

KEY BIBLICAL PASSAGES

Psalm 42:1-2, 5, 7

*As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; Why are you in despair, my soul?
And why are you restless within me?*

Deep calls to deep.

He is our MERCIFUL SAVIOR. We are downcast sheep.

*Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36-37 * For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

He is our GENTLE TEACHER. We are His teachable disciples.

*And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:13-14 * Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6*

He is our GRACIOUS MASTER. We are His grateful bond-servants.

And The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

(We tend to stop here, but . . . Just keep swimming . . . Just keep swimming . . .)

He is our LOVING FATHER/GROOM. We are His beloved family.

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15-17 * For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32*

He is our FRUITFUL ONENESS. We are new creations in Christ.

*I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 * Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 * The mystery which had been hidden from the past ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints ... is Christ in you, the hope of glory ... so that we may present every person complete in Christ ... For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 1:26-28; 3:3*

AN INVITATION TO

The Deeper Dive of a Life in Christ

"Deep calls to deep." Psalm 42:7



Is Christianity or being a Christian all about:

Trying to be a good person? **No.** | Obeying religious rules? **No.**
Practicing religious rituals? **No.** | Keeping religious morals? **No.**

*Instead of a **pushy religion**, it's about a **personal relationship**
with **Jesus Christ**, as He draws us to a deeper dive in Him.*



***Biblical salvation** is like diving into the sea of **Jesus himself**
for a wondrously deeper swim of discovering how **He is our:***



MERCIFUL SAVIOR. We are downcast sheep.

He offers us His gift of salvation. (Matthew 9:36-37; Ephesians 2:8-9)



GENTLE TEACHER. We are His teachable disciples.

He changes us with His truth and ways. (Mark 10:13-14; John 14:6)



GRACIOUS MASTER. We are His grateful bond-servants.

He let's us serve and trust Him. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

(We tend to stop here, but . . . Just keep swimming . . . Just keep swimming . . .)



LOVING FATHER/GROOM. We are His beloved family.

He loves us more than we imagine. (Rom. 8:15-17; Eph. 5:31-32)



FRUITFUL ONENESS. We are new creations in Christ.

*He bonds with us in the mystery of union.
(John 15:5; Colossians 1:26-28; 3:3)*

The Deeper Dive of a Life in Christ

There is a wondrous mystery about what happens when we ask Jesus Christ to “save” us, He says “I will,” and we become His “born-again child” or “covenant bride.” It unfolds in layers of awareness and experience, like the depths of the sea, and while the depths are progressive, we never leave those waters behind. Rather, they become an amazingly and mysteriously cumulative experience!

***It all starts by diving into the sea of salvation
in Jesus Christ to swim deep into Him as our . . .***

1. MERCIFUL SAVIOR. We are downcast sheep.

Matthew 9:36 tells us that with “eyes of compassion,” Jesus sees us like “downcast” or upside down sheep, unable to get right side up, and destined to die unless we are rescued by a merciful shepherd or savior... **IF** we ask Him. He will never force His rescue on us. If in our blinding pride we do not see ourselves as sinfully upside down and continue to believe the illusion that we have our lives under control (2 Timothy 2:24-26), we are doomed. But if we repent (a change of mind or heart) and see our desperate state; ask Him to forgive our sin and save us, HE WILL! Then our grand adventure of swimming in His depths unto eternal life lies ahead as we discover that He is also our...

2. GENTLE TEACHER. We are His teachable disciples.

Matthew 11:28-23 tells us that Jesus said: “Come to me all who are weary. . . I will give you rest. . . Learn from me for I am gentle in heart.” As new babes in Christ, Scripture says we first need the “milk” and later the “meat” of His Word as He continues to draw us closer unto Himself. Just as He did with His disciples, He walks and talks with us as our Rabbi or teacher with remarkably gentle authority. The mark of a true disciple or follower, is a continual thirst to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. But even deeper, He is also our. . .

“The mystery, which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints . . . is Christ in you, the hope of glory . . . so that we may present every man complete in Christ . . . For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 1:26-28; 3:3)

3. GRACIOUS MASTER. We are His grateful bond-servants.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 tells us how to walk in the spirit of a “bond-servant,” like Jesus did, being “kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged... with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition.” He is not a harsh taskmaster of purchased slaves, He is a gracious master of grateful “bond-servants” who voluntarily stay to serve in their master’s home or the court of their King, rather than try to build a puny kingdom of their own. And though serving our Lord is a wonderful thing, He still draws us to swim deeper to experience Him as our . . .

(We tend to stop here, but . . . Just keep swimming . . . Just keep swimming . . .)

4. LOVING FATHER/GROOM. We are His beloved family.

With Romans 8:15-17 highlighting our “Abba” Father, and Ephesians 5:31-32 spotlighting Jesus as our bridegroom, it is clear that the depths of His love for us is as His precious children and/or His treasured bride. Warts and all! The more we receive His unwavering love and embracing intimacy, the more our lives will take on a whole new depth and color. “*This mystery is great,*” Paul writes, but there is still a deeper, final mystery to keep swimming for to discover Him as our. . .

5. FRUITFUL ONENESS. We are new creations in Christ!

John 15:5 tells us that Jesus said “he who abides in Me bears much fruit,” and prayed in John 17 that the Father would make us “one” in interwoven “unity.” Colossians 1:26-28 and 3:3 calls this a “*formerly hidden mystery,*” which is: “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” The first four depths in the progression above may make the Lord seem up there, over there, or right here. But being *inhabited* and *interwoven* as ONE with God in Christ is the ultimate reality, **in** here.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says this makes us “*new creations in Christ*” where “*old things have passed away, and all things have become new*” so that Jesus Himself can live and express Himself through us. Yes, this hard to grasp. Infinite mysteries should be. But this is who we are in Christ, in unbreakable union with Him as He loves and lives through us!