

# GOD SAYS SO.

Time to redefine...

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April 2021

Spring

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*"I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you are not, I hope you have the strength to start all over again."*

**- F. Scott Fitzgerald**



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*"To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."*

REVELATION 2:17



# For•ti•tude

/'forde,t(y)ood/

*noun*

noun: fortitude

1. mental, emotional and spiritual strength when facing difficulty, adversity, danger or temptation  
courageously:

*Never once did her fortitude waver as she navigated life's challenges.*

When someone has fortitude it means that they have emotional power or reserves and the ability to withstand adversity. People who have fortitude are described in an admiring way for their courage and this word comes from the Latin word fortitudo, meaning "strength."

*Character contributes to beauty. It fortifies a woman as her youth fades. A mode of conduct, a standard of courage, discipline, fortitude and integrity can do a great deal to make a woman beautiful.*

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Have you ever stopped to ask, “What does God think about me? Who does he say that I am?”



## YOU ARE VALUABLE

I am the Creator and you are my creation. I breathed into your nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). I created you in my own image (Genesis 1:27). My eyes saw your unformed substance (Psalm 139:16). I knit you together in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). I know the number of hairs on your head, and before a word is on your tongue I know it (Matthew 10:30; Psalm 139:4). You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

You are more valuable than many sparrows (Matthew 10:31). I have given you dominion over all sheep and oxen and all beasts of the field and birds of the heavens and fish of the sea (Psalm 8:6-8; Genesis 1:26, 28). I have crowned you with glory and honor as the pinnacle and final act of the six days of creation (Psalm 8:5; Genesis 1:26).

However, from the very beginning, you exchanged the truth about me for a lie. You worshiped and served created things rather than me, the Creator (Romans 1:25). You have sinned and fallen short of my glory (Romans 3:23). Just as I said to Adam and Eve, the penalty for your sin is death (Romans 6:23; Genesis 2:17). And in your sin, you were spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). You were children of wrath, living as enemies to me (Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:10). You turned aside from me. You became corrupt. There is none who does good, not even one (Psalm 14:2-3). What you deserve is my righteous judgment (Psalm 7:11-12).

And yet, in my great love, I gave my unique Son, that all those who believe in him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). While you were still sinners, Christ died for you. While you were still hostile toward me, you were reconciled to me by the death of my Son (Romans 5:8, 10). Sin doesn’t have the last word. Grace does (Romans 5:20).

Now everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved (Romans 10:13). You who have believed are born again (1 Peter 1:3). I have adopted you (Ephesians 1:5). You are children of God, heirs of God (1 John 3:2; Romans 8:16-17). You are no longer orphans. You belong to me (John 14:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19). And I love you as a perfect Father (1 John 3:1; Luke 15:20-24).





## YOU ARE NEW

In my eyes, you are a brand new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). Sin is no longer your master, for you died to sin and are now alive to me (Romans 6:11; Ephesians 2:4-5). You are finally free from the slavery of sin and death. There is now no condemnation for you (Romans 8:1-2). All your sins are forgiven (1 John 1:9). All your unrighteousness has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7, 9). You are now righteous in my sight with the very righteousness of my perfect Son (Romans 4:5). You've been saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). You've been justified by faith (Romans 5:1). You are utterly secure in me; nothing will be able to separate you from my love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39). No one is able to snatch you out of my hand (John 10:29). And I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

## YOU HAVE MY SPIRIT

You not only have a new Father, but also a new family of brothers and sisters (Luke 8:21). You are now part of the people of God (1 Peter 2:9). And together the life you now live is by faith in my Son (Galatians 2:20). Look to Jesus. Keep your eyes on him. He is the author and perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:2). Christ is in you by my Spirit, and you are in Christ (John 15:5; Colossians 1:27). Stay close to Jesus. Abide in him (John 15:4). For your life is found in him (John 14:6; Colossians 3:3-4). To live is Christ, and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21). Don't live by your own power or understanding. No, live by my Spirit within you (Zechariah 4:6; Proverbs 3:5). Remember, I have given you the Holy Spirit to be with you and in you (Romans 5:5; John 14:17). The Spirit will guide you into all truth, help you to obey me, and empower you to do my work (John 16:7, 13; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16).

## YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED

As you seek me and see more of my glory, I am transforming you into the image of my Son (2 Corinthians 3:18; Exodus 33:18). One day you will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet sound (1 Corinthians 15:52). When Jesus appears, you will be like him, because you shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2; Romans 8:29). You will be delivered from your body of death through Jesus Christ, and your dwelling place will be with me (Romans 7:24-25; John 14:3). And I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore (Revelation 21:3-4). You will drink from the spring of the water of life without payment, and I myself will make for you a feast of rich food and well-aged wine (Revelation 21:6; Isaiah 25:6). You will enter my rest, inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you, and step into fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore (Hebrews 4:9-11; Matthew 25:34; Psalm 16:11). But most of all, you will see my face and be with me where I am (Revelation 22:4; John 14:3).



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## YOU REPRESENT ME



Therefore, walk in a manner worthy of your calling (Ephesians 4:1). You are no longer darkness, but light in my Son. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14). I have called you (2 Peter 1:3). I have chosen you (Revelation 17:14). You are now a saint, a servant, a steward, and a soldier (Romans 1:7; Acts 26:16; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Timothy 2:3). You are a witness and a worker (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:10). Through Jesus you are victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57). You have a glorious future (Romans 8:18). You are a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20). You are an ambassador for my Son (2 Corinthians 5:20).



God crowned you with glory and honor as the pinnacle and final act of the six days of creation.



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Look to Jesus.  
Keep your eyes on him.  
He is the author and  
perfecter of your faith.

**Productivity became my idol, the thing I loved and valued above all else. We all have these complicated tangles of belief and identity and narrative, and one of the early stories I told about myself is that my ability to get-it-done is what kept me around. I wasn't beautiful. I didn't have a special or delicate skill. But I could get stuff done, and it seemed to me that ability was my entrance into the rooms into which I wanted to be invited. I couldn't imagine a world of unconditional love or grace, where people simply enter into rooms because the door is open to everyone.**

What kills a soul? Exhaustion, secret-keeping, image management.  
And what brings a soul back from the dead? Honesty, connection, grace.

What people think about you means nothing in comparison to what you believe about yourself.

How we live matters, and what you choose to own will shape your life, whether you choose to admit it or not.

It is better to be truly known and seen and taken care of by a small tribe than adored by strangers who think they know you in a meaningful way.

Part of being an adult is taking responsibility for resting your body and your soul.

I'm finished hustling for perfect. It didn't deliver what they told me it would.

Present is choosing to believe that your own life is worth investing deeply in, instead of waiting for some rare miracle or fairy tale.

The best thing I can offer to this world is not my force or energy, but a well-tended spirit, a wise and brave soul.

What I'm learning is that you have to stop doing a whole lot of things to learn what it is you really love, who it is you really are.

So much of adulthood is peeling off the layers of expectation and pressure, and protecting those precious things that lie beneath.

Love doesn't allow hiding. Love invites whole selves and whole stories out into the light.

Perfect has nothing on truly, completely, wide-eyed, open-souled present.

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*The lies I've been believing are...*

*The* TRUTH *is* I *am...*