accepted. Some of you, have got it, in your mind, "If I could, just be perfect, . . . then, everybody would love me. Then, everybody would accept me."

I'm sorry, to tell you this, . . . but, that won't work, either. Even if, you were perfect, people are going to, reject you. The Bible says, Jesus was perfect, . . . yet, He was despised, and rejected, of men. He was rejected, . . by His own people. The problem, is not perfection, . . . the problem, was with them.

Jesus tells us, that this issue, is settled, when we accept, His grace. Romans 15:7 – *"Christ has, accepted you."* Notice, there is, no condition. It doesn't say, "Christ will accept you, if you go to church, every week." It doesn't say, . . . "Christ will accept you, if you promise, . . . to be perfect, . . . if you keep, the Ten Commandments." No, it's unconditional, . . . because, it's based on God's grace, not your performance.

Most of you, have accepted Jesus Christ, into your heart, and life. You've stepped across, the line. You're on, God's side. You've asked God, to bring you into, His family. You've accepted Christ. But, have you ever **realized, . . . that God, . . . has accepted you**?

God has accepted you, just as you are, without any conditions on it, . . . because, of His grace. The Bible says, . . . God, has chosen you. 1 Peter 2:9 – *"You have been chosen, by God himself", . . .* because of, . . . His grace.

Remember as a kid, how good it felt, to be chosen, . . like being chosen, on the right team. Remember at recess, or after school, and two popular kids, are captains of the baseball team, and you're really wanting, to get chosen, . . by the good team. And, you're praying, "Oh, God! Don't let me be, . . . the last person, to be chosen!" You know the bad feeling, of "I'm the last one. I'm, the reject. Everybody else, . . . got chosen, . . . except, me."

Being chosen, does self-esteem, a whole lot of good. I was chosen, . . by my wife. You have no idea, what that means for me, . . . because, you don't know the competition, I had to beat out. It does you good, . . to be chosen, . . . for an award, a promotion, special recognition. The Bible says, you were chosen, . . by God. You are acceptable, by His grace, not because you deserve it, . . . but, because of His grace, toward you.

Some of you grew up, with an unpleasable parent. No matter what you did, it was never, good enough. If you got B's on your report card, . . they wanted A's. If you got A's, they wanted straight A's. If you got straight A's, they wanted you to take, extra-curricular activities, and add that in. No matter, what you did, either they were unwilling, or unable, or something, they just did not give you, the approval, and the acceptance, that you craved.

Some of you, today, are still trying to earn, . . . your parent's acceptance. They may, be dead. They may live, in another state. But, in the back of your mind, you're hearing, . . . "You're never going to, amount to anything." And, you're thinking, "I'm going to, . . . prove them wrong. I'm going to, prove it to them." You're still reacting, . . . toward your parents, . . . rather than, . . . responding to God.

Let me be, honest with you, . . . very frank. If you did not get, your parent's approval, or acceptance, as a child, in all likelihood, . . . you're never, going to get it. It's their problem, . . . not, yours. In all likelihood, they're never, going to say, "I approve, . . . of everything, you do. I accept you, . . . unconditionally."

Even more, important, . . . you don't, need it. You don't need, their approval, . . . to be happy, in life. There are seven billion people, in this world. There are plenty, of other people, . . . who will accept you, and love you, and not judge you, . . . and, not hold a standard, that there's no way, . . . you're going to, live up to. If God accepts you, . . . then, they've got a problem. It's not, . . . your problem.

Psalm 27:10 – *"Even if, my mother and father, forsake me, . . . the Lord, will receive me."* God says, "I accept you." If God accepts me, and you don't, . . . that's your problem. But, God doesn't just, leave it there.

**2. God says, . . . I AM VALUABLE.** I am valuable, . . . because of, His grace. I am valuable. I am worth, something. How much, . . . do you think, . . . you're worth? I'm not talking about, . . . your net worth. I'm talking about, . . . your self-worth. Net worth, and self-worth, . . . have no relationship, whatsoever.

The Bible says, that a man's life, does not consist, of the abundance of things, he possesses. I'm talking about, how much, are you valuable, . . . as a person? You say, "I don't know. How do you judge, the value, . . . of a person?" How do you judge, the value, of anything? There are **two things**, that determine value, in life. One, who owns it. Two, what is somebody, willing to pay, for it. Those two things, create value.

**\*\* First**, the ownership, . . . determines the value, of something. We all know, that something that's owned, by a celebrity, . . . is far more valuable, than something, . . . that's owned, by one of us.

For instance, would a car, . . owned by Elvis, . . sell for more, than your car? How about, a pair of tennis shoes, owned by Michael Jordan, . . . rather than, a pair of, your tennis shoes? Any difference? The fact is, the owner of something, adds value to something, . . . that, is normally, just, common. Who do you, . . . belong to?

1 John 4:4 – *"You belong, to God."* Imagine, your value. When you come to Christ, and say, "I accept, Your gift, of salvation, I accept, Your gift, of grace," . . . and, you step across that line, God puts you, in His family.

All of a sudden, you now, belong, to God. Everyone is created by God, but, everyone does not, belong to God. Only those, who belong to God, . . are those, who choose to say, "God, put me, in Your family", because of my faith, in Christ. But, if you've done that, you belong to God. That means, . . . you're priceless. You're valuable.

Several years ago, one of the oil sheiks, in the middle east, had his daughter, kidnapped. Big headlines, around the world. They put out the sign, that said, "Pay any price, because she's the daughter, . . of the king." You're a, child of God. God says, you're not only acceptable, you are valuable. He owns you. You belong, . . . to Him.

**\*\* Second**, . . . the other thing, that determines value, is what somebody's willing, to pay for it. How much, is your house, worth? It's only worth, whatever somebody's willing, to pay for it. You may have paid $150,000 for your house. But, if somebody else, is only willing, to pay $100,000, . . . guess what, it's worth? $100,000.

If I hold up, a baseball card, and I say, "How much, is this card, worth?" It may be worth five dollars, or, it may be worth five thousand, . . . depending upon, what you're willing, . . . to pay for it. If I hold up, a piece of art, and say, "How valuable, is this piece, of art?" It's worth, . . . whatever, the market, will pay for it.

How much, was paid, . . . for you? 1 Corinthians 7:23 – *"You have been bought, and paid for, by Christ, so you belong to Him."* The greatest ransom, ever paid, . . . was when Jesus Christ, paid for your sins, . . . and, you were bought, with a price, . . . and, God exchanged, His own Son, . . . for you.

God said, "You are valuable, enough, that I will give, My own Son, to die, for you." That's how valuable, you are. If you want to, know your value, . . . look at, the cross. Jesus, with outstretched hands, says, "This, is how valuable, you are." This is how much, . . you matter, to Me. I care, about you. You matter, this much."

When people, say to you, "You're, worthless." They're, dead wrong. They're lying. God says, you matter, this much. Jesus did not, die for junk. He died for you, because, you’re valuable, to Him. Isaiah 43:4 – *"God says, `You are precious, . . . to me.'"* You're not, only acceptable, you're valuable, . . . because of, God's grace.

**3. The Bible tells us, because of God's healing grace, . . . I AM LOVABLE.** That one, sure feels good, . . . when you've had, a broken heart. When you've been rejected, . . . you don't feel, too lovable. When somebody, has rejected you – a girlfriend/boyfriend/husband/wife/parent/whatever -- **you don't, . . . feel lovable**, . . . you feel like, a dufus.

"Nobody, loves me! I'm not, worth anything! I'm not loved, . . . by anybody." You're wrong. Isaiah 54:10 – *"`The mountains and hills, may crumble, but My love for you, will never end,' so says the Lord, who loves you."* God's love, . . . will never end.

\*\*\*\* There are two characteristics, that make God's love, . . . different, from human love:

**1. God's love, . . . is consistent.** It's never, . . going to end. God is not, fickle. God is not, changing His mind, every moment, saying, "I like you," today, . . . and, "Get lost!", tomorrow. God doesn't have, . . . bad hair days.

God is not, . . . unpredictable. Most of us, have experienced, inconsistent love, . . because, we live, with human beings. We're all inconsistent. One lady said, "Growing up, from day to day, I never knew, . . . whether, I'd be hugged, . . . or, slugged. It depended on, the mood, that my mom, was in." We grow up, with inconsistent love. Inconsistent love, . . . produces, insecure children. God says, "My love, is never, going to end, for you."

**2. God's love, . . . is unconditional.** It's not based, . . on performance. It's not based, . . on you, measuring up. As human beings, we try to give unconditional love, . . . to other people, to our children, to our spouses. But, we can't do it, all the time, . . . because, we're imperfect.

We do give, . . . conditional love. We grow up, with conditional love, and we give it, to others. When you say, "I love you, if you love me", . . . that's, a condition -- conditional love. When you say, "I love you, . . . if you'll marry me", . . . that's, conditional love. "I love you, if you meet my needs" -- conditional love.

Obviously, when those needs, stop being met, . . what happens? People, divorce. People leave, each other. Or, when you say, "I love you, because, . .", that's conditional love. "I love you, because, you make me, feel good".

What happens, if they stop, making you, feel good? "I love you, because, you're good looking/you're beautiful." What happens, . . when they lose, their beauty? That's, conditional love. "I love you, because, you're talented." What happens, if tomorrow, . . . you meet somebody, who's more talented? That's, conditional love.

But, God says to you, "I love you, period! No conditions. No qualifiers. Just, in My grace." You don't ever, have to ask, "I wonder if, God's going to love me, tomorrow, . . . or, next week? Did I, pray enough? Did I, do enough, right things? Is God, going to love me now, because I had a quiet time?" His love, is not conditioned upon, . . . your performance. That's, grace. And, we always, get into trouble, . . . when we doubt, God's love.

God says, . . . in Christ, . . . I am acceptable, I am valuable, and I am lovable. Even, when I don't feel, very lovely, . . . He still, loves me. His love, . . . is consistent.

**4. The Bible says, because of His grace, . . . I AM FORGIVABLE.** That's a good one, . . . because, I need that one, a lot. I blow it. I make, mistakes. I am, forgivable.

Joke: Did you hear about the guy, going up to, his cabin. On the way, driving up, he ran out of gas. He got out of his car, but he forgot to put the brake on, and so the car backed over, the cliff. So, he starts walking, up to his cabin. On the way up, the mountain, a storm comes. He got completely soaked, and drenched. He's shivering to the bone, and knows, he's going to get pneumonia. He's feeling, lower and lower. Finally, he sees his cabin, and, as he saw it, lightning struck it, and it caught on fire. He began to cry out, . . . "Why me, God? Why me?"

 And, all of a sudden, he hears this voice, from heaven, "Because, some people, . . . just, tick me off!"

I tell you that joke, because some people, really feel that way, about God. They’re believers, . . . yet, anytime, anything goes wrong, in their life, they think, "God's getting even, with me. He knows, that stupid thing, that I did." And, anything that goes wrong, in their life, . . . they attribute it, to God, . . . getting revenge.

Does God, really do that, with His children? No. Never. Isaiah 43:25 – *"I am the God, who forgives your sins, and I do this, because, . . .* you deserve it. No. That's not, what it says. *"I do this, because of, who I am.*

 It's not based on, your deserving it. It's based on, . . . God is a, forgiving God. Then, He says, *"I will not hold, your sins, against you."* Write down, next to, that verse, . . . "God doesn't, . . . carry grudges."

God does not, carry grudges. He says "I'm not, going to hold your sins, against you." If you have received, the grace of Jesus Christ, and made Him number one in your life, He says, "I'm not, going to hold your sins, against you. There is no condemnation, . . for those, who are in, Christ Jesus." Some people think, . . . God is mad, at them, all the time.

Once, there was this Pastor: He said, there's a lady in his church, and she's a whiner. She whines, all the time. Every week, she tells him about something, she's felt guilty about. "This week, pastor, God really convicted me about, . . .", and she names, whatever she feels bad about, that week. She was doing this, week after week, every Sunday, after church. One day he said, "Does God ever, . . . say anything, nice, to you?"

I want to ask you, . . that question. Does God, ever say anything, nice, to you? Some of you, . . . all you hear, is God saying, "Not, good enough! You blew it, again. Not, good enough." That's, not God. That’s, the enemy. Or, you're playing an old tape, of an unpleasable parent, who was saying, . . . "You're not, cutting it."

You've taken an image, of an imperfect parent, and you've put it on God, and you've made God, an unpleasable parent. That's wrong. God says, "I wipe it out. You're forgiven. When you come, to Christ, you're forgiven."

Ephesians 1:4 – *"Through, what Christ, would do for us, God decided, to make us holy, in His eyes, without a single fault, we stand before Him, covered, with His love."*  When you say, "Jesus Christ, I accept, what You did for me, on the cross, and I want You, to be number one, in my life," . . . you are covered, with His love.

What a verse, that is! It says, He decided to make us, . . **without**, . . a single fault. Before, you were even born, God knew, . . . every stupid thing, you were going to do. And, He still made you, and He still loves you, and, He still cares about you. He knew it. He's a, . . . gracious God.

The Bible says, when we give our lives, to Christ, He forgives our sin, . . . because, Jesus paid, for all our sins, on the cross. When Jesus died, on the cross, . . . which sins, did He die for? All of them. That, not only means, the sins you've already committed, but, it also includes the ones, you don't even know, you're going to do, yet.

God doesn't go around, trying to get even, trying to get revenge, trying to get back, at His children, because, all that punishment, was paid for, on the cross. If Jesus paid your punishment, you don't have to pay for it yourself.

 The good news is, when I receive Christ, into my life, all my sins, are wiped out -- including the ones, . . for the rest of my life. And, . . . that's grace.

**5. God says, with Christ in my life, . . . I AM CAPABLE.** It doesn't matter, if other people say, . . . "You'll never, amount to anything," . . . the Bible says, with Christ, I am capable. And, that's the truth! Philippians 4:13 – *"I have strength, for all things, in Christ, who empowers me. I am ready for anything, and equal to anything, through Him, who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self sufficient, in Christ's sufficiency."*

Every week, we hear -- the moaning, the epidemic of low self esteem, . . . in our culture. Studies, have shown that the #1, emotional need of women, is low self-esteem. No wonder, look at the way, we live. We try to live, without God, in our lives. We try to be, our own god. We do whatever we want to do, whether it's right or not. Of course, we're going to have, low self-esteem. We put other things, number one, in our life, that shouldn't be.

Any time, . . . any thing, besides God, is number one, in your life, . . you're going to be plagued, with insecurity. For genuine security in life, you have to have something, that's number one in your life, . . . that cannot, be **taken away, . . . from you**.

If you base your security, on how much money you've got, . . that can be taken away. If you base your security, on your status, and your image, that can be taken away. If you base your security, in life, on how good looking you are, . . . I hate to tell you this, but you're going to lose, your good looks. If you base your security, on your husband, or your children, or anybody else, in life, except Christ, you can lose, all those things.

You must have security, in something, that can never, be taken from you. There's only one thing, that, fits that bill. A relationship, to your creator God, to His Son, Jesus Christ. That, can never, be taken, from you. Then, if you lose everything else, . . . including, your health, . . . you still have, . . . your security.

You’ve got, all these things, all these possessions, . . yet, inside, you still feel, insecure. Why? Because, you're putting your security, in the wrong thing, . . . and, number two, . . . you're still playing, those old tapes. You're still listening, . . . to the voices, of your past, that say, "You're never, going to amount, to much. You really blew it. You're not, very smart.", . . . and, on and on. They're dead wrong! They’re lying!

How do you reverse, this untruth? When somebody's said something to you, that's stuck with you all your life, how do you, reverse it? **By listening, . . . to the truth**. By filling your mind, with what God says, about you.

There's a scale in your mind, . . and, you've heard all these negative things, about yourself, all this time. You've got to start putting pebbles, on the other side. The more you put, God's truth, on the other side, . . pretty soon, the scales are going to balance, . . . and, then, they're going to tip, in favor, . . . of the truth, . . and, the depression, and the hurt, and the pain, and the scars, . . . are going to, . . . be removed.

1 Peter 2:10 – *"Once, you were less, than nothing; now, you are, God's own."* When you fill your mind, . . with the truth of God, . . . then, Romans 15:13, will be true, in your life, *"May the God of hope, fill you with joy, that by the power, of the Holy Spirit, . . . your whole life, and outlook, may be radiant, with hope."*

God wants to fill your life, . . . with the radiance, of hope. In Christ, . . . you are, worthwhile.

Some of you, have had a major hurt, in your life. You've carried scars, hidden wounds, the pain of rejection, in your life, . . . from somebody, you considered important. I'm sorry, for your pain. And, God hurts, . . with you.

There's a church family, . . that, cares about it. If you don't have a church home, . . . we invite you, to become a part of us, and find help, help in healing, and hope, and another chance, to form some new tapes, in your mind.

You can be healed, . . . of a broken heart. If you will open your life, to the grace of God, and the power of Jesus Christ, . . . and, accept, what He says about you, . . . and, begin a relationship, with Him. Then, take the Word of God, . . . and, begin, to fill your mind, with it.

My homework, for you, this week: Take this outline, and cut it up, in five parts, five points. Every day, review, what God says, . . . about you. Study after study, has shown, . . . that your self-esteem, your self-worth, tends to be defined, by what you think, . . . the most important person, in your life, . . . thinks about you.

To a large degree, the way you see yourself, and the way you feel about yourself, is determined by, . . what you think, the most important person in your life, . . . thinks about you. If that's true, I want to suggest, that you make Jesus Christ, . . . the most important person, . . . in your life.

He says, you are acceptable, and valuable, and lovable, and forgivable, and capable. The bottom line is, who are you, going to believe? Somebody else, . . . or, what, God says. It's, your choice. You can believe, what other people say about you, which are not true, and imperfect, and distorted mirrors, or are you going to hold your life up, to the mirror of God's Word, and His truth, and say what He says about you, . . . by His grace.

“Healing Grace”, Good News About Grace, Part 4 of 7

Ps. 147:3 – *"God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."*

**How Does God Heal A Broken Heart?**

**BY CHANGING \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Romans 12:2 – *"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."*

**HOW GOD SEES ME BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE**

**1. I AM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Romans 15:7 – *"... Christ has accepted you."*

 1 Peter 2:9 – *"You have been chosen by God Himself."*

 *Psalms 27:10 – "Even if my mother and father forsake me, the Lord will receive me."*

**2. I AM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1 John 4:4 – *"You belong to God . . ."*

1 Corinthians 7:23 – *"You have been bought and paid for by Christ so you belong to Him . . ."*

Isaiah 43:4 – *"God says, `You are precious to Me.'"*

**3. I AM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Isaiah 54:10 – *"The mountains and hills may crumble but My love for you will never end; so says the Lord who loves you."*

**4. I AM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Isaiah 43:25 – *"I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you."*

Ephesians 1:4 – *". . . Through what Christ would do for us, God decided to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault -- we stand before Him covered with His love."*

**5. I AM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Philippians 4:13 – *"I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me -- I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self- sufficient in Christ's sufficiency!"*

2 Peter 2:10 – *"Once you were less than nothing; now you are God's own!"*

Romans 15:13 – *"May the God of hope fill you with joy . . . that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope."*