

Fiercely
LOVED

**GOD'S WILD
THOUGHTS
ABOUT YOU**

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© 2022 by Lisa Bevere

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ONE

FIERCELY LOVED

For love is strong as death.

Song of Solomon 8:6

*F*iercely Loved. Did the title quicken a spark of hope within you? Or did you immediately disqualify yourself from such an intense promise?

Either way, a deep knowing that you are fiercely loved is vital. Because it changes everything.

You see, there is nothing passive or indifferent when it comes to how your Creator feels about you. We've all heard the phrase "Jesus loves you" so many times that it has become white noise. But when was the last time you felt his love wash over you and lift you when you thought you least deserved it? His love is not just words; it is life. A love that is larger, wilder, and more dangerous than anything we've ever known or experienced. A love far vaster than the sum of all expressions of human love. God doesn't *have* love for you. He *is* love for you. He is not merely *in* love with you. You are immersed in his love. And once it touches you . . . you are never the same.

His love consumes and refines even as it comforts and restores.

I understand that by attaching *fiercely* to *loved*, I added a measure of danger, making it sound as though this love would threaten to consume the objects of its affection. Understandably, this pairing of *fierce* and *love* is a wild and rare one. At a bare minimum, this type of love would leave its mark on us. We glimpse this coupling in this poetic verse:

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the LORD. (Song of Sol. 8:6)

Love *as strong as death* and jealousy *as fierce as the grave* are beyond any human's capacity to maintain. A love of this type of intensity can be ascribed only to the One who first made us, then gave his all to prove his love for us. But don't imagine that my use of the word *us* means that this love is fractured and fragmented into lesser individual pieces. His love is all-consuming and indivisible.

[*I am fiercely loved.*]

TWO

ALWAYS IN GOD'S THOUGHTS

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

Psalm 139:17-18

Now, let's talk about those thoughts. "Your thoughts" here refers to our Father's thoughts. It's true that God Most High has ideas about you that are so rare and beautiful they are outside our human comprehension. What is he thinking? Thoughts of love. Thoughts of joy. Thoughts of peace. Thoughts of grace. Thoughts of mercy. Thoughts of creation. Thoughts of goodness. Thoughts of care.

Not only are these thoughts precious; they are innumerable. The task of beginning to number God's thoughts is just as impossible as counting the sands of the seas. His thoughts never leave us; they are as constant as his love. Fiercely loved one, you have always been, you are, and you will always be on his mind.

And yet we rarely imagine that we are seen this way. These thoughts are the very antithesis of how we've learned to see ourselves. I was raised to believe that God was distant and disappointed. But in David's words, we hear something unexpected; we hear wonder. David reveled in the wild truth that God actually treasured him. Alone in the wilderness, David had come to know the Most High as an intimate friend and confidant, someone who loved him and loved being with him.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him? (Ps. 8:3–4)

Beholding the wonder, David pondered why God would notice him. God's thoughts are always about his largeness rather than our smallness. Our Father has never been disappointed by the thought of you. You are his idea. He created you. He loves you. He gave his Son to redeem you because you are always on his mind.

*I believe my Father's thoughts
toward me are wildly wonderful.*

THREE

WILD ABOUT YOU

Be here—the king is wild for you. Since he's your lord, adore him.

Psalm 45:11 Message

I pray this verse challenges the way you think God thinks about you. Lovely one, don't be afraid; only believe this sentiment is for you and be present. The God who is truth cannot lie. He is wild about you . . . and that doesn't make him crazy. But you'd be crazy not to accept his gift of fierce love. As a daughter of your Lord, you are under his rule. His rule is love. One way you can honor his lordship is by choosing to accept how he feels about you. His love for you is not subject to how you feel about yourself. His love is selfless. He is love. His love is independent of how we look, feel, or act. We might as well surrender to this love that is beyond our comprehension.

Did you wonder why I chose the word *wild* to describe God's thoughts about you? Let's examine some of the adjectives that describe the term *wild*: exciting, thrilling, enthusiastic, wind-swept, untamed, uncontrollable, fierce, outrageous, unmanageable, unconventional, and reckless.

Let's pause and ponder the application of these descriptors.

The revelation that the God who is love loves you is exciting. If you are bored with the idea that God loves you, it's because you've heard it but never experienced it.

This realization that he constantly thinks of you is thrilling and should awaken a fresh enthusiasm in every aspect of your walk with the Father. The combined imagery of being untamed, uncontrollable, fierce, outrageous, unmanageable, unconventional, and reckless flies in the face of every sedated man-made religion. It reminds me of a quote about Aslan from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*: "He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion."*

The God Most High, Creator of the heavens and earth, is not a manageable deity that we control or manipulate. Nor is God a man that he should lie (see Num. 23:19). He means what he has said about you. His heart is set on you, and nothing you do or say can remove his seal of love from you. In Christ, his love is forever settled. It is now time for you to settle it for yourself.

[*God is wild for me,
and I adore him for it.*]


* C. S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 168.

FOUR

THE GOD WHO HOVERS

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

ur God is the Creator. When the earth was held captive and its wonder buried by fathoms of darkness that made it a formless void, God drew near. The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the shadowed globe.

Let's pause with this idea of hovering. *Rachaf* is the Hebrew word meaning to hover, and it is best translated as "to linger or to float in a manner that is at once gentle and cherishing." I can't help but envision the tenderness of a mother as she pauses over the bed of her beloved child tossing fretfully in the throes of a nightmare. The mother whispers words of comfort to pull her child from darkness's grasp: "I am here. Wake up; it is only a bad dream."

Perhaps you find yourself in the grip of shadowed fears that have made your life feel void of purpose. What once was clear now looms before you unclear and formless. I have good news for you. Our Creator didn't just hover; he spoke.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

I believe God is speaking light into any and every formless, void space in your life. Your Creator speaks to what could be, what should be in your life.

The Spirit of God still hovers. He is as close as your breath and longs to gather you close and whisper light and love. You belong to him. He is the one who heals your brokenness and fulfills your deepest need for intimacy. Whatever chaos is swirling in you, God is hovering and ready to speak life and light over you. Fiercely loved one, invite the Spirit of God to speak light into every shadowed, formless space.

*The Spirit of God is near,
speaking life and light over me.*

FIVE

WHO YOU ARE

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

God calls each of us by name, not by a group label. Knowing *who you are* is vastly more important than knowing where you are going or even what you can do. Because he is your Creator, God has quite a bit to say to you about who you are. And who you truly are carries within it the revelation of what you could be.

We cannot afford to doubt our God-assigned, unique destiny. If we do, we will undermine with hesitancy, fear, or anger all that has been entrusted to us. God wants to redeem, restore, and change your identity so that there is no incident, season, or name from your past left to define you. Yes, seasons, criticisms, and events can refine you—they have the potential to shape the mettle of your life—but they are not the substance of your life . . . God is.

You were sincerely sought because you are uniquely loved and you are a unique expression of God's love to others. All that your identity as a child of

God means is just beginning to be expressed as you become who he created you to be. In times of great confusion, Hebrews 12:2 tells us to “[look] unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” (KJV).

In a world in which everyone is trying to discover or remake themselves, he is finishing what he authored. This is your invitation to pursue him . . . that he might reveal you!

— It's wild that I am named rather than labeled. —

What you have and what you do and who surrounds you can change, but it is vitally important that you never lose who you are or the Creator to whom you belong.

SIX

CHOSEN

For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son.

Romans 8:29 TPT

You were known and loved before you ever came to be. God was proud of you before you ever knew he existed.

You were not chosen the day you turned to Christ—that is the day you chose. No, my friend, you were chosen in Christ long before the fountains of the deep were formed. You were formed in Christ so that, through the power of transformation, he might be formed in you. You came alive to this truth the day you were born again. Through the death of God’s Son, love not only rescued you but also restored you to his initial hope.

Not only are you fiercely loved now, but the foreordained day is coming when you will see him and realize his love has made you look like him! It is his love that transforms you from who you were to who you were always meant to be. No one can keep this kind of love quiet!

You can be secure in this love because God wrapped you in the unstained innocence of Christ long before Adam and Eve had the chance to strip themselves of light and truth and robe themselves in the serpent's shrouds of sin and death. Revelation 13:8 tells us that Jesus was the Lamb slain before the earth was founded. You are not an add-on, an afterthought, or someone who was included at the last minute. You have *always* been welcome.

[*It is wild that before I chose God,
I'd been chosen.*]

We did not happen to be—we were
chosen by God to exist.

—Mother Angelica

SEVEN

BELONGING

Look with wonder at the depth of the Father's marvelous love that he has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own *beloved* children.

1 John 3:1 TPT

To know who you are, I don't need to know who you hang around with. I don't need the name of your parents, school, or employer. I want to know the name of the One who gave his life to purchase you. And yet you are missing out on so much if you imagine the reach of his sacrifice stops there. When he found you, he didn't brush you off and put you back where you were before. He raised you and graced you with his righteousness.

Say it now, even if it is but a whisper of your heart: *I am his and he is mine.*

Your eternal Father is the only one who has the right to define you. Your mother conceived, carried, and cared for you, but your heavenly Father conceptualized, created, and spoke you into existence. When you were lost, he redeemed you so he could once again call you his own. The day will come

when time as we know it will end; then he will regenerate each of us, and we will realize this earth life was but a seed, and there in heaven we will blossom into our truest form.

I don't know where life has you right now, but please understand that locations, seasons, and circumstances are constantly changing. What really matters in the midst of all the ebb and flow is who you are and to whom you belong.

*I cannot help but marvel at his wild,
fierce love for me.*

**Your heavenly Father conceptualized,
created, and spoke you into existence.**