

# HEART-TO-HEART

*We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.*



*“The Lord is my strength and my song: He has become my salvation.”  
Exodus 15:2*

## *He Is Risen, Indeed!*

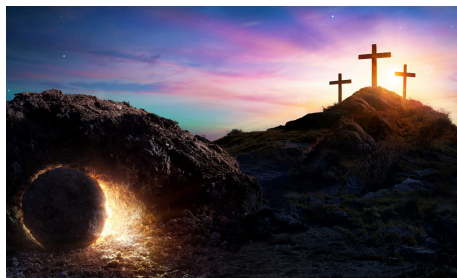
Ever heard your pastor shout out, “He is risen!” to which the church responds, “He is risen, indeed!”?

Did you know that this traditional Easter greeting is based on Luke 24:34, “...saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’” (ESV)?

“Using this address should be more than an empty tradition. The words ‘He is risen!’ remind us of the joyous news we celebrate at Easter, that Jesus’ death was not in vain, and that He has the power to overcome death. Saying “He is risen!” allows us to share

this incredible truth with each other. The resurrection of Christ gives us hope for salvation and for our own resurrection and eternal life.”\* That’s a great summary!

\*Information gathered from [Gotquestions.org](http://Gotquestions.org)



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16*

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## *Grace Upon Grace*

by Pastor Gary Lau | Gary@LearntheBibleFast.com

One of the most beloved stories in the Bible is the story of Joseph - how God was with this man from his time in Canaan to becoming the second most powerful ruler in Egypt.

But there's one part of his story that is easy to miss. It's how Joseph was shown grace and how that grace was given to others. And it's a story that is easy to miss if you don't stop to think about what you're reading.

We're familiar with the story of how Joseph was sold into slavery and became a servant to Potiphar, who put Joseph in charge of his household. But when Joseph was accused of rape by Potiphar's wife, he was unfairly put into prison. But that incident was an act of grace.

Scriptures say that Potiphar was the captain of the guard, meaning the chief of security for Pharaoh. Some scholars believe Potiphar was also known as the "chief executioner," which meant he had the power to execute anyone who committed an offense against Egypt. So when Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of rape, Joseph could have been executed by Potiphar. But he wasn't. Instead he was put into prison. My hunch is that Potiphar didn't believe his wife and instead of killing Joseph, he put him in prison. An act of grace.

Fast forward to Joseph becoming the prime minister of Egypt, the second in command. When Joseph speaks, people listen (some of you may remember the old commercial... "When E.F. Hutton speaks, people listen"). "Build the silos!" Done. "Harvest the grain!" Done. "Store the grain!" Done. Under Pharaoh, Joseph is the executive in charge of Egypt. That means he has unlimited power.

That meant he could have imprisoned Potiphar's wife for her false accusations. But we don't read that Joseph did that. He extended grace to Potiphar's wife. (Can you imagine what she thought when she found out that Joseph was now the prime minister?)

That meant he could have imprisoned the cupbearer who forgot about him for two years. But we don't read that Joseph did that. He extended grace to the cupbearer.

That meant he could have imprisoned ten of his brothers forever once they stepped foot in Egypt to buy grain. But we don't read that Joseph did that. Instead he moved his entire family, his father Joseph and his eleven brothers and their families, to Goshen, a fertile land perfect for grazing livestock. Joseph extended grace to his brothers.

Joseph was shown grace and he extended that grace to others.



*A state of mind that sees God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a thankful heart.*  
Charles Grandison Finney

# *My Confirmation*

by Jeanne Nagatani

On May 7, 2023, Pastor Stan spoke about the Great Confirmation that God is alive and about the confirmation of God's love for him in his life. This is my journey with my dog Miki confirming that God loves us.

My story begins when Dennis and I got Miki as a 5-week-old puppy in 2006. She started having intestinal issues, so we took her to VCA Animal Hospital in Pearl City. There we were assigned to Dr. Joy Yasuda, D.V.M. Miki had many intestinal visits (sometimes weekly), got spayed as well as having 2 "knee" surgeries while under Dr. Yasuda's care during the first 10 years of her life. Dr. Yasuda left VCA and we lost touch with her, however, during the Pet Expo in 2016, God allowed Dennis, Miki and me to "find" Dr. Yasuda as she was promoting her new venture.

In 2017, Dr. Yasuda and a group of veterinarians started PetVet Animal Hospital in Salt Lake where Miki was again under her care. In 2022, we went there as a "walk-in emergency" knowing that we would have to see any vet who was available. We were blessed that Dr. Yasuda was available and because she knew Miki's history, I had confidence that Miki would have the best care possible.

One morning, Miki and I were again a "walk-in emergency" and subject to be seen by any available vet. Miki was not eating and was throwing up and had a hard time standing up and walking. Because of the numerous health issues that Miki was facing and because Miki is almost 16 years old with no hope of getting better, I made the decision to euthanize her. I didn't want her to suffer any more. Again, against all odds, God made provisions to have Dr. Yasuda tend to Miki and me.

God has been with Miki and me throughout our journey of her life. God knew that Dr. Yasuda would give me comfort so He made sure that she was available during all of the trials that Miki and I have had.

This is only one of the many confirmations that God is there for me. He is and always will be my along-sider. Praise God that He loves me and knows me well. He always knows what is best for me.



*"A dog is the only creature on earth that loves you more than he loves himself—and in that, he reflects God's love perfectly."*

*- Josh Billings*



# Reading God's Word

by Julie Morita

Did you ever feel unsure about what you're reading in the Bible? I especially disliked reading some of the books of the Old Testament - Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy - and I would just skim through it. Ugh! I've read the Bible through twice now, but it hasn't "stuck". I would read the words but not really understand or absorb what I was reading. I was reading it just to say that I read it, you know what I mean?

I bought the NIV Life Application Bible. That was a great help. It explained some of the passages and helped me to see how it applied to my life.

This year, I again wanted to try to read the Bible through. The Bible app from YouVersion includes various reading plans, and there are reading plans for reading the Bible through in one year. I am enjoying the one that I chose and thought that I'd share it with all of you. The reading plan is from The Bible Project, and it takes you through all of the books of the Bible, includes videos that explain the books of the Bible, concepts in the Bible, and how all of the books tell one story that points to Jesus. Look for it on the Bible app. You can also check it out at this website: <https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans/>

## Reading Plans

### Read the Bible in One Year

The **One Story That Leads to Jesus** reading plan in YouVersion's Bible app offers a complete journey through the Bible, featuring our full library of animated videos to guide you.

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Even though it's April, you can start reading the Bible all the way through at any time. Just start and make it a daily habit.

I'm learning more than I ever imagined about the stories in the Bible and it's giving me many "a-ha" moments. If our heart and mind remains open, we can continually learn about ourselves, about others, and about God. My prayer is that we all remain teachable and want to keep learning.



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*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path."  
Psalm 119:105*

*Please feel free to contact:  
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