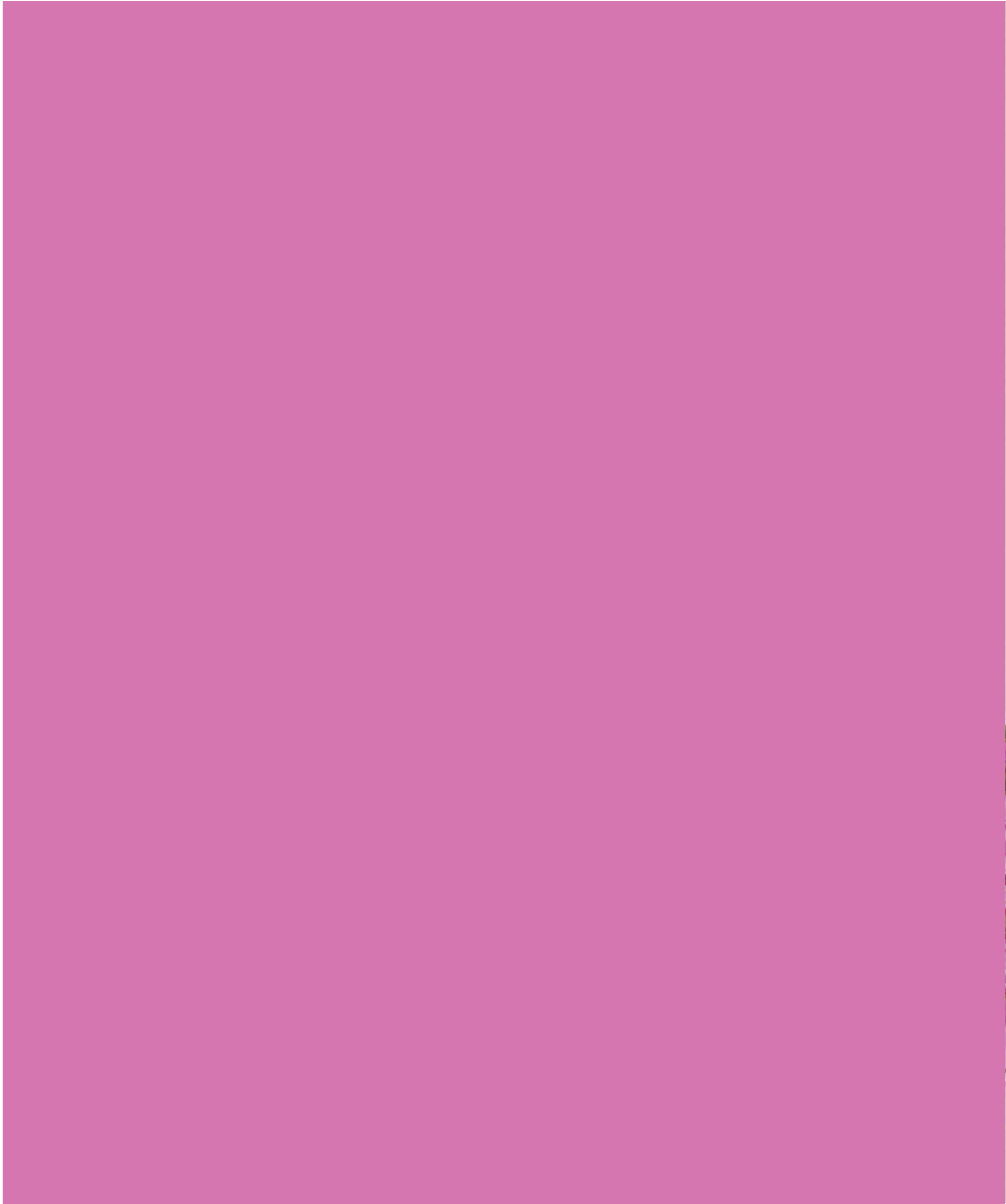


Presented to:

From:

Date:







Jesus Calling[®]
FOR
Easter

Sarah Young



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

Jesus Calling for Easter

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Dear Reader,


I believe the message of hope is extremely important at this time—for people throughout the US and around the world. May the pages of this book help you enjoy both the refreshing beauty of springtime and the wondrous glory of Jesus' supreme sacrifice on the cross. He paid the penalty for all the sins of everyone who trusts Him as Savior. So we can know that we are fully forgiven and that ultimately our story finishes well—at the portals of heaven! As we celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection, let us be assured that God is in control and He is good.

The devotions in this book are written from the perspective of Jesus speaking to you, the reader. I have included Scripture with each devotion, and I encourage you to read both—slowly and prayerfully.

I will be praying for readers of *Jesus Calling for Easter*. For any of you who do not yet know Jesus as Savior, I'll be asking God to bring you into His family of believers.


Remember that Jesus is with you at all times. May you enjoy His presence and His peace in ever-increasing measure.

Sarah Young



I am *overwhelmed* with joy in
the LORD my God! For he has
dressed me with the clothing
of salvation and draped me
in a robe of *righteousness*.
I am like a bridegroom
dressed for his wedding or
a bride with her *jewels*.

—ISAIAH 61:10 NLT

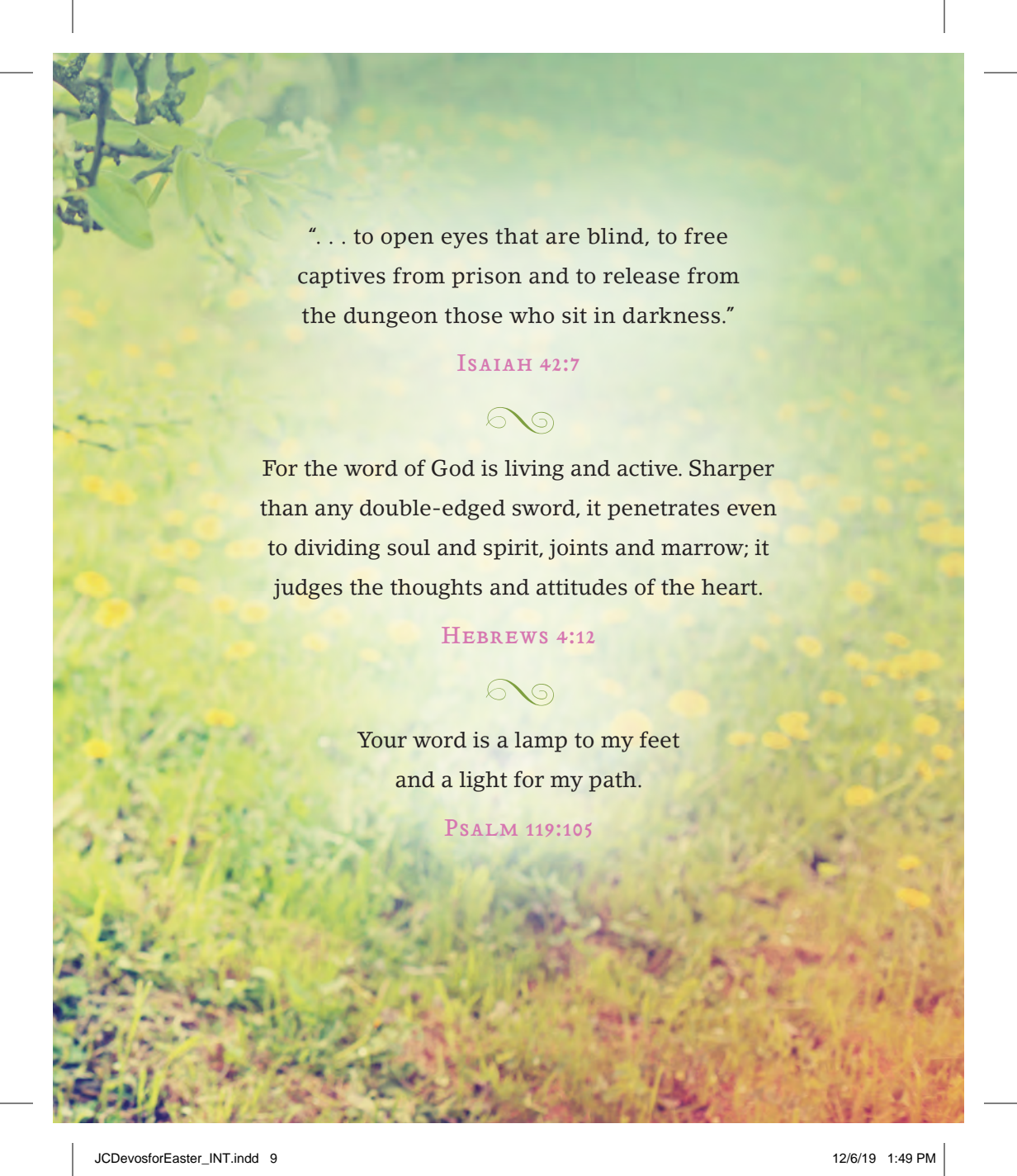


J DELIGHT IN BRIGHTENING your perspective. That's why I ventured into your world, knowing full well the terrible price I would pay. I came *to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness*. When you find yourself imprisoned by ingratitude, ask Me to open your eyes and release you from that dark place.

You live in an age of entitlement, so you need to counteract the messages proclaiming that you deserve more. One way is to jot down some things you're thankful for each day. This changes your focus from things you wish you had to blessings you already have.

Saturating your mind with Scripture can help you see from My infinitely wise perspective. My Word is *sharper than any double-edged sword*; I use it to perform spiritual surgery on *the thoughts and attitudes of your heart*. As Scripture lights up your point of view, I set you free from the dungeon of ingratitude, releasing you to enjoy the pleasures of a thankful heart.





“. . . to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

ISAIAH 42:7



For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

HEBREWS 4:12



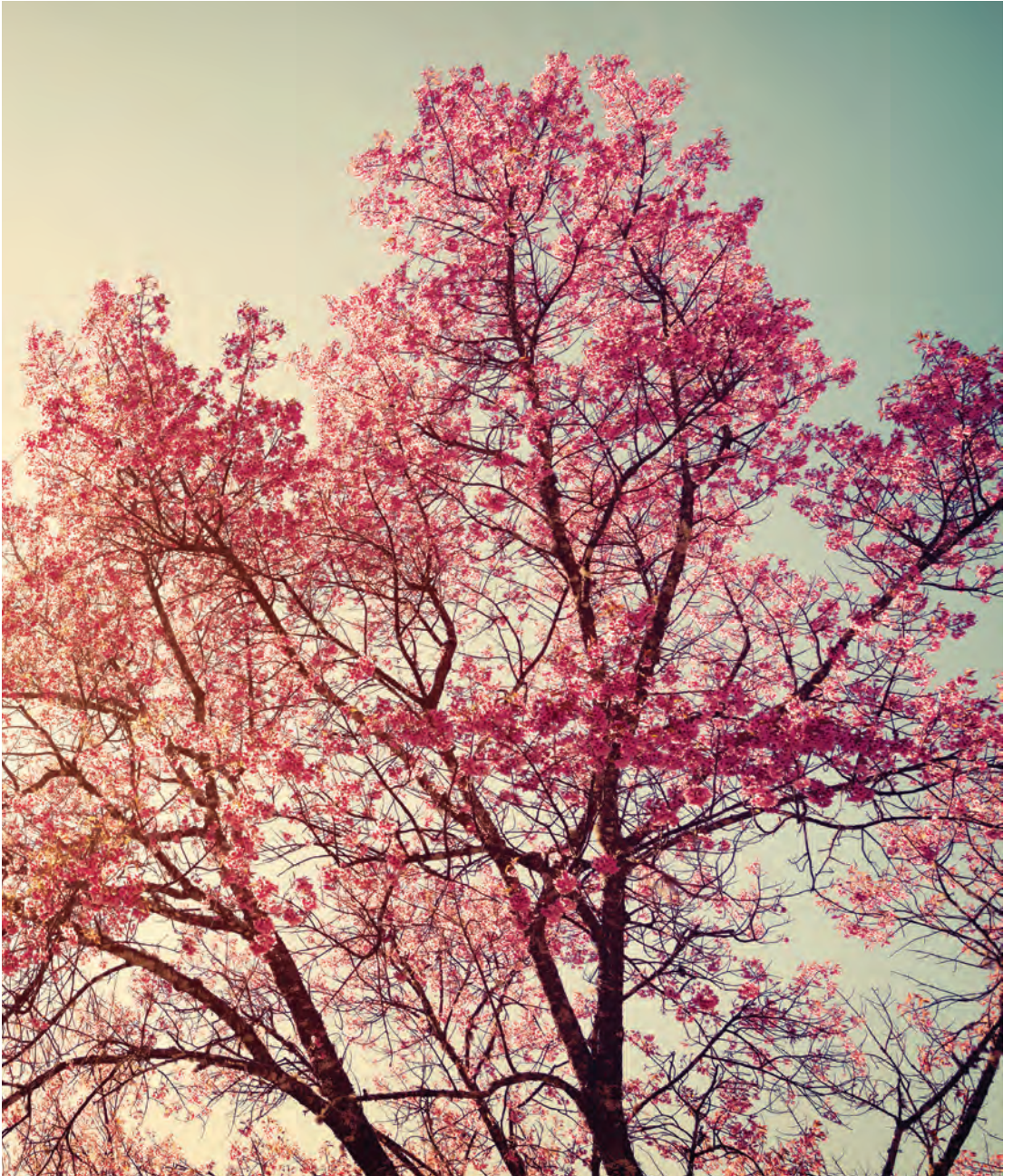
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.


PSALM 119:105

You have made *known* to me the
path of life; you will *fill* me with
joy in your presence, with eternal
pleasures at your right hand.

PSALM 16:11






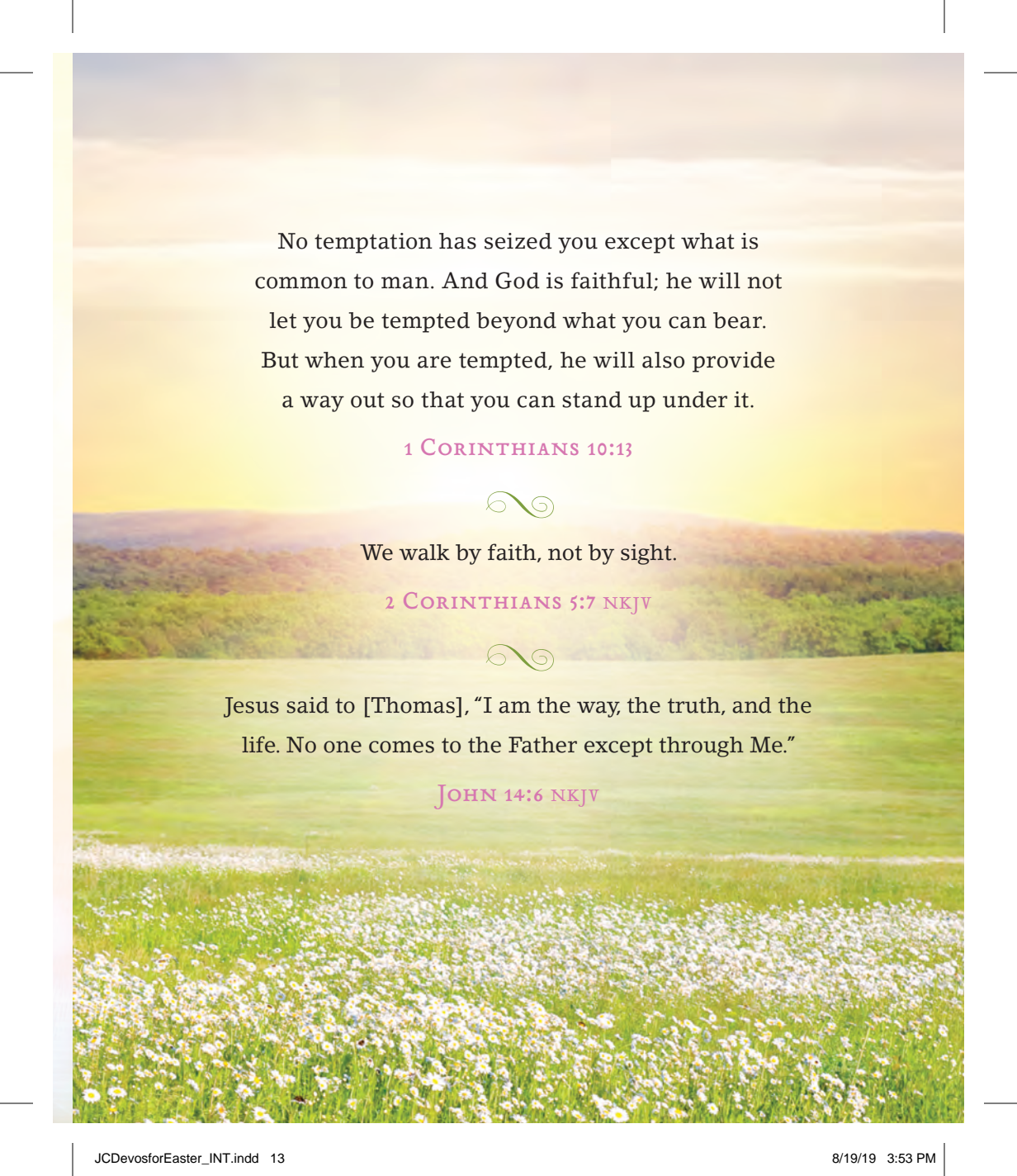


*T*HERE IS AN OPEN ROAD AHEAD OF YOU—all the way to heaven. I am your traveling Companion, and I know every twist and turn of your path. You see problems and limitations impeding your progress no matter which direction you look. But your vision is ever so limited. All I ask of you is to take the next small step—refusing to give up, refusing to stop trusting Me.

Your life is truly a faith-walk, and I am absolutely faithful! Though your understanding will fail you, I never will. The challenge before you is to stop focusing on your problems and limitations—and to believe that the way ahead really is an open road, in spite of how it looks.

I am the Way to the Father in heaven. Remember how much I had to suffer in order to open up *the path of Life* for you. No one else will ever have to endure what I went through. When you are struggling, simply take the next step and thank Me for clearing the way before you—all the way to heaven.





No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13



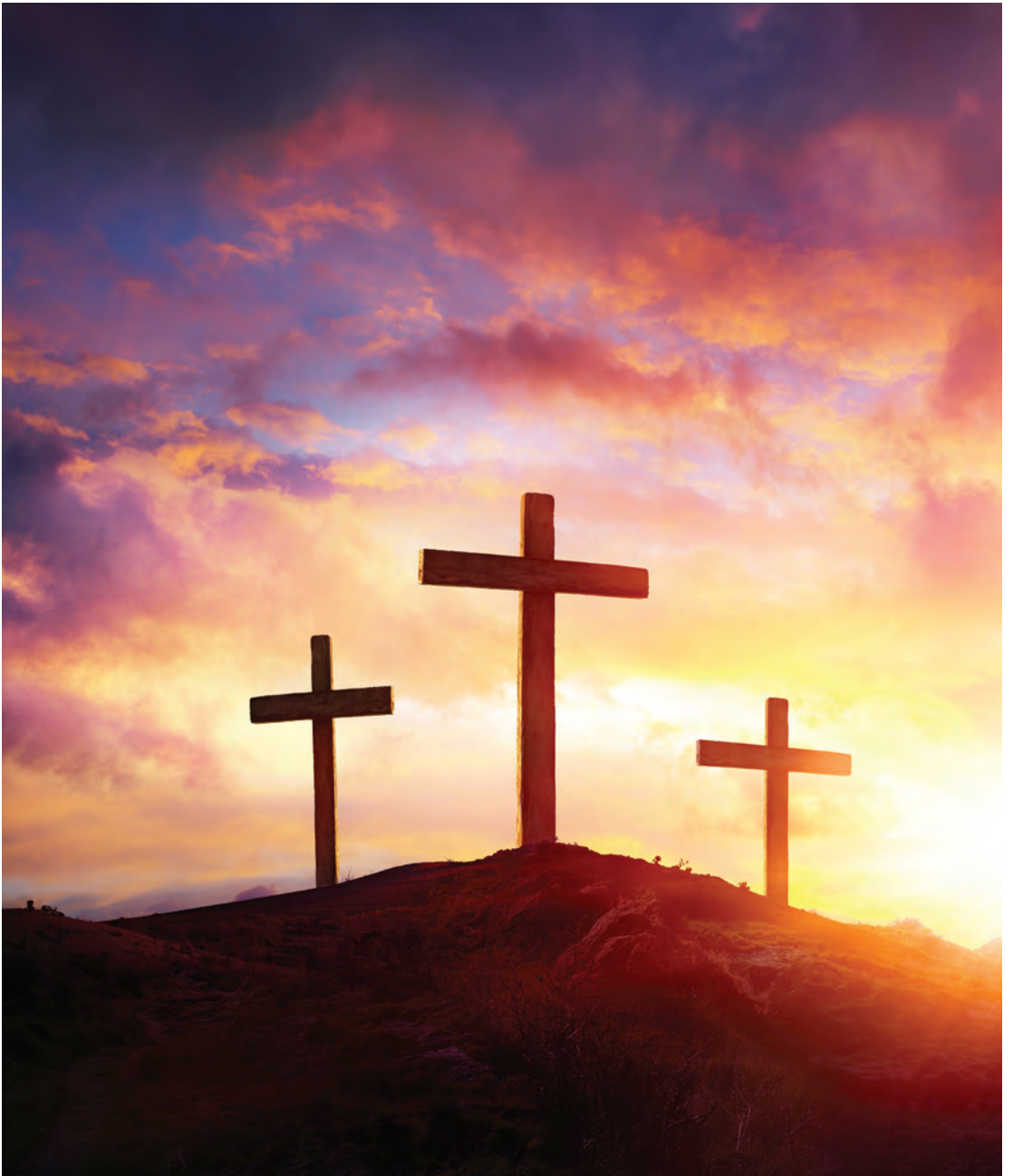
We walk by faith, not by sight.


2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 NKJV



Jesus said to [Thomas], "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."


JOHN 14:6 NKJV






Thanks be to
God for His
indescribable gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NKJV



I WANT YOU TO EXPERIENCE the riches of your salvation: the Joy of being loved constantly and perfectly. You make a practice of judging yourself based on how you look or behave or feel. If you like what you see in the mirror, you feel a bit more worthy of My Love. When things are going smoothly and your performance seems adequate, you find it easier to believe you are My beloved child. When you feel discouraged, you tend to look inward so you can correct whatever is wrong.

Instead of trying to “fix” yourself, *fix your gaze on Me, the Lover of your soul*. Rather than using your energy to judge yourself, redirect it to praising Me. Remember that I see you clothed in My righteousness, radiant in My perfect Love.



In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

EPHESIANS 2:7–8



Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.


HEBREWS 3:1



Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

PSALM 34:5

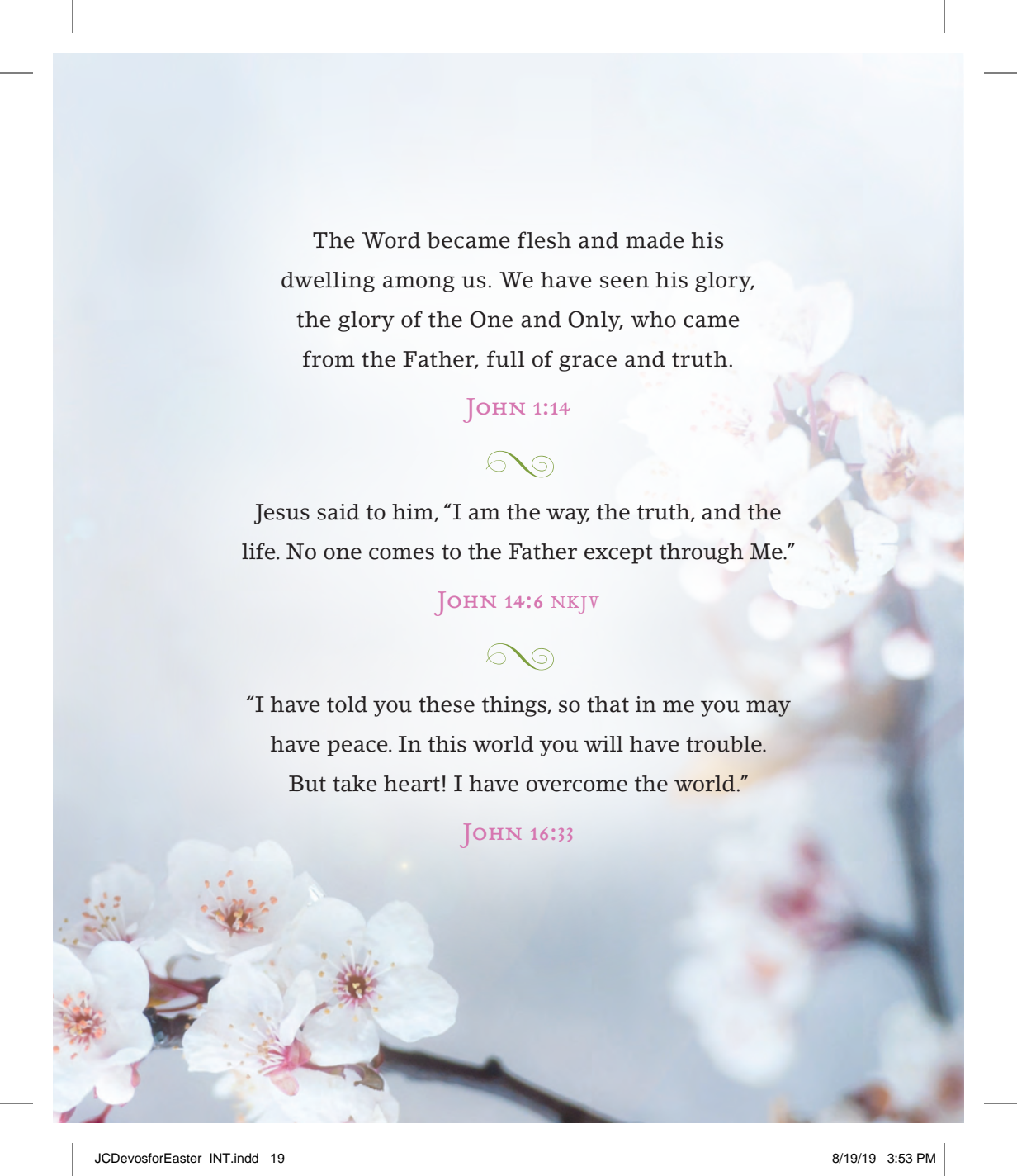




I AM THE ONE AND ONLY who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. I came from Him and I returned to Him because I am God—the second Person of the Trinity.

I entered your world to provide a way for you to have a living, eternal relationship with your Father-God. People who do not know Me have often stated that there are many ways to God. But this claim is absolutely untrue: *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

I come to you, beloved, *full of grace.* Because you have trusted Me to save you from your sins through My sacrificial death on the cross, you have nothing to fear. You don't need to dread failure or performing below expectations. Since I am your Savior—and you cannot save yourself—your security rests in My grace. Rejoice that I am both faithful and sufficient. In spite of all the trouble in this world, *in Me you may have Peace. I have overcome the world!*



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14




Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

JOHN 14:6 NKJV




"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

JOHN 16:33



I am the Lord of Peace. I give you Peace at all times and in every way. There is a deep, gaping hole within you that can be filled only by My peaceful Presence. People who don't know Me try to fill that emptiness in many different ways, or they simply pretend it isn't there. Even My children often fail to recognize the full extent of their need: *at all times* and in every situation. But recognizing your neediness is only half the battle. The other half is to believe I can—and will—supply all you need.

Shortly before My death, I promised Peace to My disciples—and to all who would become My followers. I made it clear that this is a gift: something I provide freely and lovingly. So your responsibility is to *receive* this glorious gift, acknowledging to Me not only your need but also your desire. Then wait expectantly in My Presence, ready to receive My Peace in full measure. If you like, you can express your openness by saying, “Jesus, I receive Your Peace.”



Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16



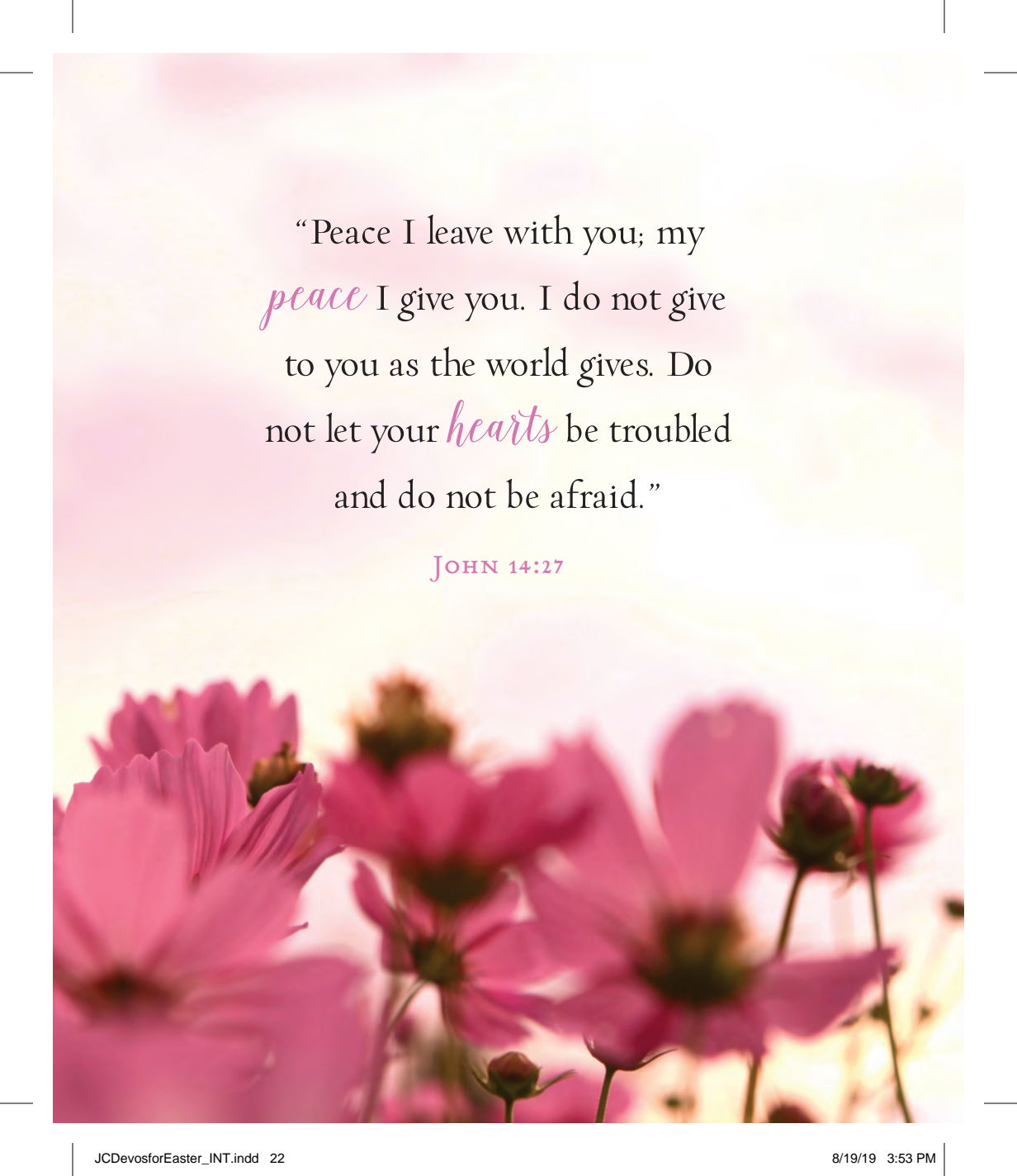
My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NKJV



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

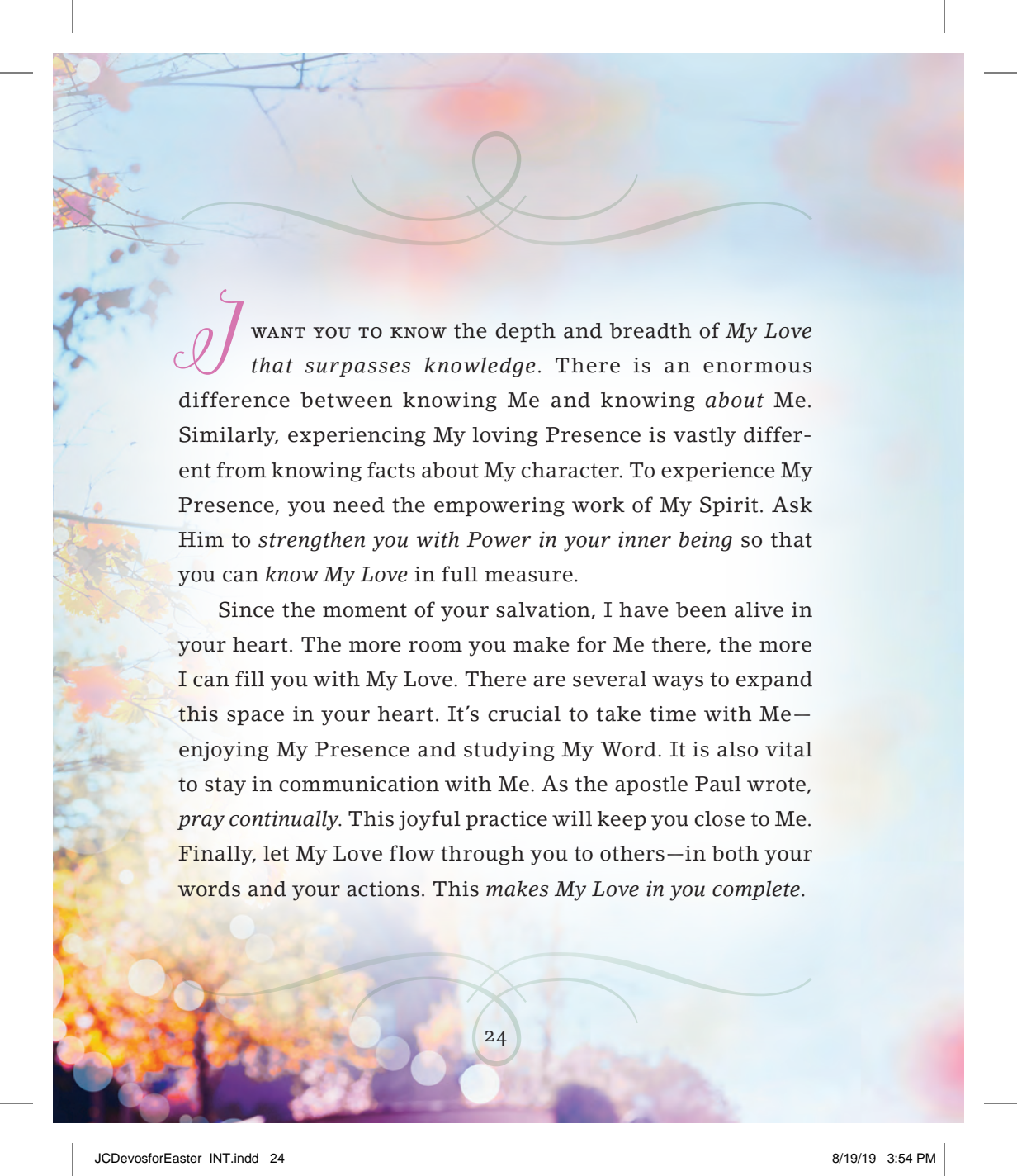
COLOSSIANS 3:15

A soft-focus photograph of pink cosmos flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

“Peace I leave with you; my
peace I give you. I do not give
to you as the world gives. Do
not let your *hearts* be troubled
and do not be afraid.”

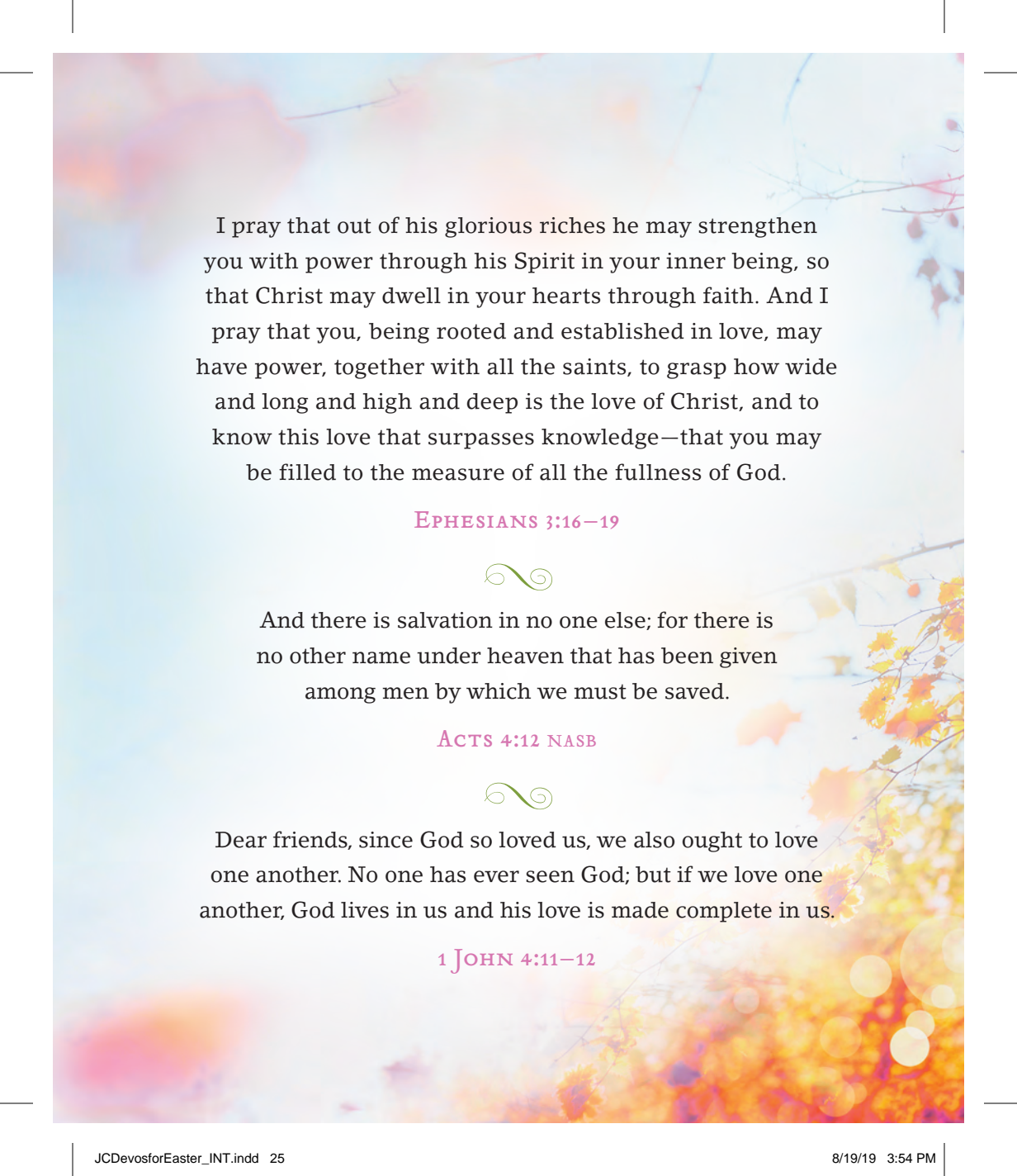
JOHN 14:27





I WANT YOU TO KNOW the depth and breadth of *My Love that surpasses knowledge*. There is an enormous difference between knowing Me and knowing *about* Me. Similarly, experiencing My loving Presence is vastly different from knowing facts about My character. To experience My Presence, you need the empowering work of My Spirit. Ask Him to *strengthen you with Power in your inner being* so that you can *know My Love* in full measure.

Since the moment of your salvation, I have been alive in your heart. The more room you make for Me there, the more I can fill you with My Love. There are several ways to expand this space in your heart. It's crucial to take time with Me—enjoying My Presence and studying My Word. It is also vital to stay in communication with Me. As the apostle Paul wrote, *pray continually*. This joyful practice will keep you close to Me. Finally, let My Love flow through you to others—in both your words and your actions. This *makes My Love in you complete*.



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

EPHESIANS 3:16–19



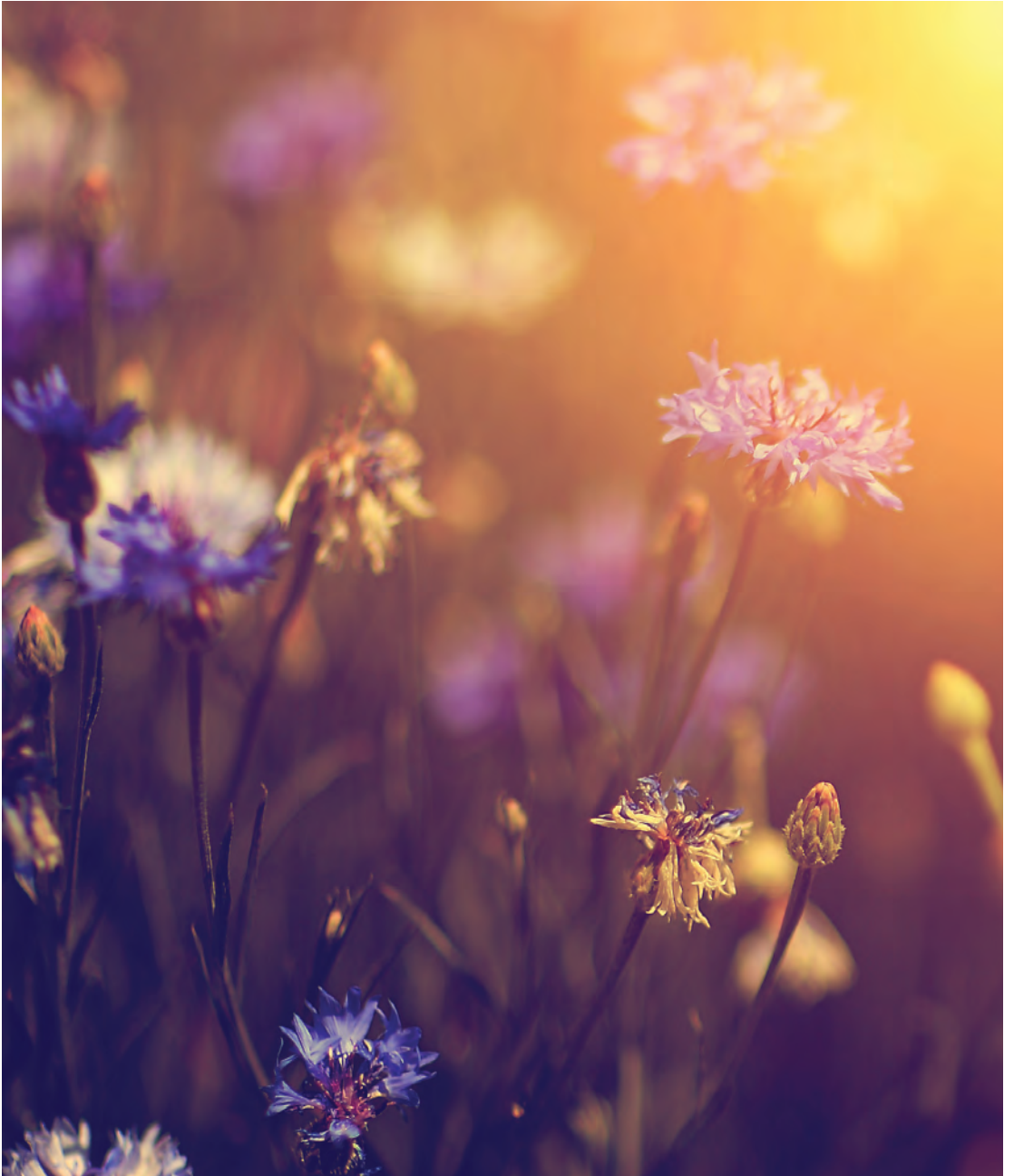
And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

ACTS 4:12 NASB



Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.


1 JOHN 4:11–12





Pray
continually.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



I AM WORTHY of all your confidence, all your trust. So refuse to let world events spook you. Instead, pour your energy into trusting Me and looking for evidence of My Presence in the world. Whisper My Name to reconnect your heart and mind to Me quickly. *I am near to all who call upon Me.* Let Me wrap you up in My abiding Presence and comfort you with My Peace.

Remember that I am both loving and faithful. *My Love reaches to the heavens, My faithfulness to the skies!* This means you can never come to the end of My Love. It is limitless and everlasting. Moreover, you can stand on the Rock of My faithfulness, no matter what circumstances you may be facing.

People routinely put their confidence in their abilities, education, wealth, or appearance. But I urge you to place your confidence fully in Me—the Savior whose sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection opened the way for you into *eternal Glory!*