

Because there's always a
reason to enjoy life.

200 REASONS TO LIVE

A teen's devotional

MR. GIRART

Reason # 1: "You are unique"

"Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands"

Psalm 119:73

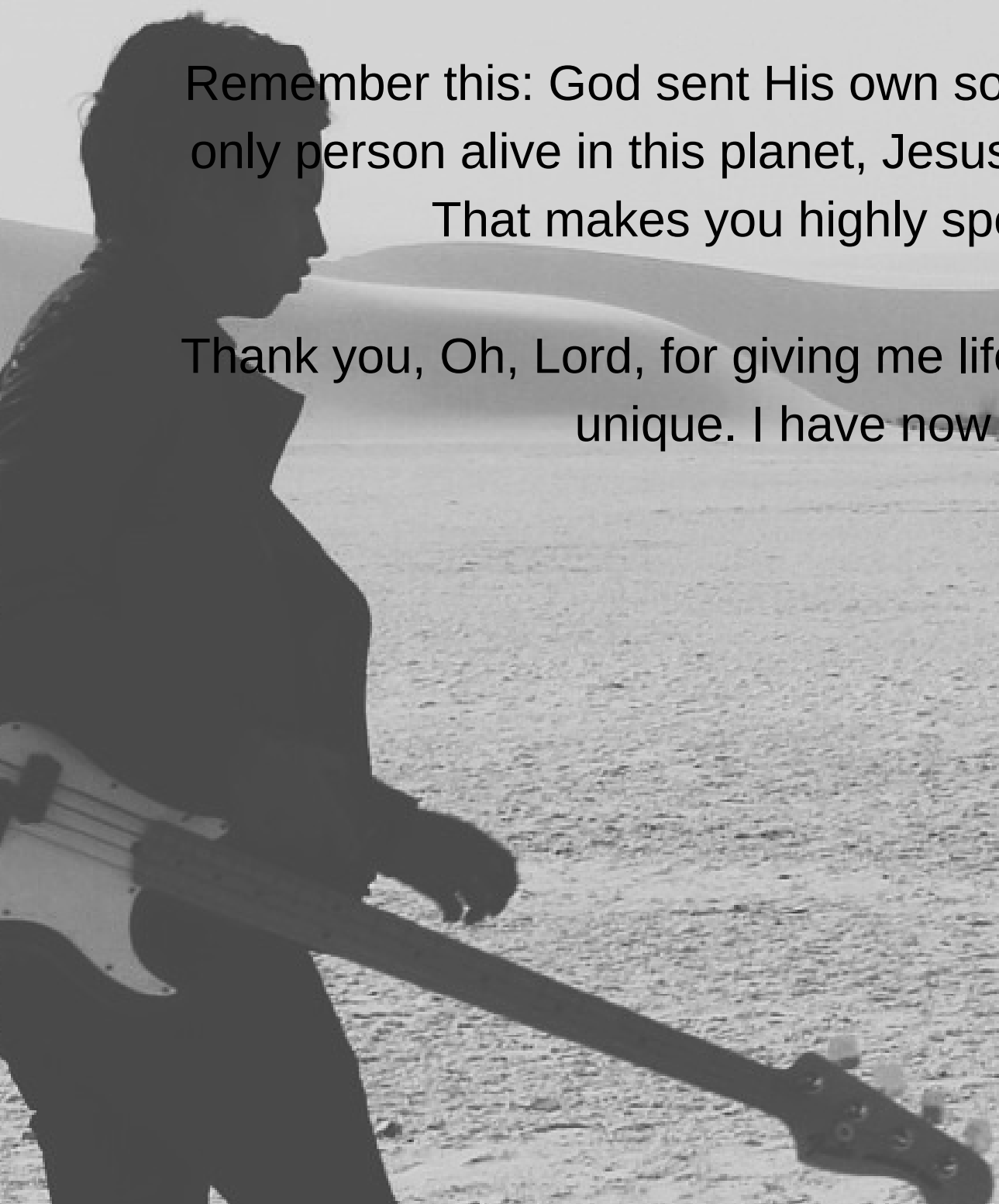
There is no one like you! Don't you feel joyful to know it? Your eyes probably look like your mom's or dad's, but your uniqueness is still there. Sure, more than one person has told you that your nose looks exactly like your aunt's. If you are a girl, it's likely that your grandmother has said that she was exactly like you when she was your age. Or if you are a boy, you have heard the same from your grandfather. But despite all that, you're still unique; the mirror on the wall can tell you so very clearly. Don't you believe me? Well, let me tell you that even if you resemble to some members of your family, your DNA is inimitable, that is why you are unrepeatable and unduplicatable.

You are unique because no one else has your abilities or talents. Look at your hair, your hands and your scars. The way you smile, think, see, and talk, make you really unique. Millions and millions of people have lived in this planet, but none of them has been like you! And you know what? No one will be ever born like you either. So, enjoy who you are, and don't pretend to be a different person. Be YOU all the time!

Also let me tell you something very important: you are exactly like someone I know, our Creator, God himself. In Genesis 1:27, we read, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female." Isn't awesome you were created to God's image? He made YOU to be like him, that's really amazing! And He is the only one you must imitate.

Remember this: God sent His own son to die for you and even if you had been the only person alive in this planet, Jesus would have come down here to rescue you! That makes you highly special for him, don't you ever forget!

Thank you, Oh, Lord, for giving me life by rescuing me from sin, and for making me unique. I have now a true reason to live! Amen.



Reason # 2: "You are extraordinary"

"For nothing will be impossible with God"

Luke 1:37 (NASB)

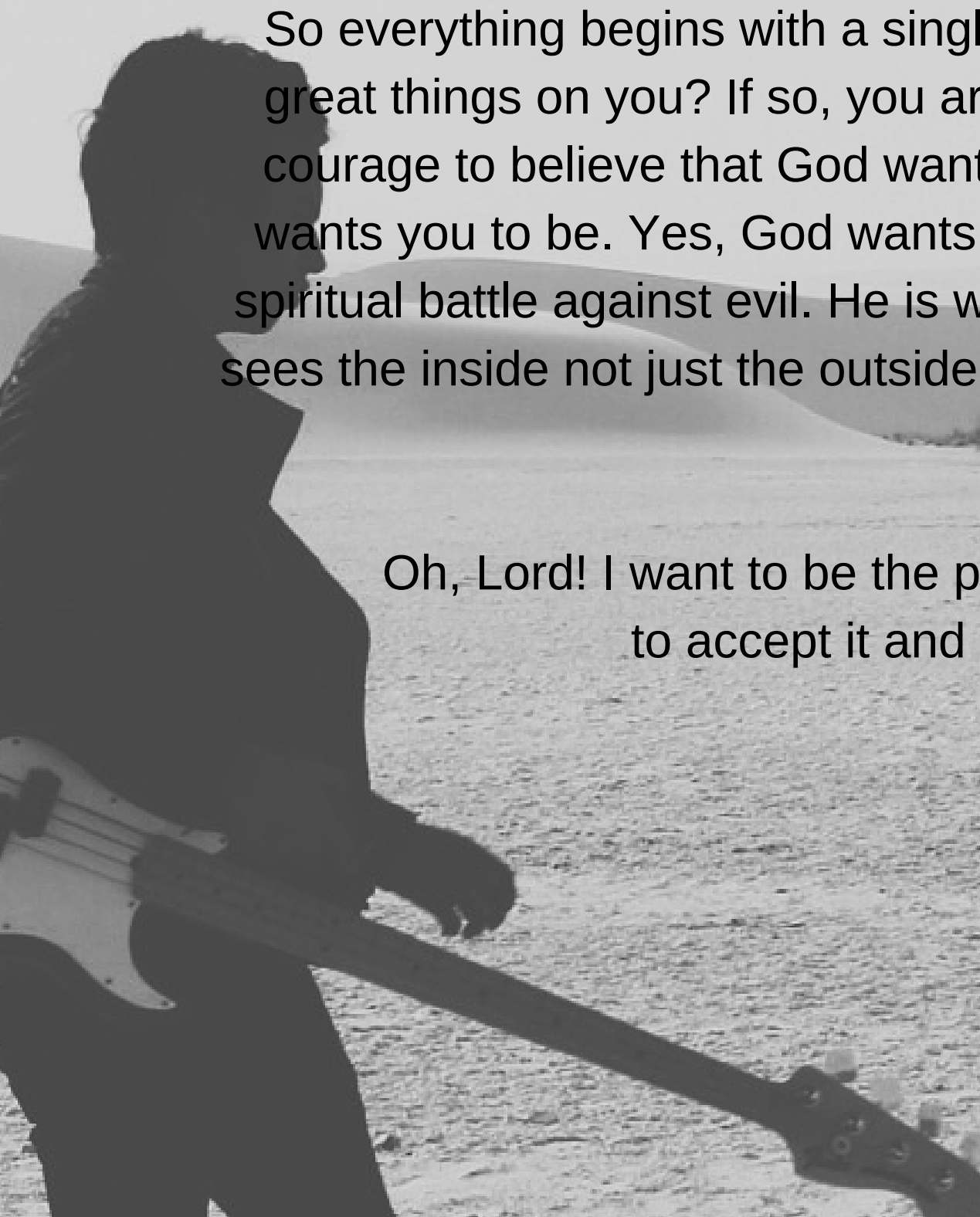
Yes, you're extraordinary! Even if you think you are the most ordinary person in the whole world! You don't believe me? You really are an extraordinary person; first, because you're a child of God; second, God has provided you with extraordinary talents and gifts that makes you special. But if you still think you are such an ordinary, insignificant, a-nobody-notices-person, you have today the opportunity to discover a great news God has for you, are you ready?

The good news is that God is looking for ordinary people... to do extraordinary things! And you are the one God has chosen to make a difference in many people's lives. The Bible is full of examples on how God worked with ordinary people who made extraordinary, improbable and unimaginable things for His glory. Think about Joseph, who was a slave and became the second in Egypt. Think about Moses and his stuttering, then he became the great leader Hebrew people needed to be freed from Egypt. Think about David, a small boy who defeated a giant with just a sling and a rock. Think about the Apostle Paul, once a Christian hunter, then he became the most devoted Christ follower. They all had something in common: they trusted God.

The Lord has a special task for you today, a very important one that only you can perform. God's power is there, available to you who are committed to him completely. His; as 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His..."

So everything begins with a single question, do you really believe God can do great things on you? If so, you are in, if not, pray God, so He can give you the courage to believe that God wants to use you to become the extraordinary He wants you to be. Yes, God wants you to become one of his best soldiers in the spiritual battle against evil. He is willing to accept you as you are. Remember He sees the inside not just the outside, and what He sees now is the amazing person you are!

Oh, Lord! I want to be the person you want me to be. Give me the courage to accept it and the strength to live it! Amen.



Reason # 3: "You are a precious diamond"

"... you are precious in my eyes ... and I love you."

Isaiah 43:4a (ESV)

The Christian writer, Darlene Sala once wrote: "God has formed many diamonds. But He made only one YOU. You are unique." Diamonds have been, for thousands of years, the most wanted mining products. Its rarity, color, and size make them so valuable only very rich people, as kings or queens, can possess them.

As for you, nothing is compared to your value. Anyway, let me ask you something, how much do you think you're worth? A million dollars? Maybe ten million? More than that? Well, according to an article in Weird magazine, a body could be worth up to \$45 million dollars! It's a great amount of money, isn't? But I'm pretty sure you don't want to sell out your body regardless the money you can get from it! But you what? You're worth more than that, actually you're priceless, you're a precious diamond priceless! Even more than The Cullinan diamond whose value is 400 million; and more than The Sancy Diamond or The Koh-I-Noor diamond that are so rare and valuable that they can't even be estimated, just exactly like you!

But you know what? God created you with a higher value than a diamond, however large, rare, or beautiful it may be. You're precious in God's eyes, and that's more worthy than all the diamonds of the world together! Because you were formed by His own hands; a precious creature He knew even before you were born. So that in that way, you are now a precious jewel the Lord wants for his kingdom. Like the Hymn says: "When he cometh, when he cometh to make up his jewels, all his jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His owned. Like the stars in the morning, His brightness adorning, they shall shine in their beauty, bright gems for his crown."

Probably you have felt you're worth less than a penny, and nobody understands your life and the struggles you are facing right now. Well, God is telling you today that He loves you, and He loved you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die so you and I could have eternal life together in heaven with him, and just because you are precious in His eyes.

God, sometimes I don't feel anyone's love at all, but I thank you for showing me that I am highly valuable to you. That's good enough for me.

Reason # 4: "You are a child of God"

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

Galatians 3:26 (NIV)

Yes, you are a child of God. He is your father and your arms in need. Who wouldn't want a Dad like Him? A father who guides you, teaches you, protects you, provides you, disciplines you, comforts you, helps you, forgives you, defends you, strengths you, and through it all, loves you. Wow! Your father really rocks!

But what does it really mean to be a child of God? First of all, we become children of God when we are adopted by Him, and that only happens when we accept Christ as our savior. So, even if He's up there, as our lovely father, we have to walk toward him and accept His son and his sacrifice in the cross, otherwise we would just be like a prodigal son in search of a good life outside his father's house.

But Abba, our Daddy, is still there, waiting for you to return. He wants you back and calls you son again and you call Him Abba, Father. Our lovely Father wants to have a special intimacy with you, as a Daddy with His baby children.

He has promised, in Psalm 37:24, that even if you stumble, you will not fall down because God will be holding your hand! Isn't it a wonderful picture? You and your Father walking along, suddenly you trip on, but hey, don't worry, your strong father's hands holds up, and you are safe!

Also, being a child of God means that you have a strong sense of self-worth, you become more secure, more confident when facing your everyday struggles. It's natural, you're the son of the King of kings! Your origins are divine! That's a good reason to live, isn't?

Oh, Lord! Thank you for being a loving and caring Father! Thank you for holding my hand every time I feel down. Thank you for taking me in your arms when I am in need.



Reason # 5: "You are beautiful"

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" It's a well-known phrase from the classical fairy tale Snow White. In this story Snow White's stepmother has a magic mirror that can tell who the most beautiful woman in the kingdom is.

Well, what about you? Do you have a magic mirror on the wall? I don't think so, only a regular one that tells you how beautiful you are, right? Anyway, from a scale of one to ten, how beautiful do you think you are? Please, try not to be so cruel to yourself! Look carefully in the mirror and I bet you'll find more than a zillion things you should be proud of. Solomon in the book Song of Songs 4:7 said to his girlfriend "You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you." God is telling YOU the same, you are altogether beautiful. And you'd better believe it! He created you at His image, so don't disappoint God by saying that you are not gorgeous! God thinks you're beautiful, and if He says so, then it's true!

Probably you'd like to have a supermodel body, or bigger eyes, longer hair, etc., but as Bekah Mulvaney, a women's ministry leader said, "When I look in the mirror I see my imperfections. When God looks at me He probably thinks I'm adorable! After all, he made this nose, these eyes, and my heart."

You must remember that you are loved by God for what you are, so don't worry about what you "see" in the mirror; instead of, focus more on your character. Also, God is proud of you because He created you as His image (Genesis 1:27). When people tell me that my children look like me, I feel a sense of pride because it shows that they belong to me, so does God, as the writer Valerie Murray says, "True beauty comes in the pursuit to reflect the image of Christ in our lives." So, just try to be like Jesus more often, and you will shine beautifully!

Thank you, Lord, because you love me, accept me, think I'm beautiful, adorable and quirky; no matter what I think about myself, and no matter what I see in the mirror.

Reason # 6: "You are a dreamer"

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13

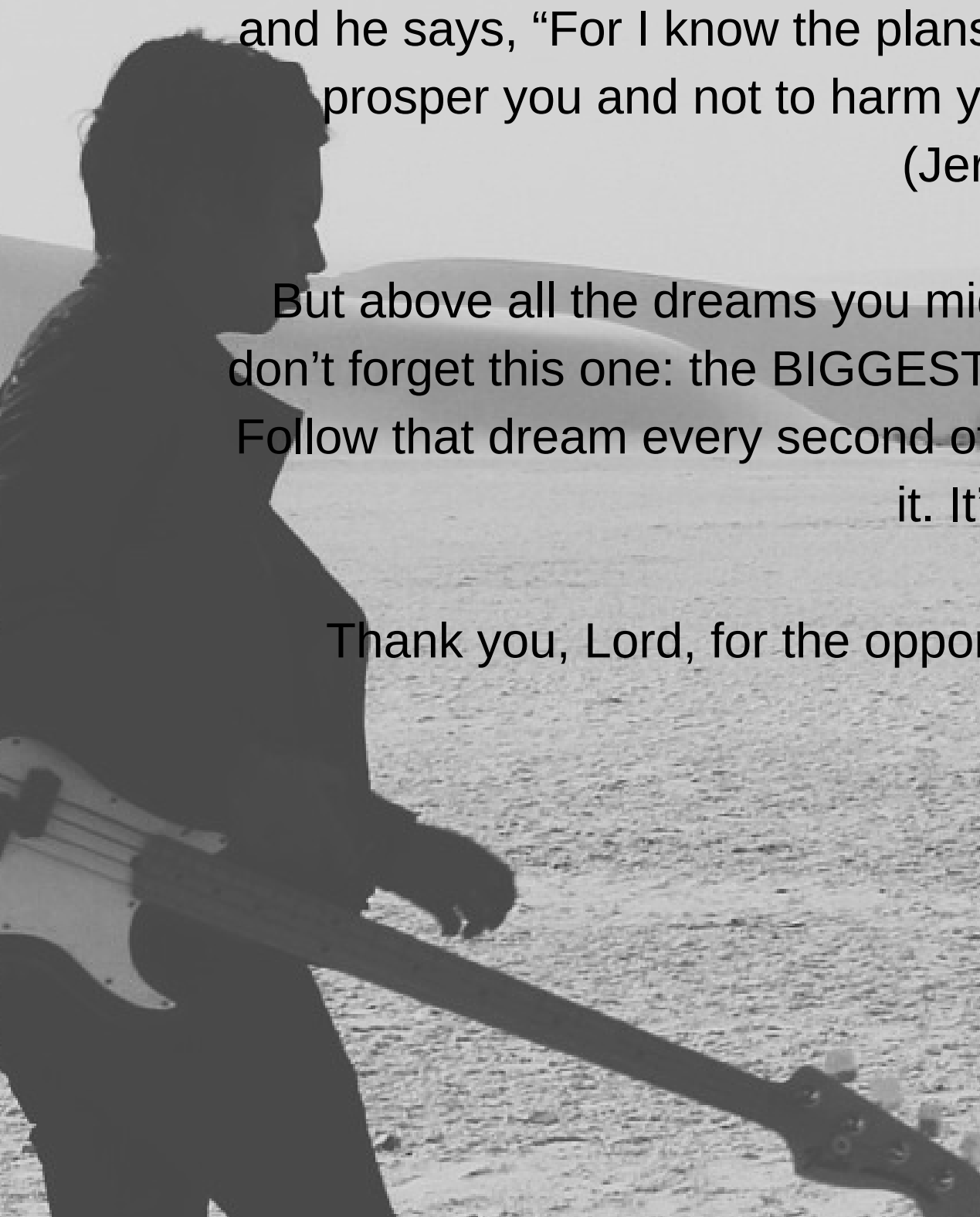
Joseph was a dreamer and his dreams became true. As for you, you are a dreamer too. Because you care, you dream for a better world, a better planet, a better treatment to animals, and a better YOU! And you know what? Your dreams have no limits. Your dreams are the fuel of your life, as they must be!

Never give up; if by following your dreams you fall, never mind, you pick up yourself backup and carry on, because the great victory is just ahead and you're a warrior of God whose dreams are far beyond than winning small battles. The opportunities to win are just around the corner, and they are waiting there for you! It's ok if sometimes you have ups and downs, that's part of a long-term goal. Remember the promise in 2 Chronicles 15:7 that says, "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." Like Daniel in the lion's den. His success tasted out much better than bowing to the king Nebuchadnezzar.

Just let remind you something very important: be a dreamer, not just a day dreamer because, sooner or later it will come the time to be a doer, not just a dreamer. In this life, actually nobody is 100 percent dreamer or doer, there must be a balance in order to reach your goal successfully. So being a doer means to have a goal and a plan to get there. Write down the steps you need to take to make it happen, surround yourself with people that have the same spirit as you, (this include friends and relatives), if you see something is blocking your path, change the path, and finally, don't think is going to be easy to make your dreams come true. But if you trust in God, he knows your plans and he says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares de Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremias 29:11).

But above all the dreams you might have and all the things you want to do, don't forget this one: the BIGGEST dream you must pursuit is to live in heaven. Follow that dream every second of your life, and God will help you accomplish it. It's his promise.

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to dream and to do things for you.



Reason # 7: "You are valuable"

Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 12:7

In this society, it is thought that you're valuable for what you possess: the size of your house, the car you drive, the school you go to, the brands of the cloths you wear, and the places you vacation. For some people it's even a matter of life or death to have what his or her friends or neighbors have just bought!

In the strange world of art, a painting is valuable depends the author, but not always. Vincent Van Gogh, a famous painter whose works now are valued in millions of dollars, died in poverty because nobody wanted his paintings when he was alive. On the other side, Picasso, another famous artist, one of his paintings (The Dream) was sold in 155 million dollars!

I am sure, If I painted a piece of art of lines and dots of different colors, probably nobody wanted to pay a dollar for it! But if that painting is signed down by Jackson Pollock, people would be willing to pay up to 140 million dollars for it! As you can see, all depends who owns the painting and who painted it.

As for you, you are valuable, because your owner is God himself! Imagine the value! God created you with his own hands. Actually you are invaluable because you are an original piece of art by the creator of the universe! As Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (NLT).

You are also valuable because you are meant to do good things unto others. That's the real value of Christians. "Do to others as you would have them do to you," says Luke 6:31. Serve others, it's what Jesus ask you to do to become the most valuable person among people. Matthew 20:26 says so, "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."

So, it's not the money you have, the cars you drive, the house you live in, the places you vacation what make you valuable, but you are valuable for what the good things you do to others. God created you valuable already, and that's a good start, don't you think so? As Sarah Coleman says it, "The unchanging God has determined your unchanging value."

Oh, Lord! I know now that I am an invaluable masterpiece created by you. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve others today.

Reason # 8: "You are powerful"

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7

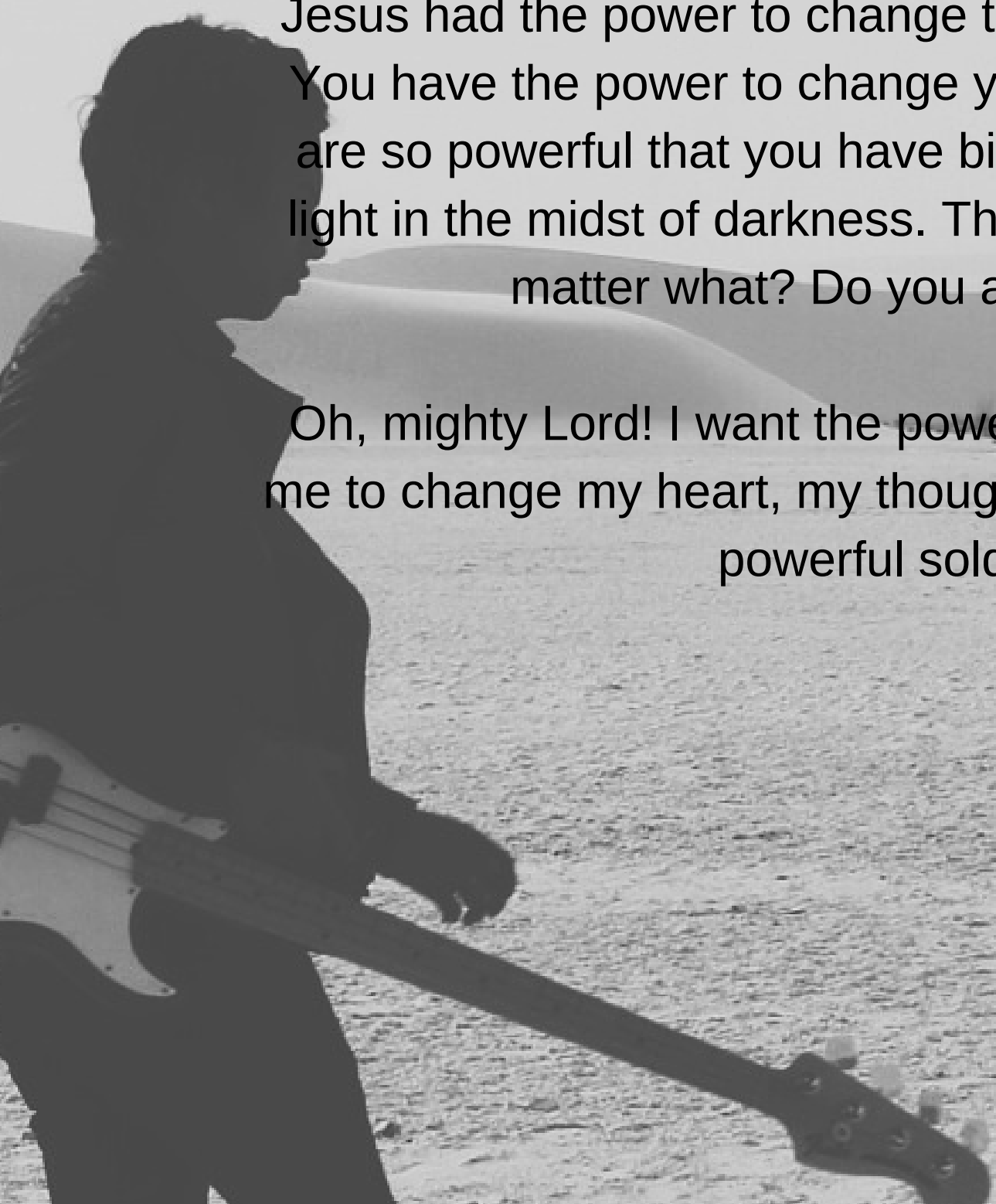
Did you know that you have been powerful since you were born? Oh, yes! Your screams as baby were so powerful and potent that your parents would wake up desperately in the middle of the night trying to please you! Ever since then, you learned the power of a loud cry or a whining.

According to Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, powerful means, "Full of power; capable of producing great effects of any kind; potent; mighty." Wow! According to the definition, you really are a powerful person, indeed. Even the Bible says so, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7). God has provided you with such power that you are able to change the world... for good or evil! It's your decision what to do with that power.

God wants you to use it for the good, of course. Ellen G. White puts it this way: "The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." Education, p. 57. You have the power to become a man who can make a real change in the world, but you know what, start out in your classroom by telling your friends you have the power to be a real and loyal Christ follower.

Jesus had the power to change the world, and He's passing you that power. You have the power to change your classmates mind to do bad things. You are so powerful that you have big responsibility. You have to be a powerful light in the midst of darkness. The real power is to stand up beside truth, no matter what? Do you accept that power? I hope you do.

Oh, mighty Lord! I want the power to change the world, but first please help me to change my heart, my thoughts, my feelings, and my mind, so I can be a powerful soldier on your side. Amen.



Reason # 9: "You are lovely"

His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely.

Song of Solomon, 5:16

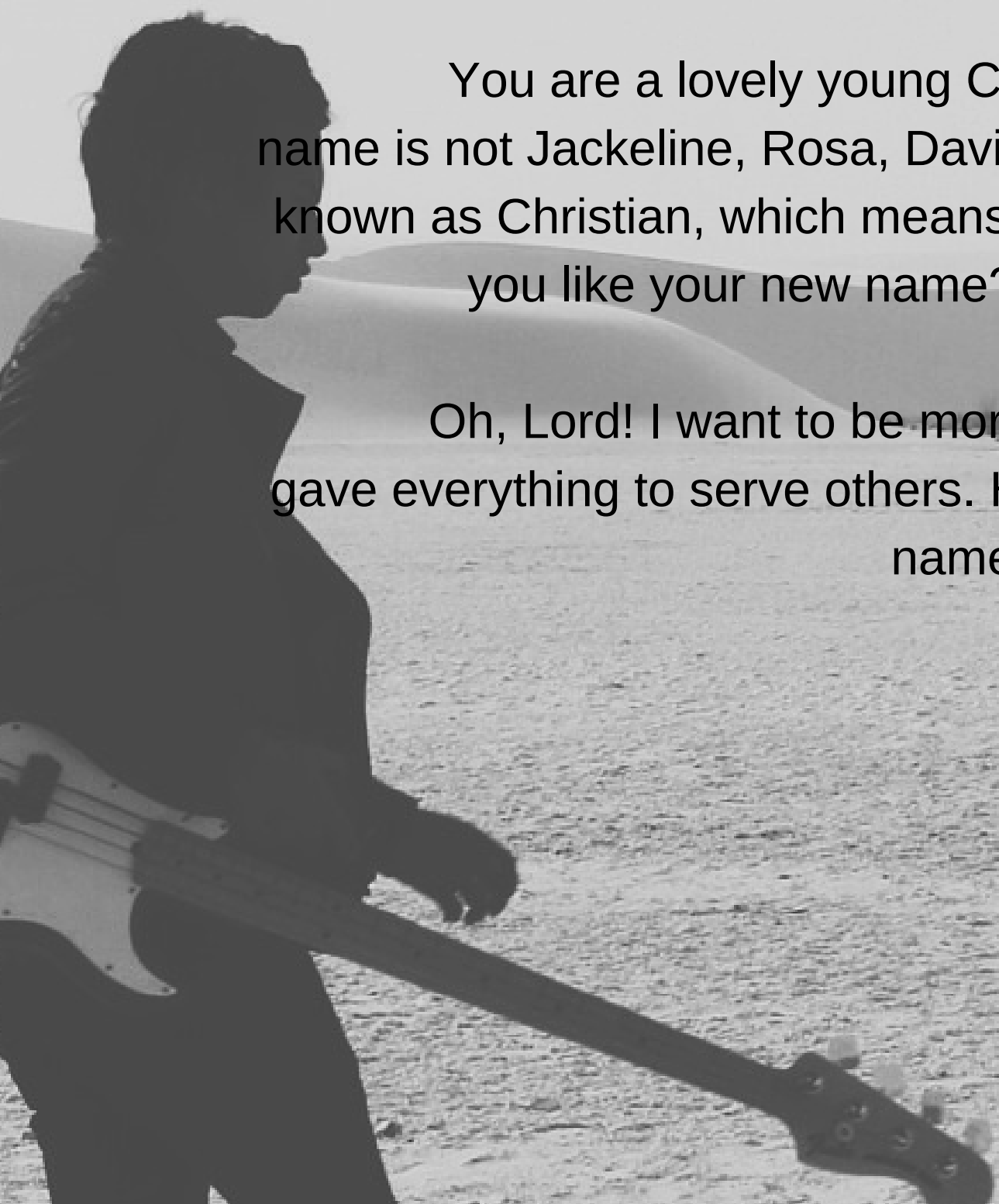
How much do you like your name? Do you know the meaning of your name? Anyhow, you are lucky to be called by the name you have; imagine your mom or dad calling you, Epaphroditus, come here! Or a short name, trying to sound sweet, Epa, honey do your homework, please. You know what? It did exist a person with that name! Paul mentions him in Philippians 2:25-30. Actually his name means "belonging to Aphrodite", but as we will see it later, the name Epaphroditus eventually came to mean "lovely or charming".

Talking about lovely, I believe you are one of those guys like Epaphroditus, a man who lived up to his name, as you do, too. Do you like to help other people? Then you are lovely. You like to act as a true Christian in every situation, then you are lovely. You are eager to serve when is needed, you are lovely. You like to call brother to your best friend, you are lovely. You believe you are here with a purpose not just by accident, then you are lovely! You easily identify the good and the evil, you are lovely. You are ready to give your friends good advices, then you are lovely. You are active in your Christian life, you are lovely. You focus on others more than yourself, you are lovely. You see more than the end of your nose, you are lovely, again! You are an encourager instead of a critical complainer when you see people down, you are lovely.

See? I think you should change your name to Epaphroditus, somehow you are exactly like him. The world needs more Epaphroditus, more people like you to really, really change the world.

You are a lovely young Christian in every sense, because your real name is not Jackeline, Rosa, David, Martin, John, or Sebastian. Now you are known as Christian, which means a Christ follower, which means lovely. Do you like your new name? OK, so now live up to that name!

Oh, Lord! I want to be more like Epaphroditus, a lovely Christian who gave everything to serve others. Help me to achieve that goal today, in your name I pray, Amen.



Reason # 10: "You are special"

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

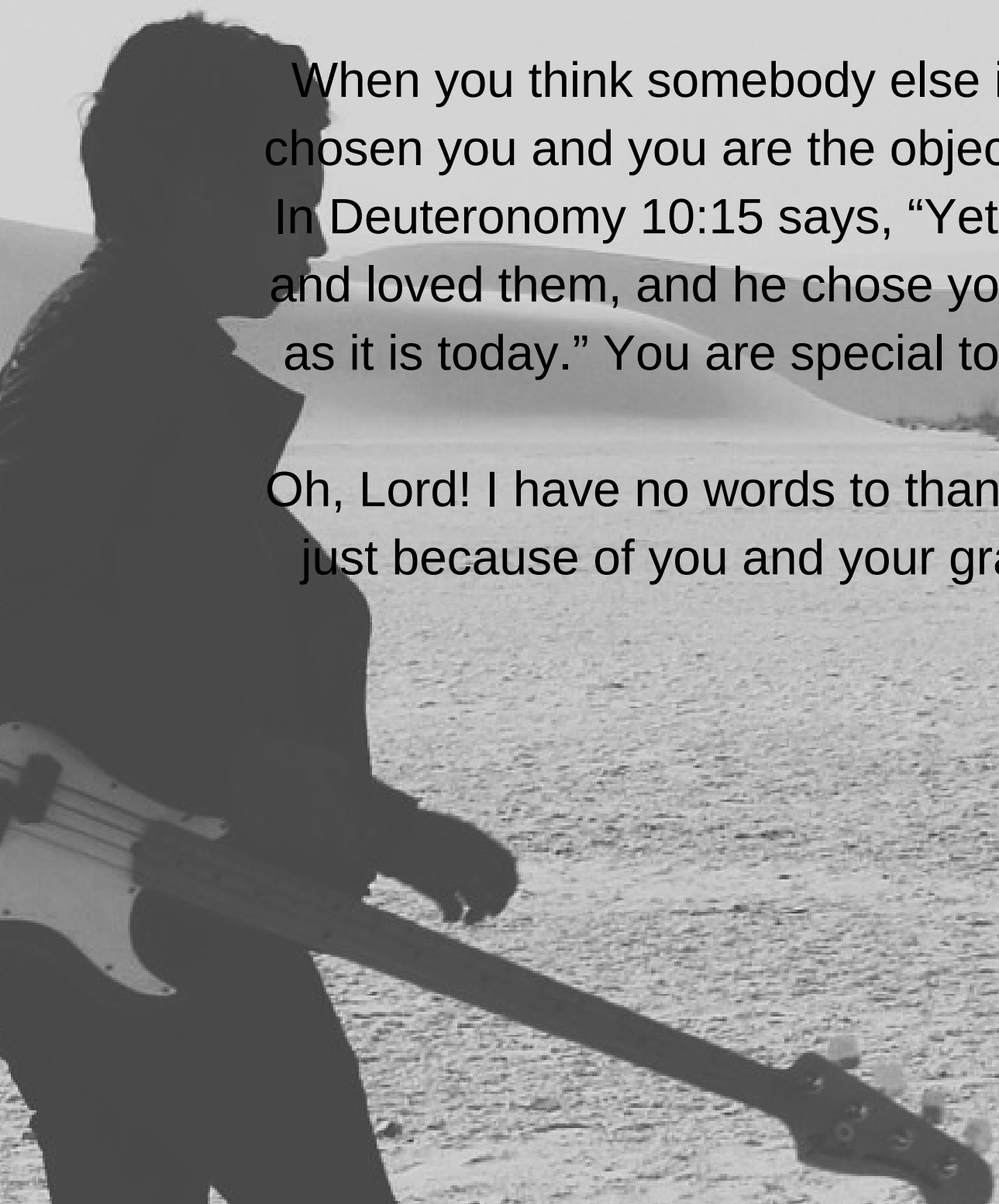
1 Peter 2:9

First, let me ask you something before I begin with this devotional? Who are you? Can you answer that question accurately? No? Well, I will help you. You are somebody special to God. Do you really believe it? If not, let's discover who the Bible says you are. See what 1 Peter 2:10 has to say about this, "Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." That's really something, don't you think so? Yes, maybe sometimes you have felt that nobody cares about you, that nobody loves you, because you think you're not attractive, you're not good enough to do something great as everybody else does.

In order to get rid of those thoughts, I want to tell you that you are a masterpiece of the Lord, don't you believe me? Well, listen to what the Psalmist has to tell you, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, oh, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand — when I awake, I am still with you." You are really special, my friend! Not anything, but special!

When you think somebody else is better than you, think about that God has chosen you and you are the object of His affection even before you were born. In Deuteronomy 10:15 says, "Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today." You are special to God, no matter what! Don't you ever forget!

Oh, Lord! I have no words to thank you for your love to me. I know I'm special just because of you and your grace. I want to be your special child forever.



Reason # 11: "You are art"

"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life."

Genesis 2:7

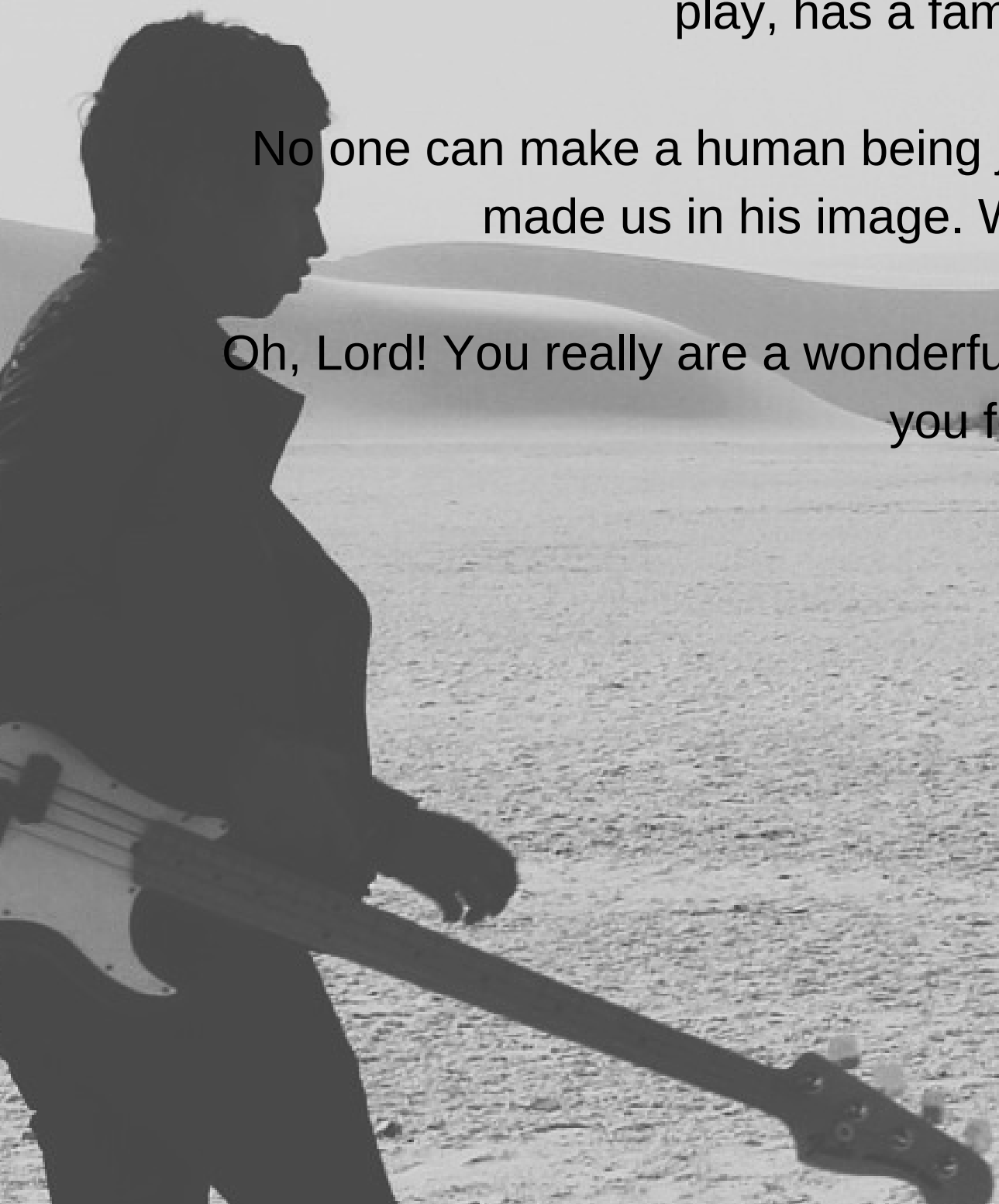
Since I was a little girl I have watched how my grandfather drew paintings of nature. He has painted hundreds of different paintings, that's a lot, don't you think so?

Most of the people like art, anyone can make it, but for some people it is more difficult than to others. Remember the guy who painted the Mona Lisa? His name was Leonardo da Vinci, he was very talented and often is remembered by his paintings. But not many people knew that he was also interested in sculpting, inventing, making music, engineering, writing, mathematics, science, geology, astronomy, botany, history, architecture and cartography. Even though he was that much talented and intelligent, his art is nothing compared to God's, who made the stars, the trees, the beautiful flowers, the clouds, the sun, the animals, the oceans and lakes, our families and even you. I think that's a really good reason to live.

Genesis 2:7 says that God made man from the dust of the ground just like a sculpture and then breathed into his nostrils and it became a living being. That's where we come from. I think He must be a really good artist to create something like a human. Have you ever tried to make a person or an animal out of clay or other material that would look the same with all the details as a real person? It's impossible and even if you do, it's even more impossible to make it breathe, play, has a family and move by himself.

No one can make a human being just like God did, and that's not all, He even made us in his image. We're God's art, isn't it wonderful?

Oh, Lord! You really are a wonderful artist who creates everything perfect, thank you for making me.



Reason # 12: "You are loved"

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Almost everyone likes animals. I like them very much that's why I've had a lot of pets since I was a little girl. Therefore I've had to take care of them by giving them food and plenty of water, grooming them, playing and giving them lots of love. Sometimes it is hard especially when you have a lot of homework and you are tired or you want to hang out with some friends but anyway I do it because they are my pets and I love them. When you get or adopt a pet you realize how much you can love something like a dog or a cat or whatever animal you have.

God is our creator and he loves us, protects us and he wants the best for us just like you protect and take care of your pet, and even if you don't have a pet you surely have seen how a mother dog takes care of her cubs, or a mother takes care of a child, or your mother, father or sibling takes care of you. But even if you don't have a family or/and feel like no one loves you or cares about you, God does. Like it's written in the Bible: "For my father and my mother have left me. But the Lord will take care of me." Psalm 27:10. His love is nothing compared to the love a mother or father can give to her child or you can give to your pet. "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

As you see, He loves us that much that he gave his only Son to die for us so that we could be saved from sin. He never forgets us. We should be very grateful to him for loving us and knowing we are sinners he forgives us for all the wrong things we do every day. We are very lucky for being loved by God.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

Lord, I am so grateful for your love, I am nothing without it! I want to love my brothers and sisters as you love me, help me to do so every day.

Written by: Elena A. Quiyono. 11th grade student

Reason # 13 “God knows you”

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately.

Luke 19:5

God knows you, and he does it very well. He knows you when you suffer or you are down. He knows you when you are happy and cheerful. He knows you when you are sick or full of health. He knows everything about you. He knows you by name. He knows exactly the day you had and the struggles you suffered, he knows all that, and you know what? He even knows you better than you know yourself!

Psalm 139:1-4 it's very clear on this: “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely”.

But if you feel that you don't deserve His caring, let me tell you that you were not the only one. Zacchaeus was a sinner, a very bad sinner, but one day, hearing that Jesus was coming to town, he went to see Him, as he was too short, he climbed up a tree. When Jesus was passing by, He turned His head up and saw Zacchaeus on the tree and said: ““Zacchaeus, come down immediately”. Everybody were surprised, even Zacchaeus, for he was a sinner, but for Jesus he was just another lost soul He wanted to rescue, and He did. Since that day on, Zacchaeus was a new man.

So Jesus sees more than what you can see of yourself. He sees what you can become under His protection. Not because He knows you very well he is going to punish or scold you for all the bad things you have done. He wants you to know that you are his precious child who needs more affection. God will always be with you, no matter what you do. He knows your heart, and He sees everything you can be in your life; so don't be afraid for everything He knows about your life, it's for your own good. God is on your side!

Let's pray! Oh, Lord! I know you know me very well, I want to do the right things before your eyes. Thank you because even though all my imperfections you still look for my wellbeing, thank you!

Reason # 17: "You are a thinker (1)"

...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable... think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

It is believed that a person can have 10 thousands separate thoughts each day. In one year that becomes 3.5 million thoughts! By now you have had already more than 2 thousands thoughts and counting. So, the question is what kind of thoughts do you have? Are they negative or positive thoughts? What thoughts dominate you most of the time?

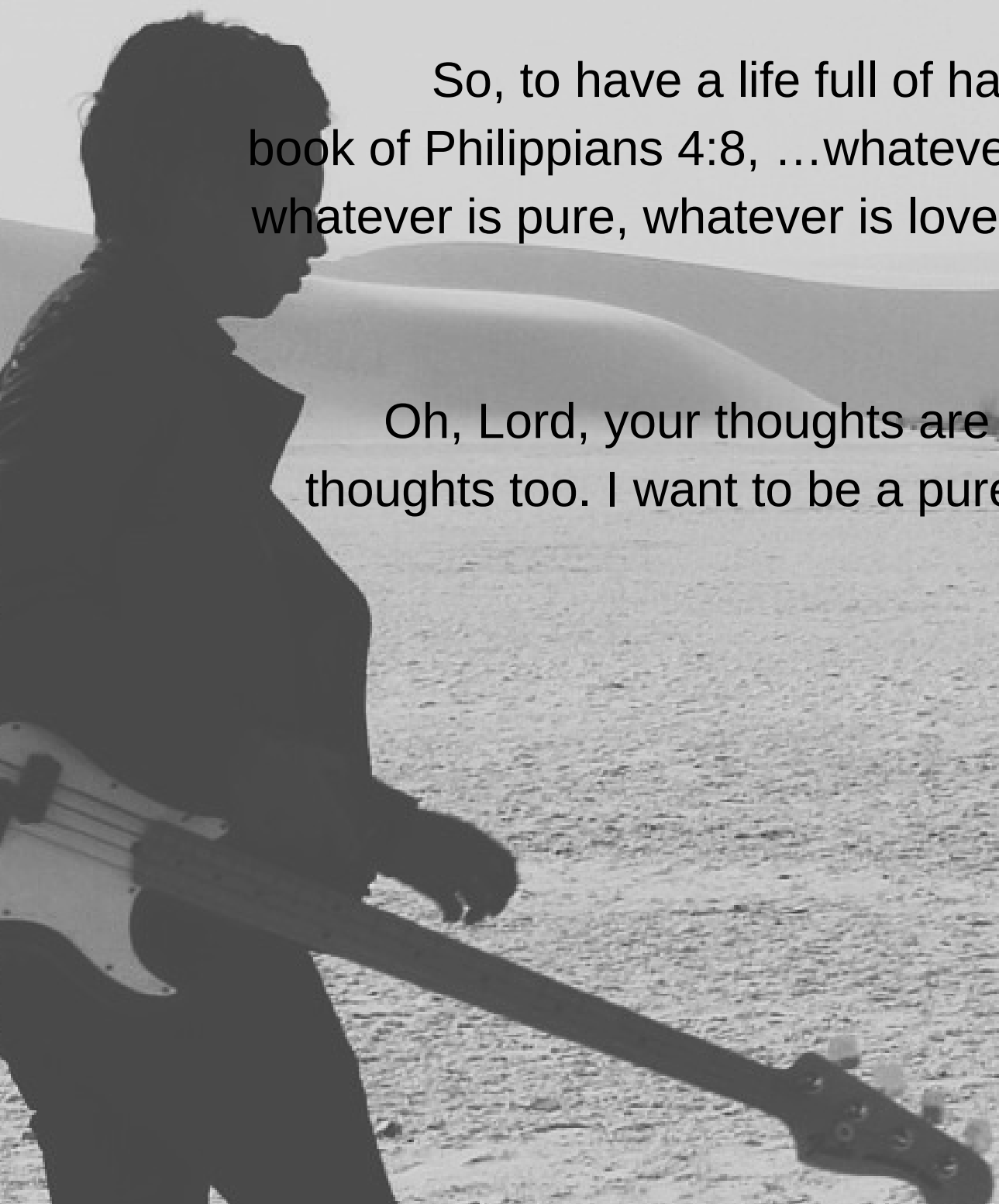
Let's talk about this for a couple of minutes. Thoughts are really important for life. But be careful, because all depends on what you think and how those thoughts may change the way you see life. The poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Beware of what you set your mind on because that you surely will become." Without thoughts it's almost impossible to get done anything. By thinking how to plan your day it gives you a sense of security.

In your spiritual life, thoughts are the main part of your Christian life. Remember, negative thoughts, like self-pity, blaming yourself, fear to change and anger, are really bad for your mind, and later on, for you soul, because a negative thinking, sooner or later, will take you to a negative life, and you don't want that, do you?

To have a practical Christian thinking, ask yourself six questions based on the verse of today before you think and before you speak. Is it true? Is it noble? Is it right? Is it pure? Is it lovely? And, is it admirable? If those questions are answered right, then you can start thinking on those things and speak out them!

So, to have a life full of happiness, remember the advice of Paul in the book of Philippians 4:8, ...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable... think about those things.

Oh, Lord, your thoughts are pure and noble. Please, help me to have those thoughts too. I want to be a pure and noble Christian from today on. Amen.



Reason # 18: "You are a great thinker (2)"

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matthew 12:34b

In computer science, there is an acronym called GIGO, which stands for: "Garbage in, Garbage out." This means that a bad input will result in a bad output. In other words, if you try to open a power point file in a photo editor, it may show unreadable content.

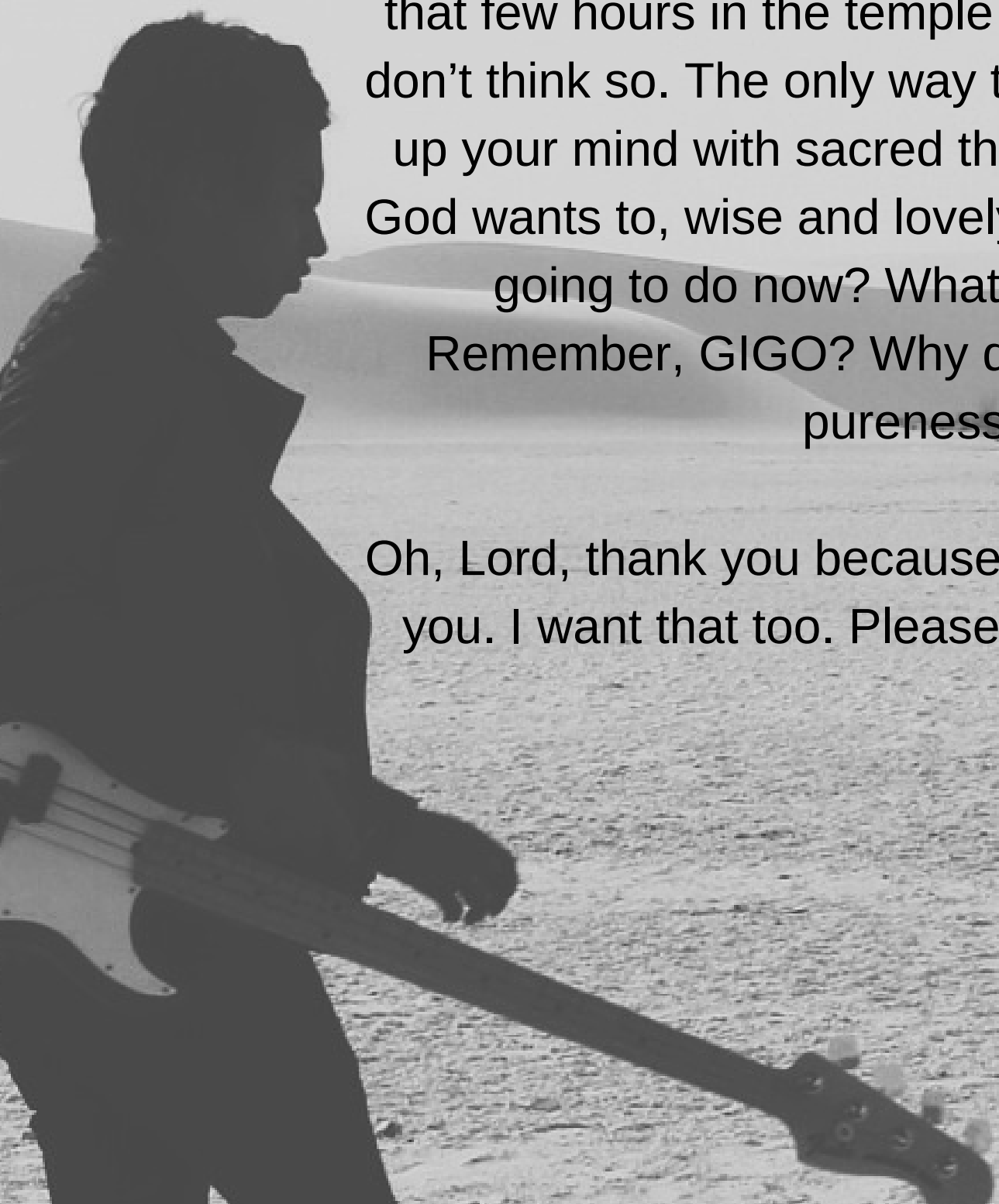
This is a pretty good comparison with our Christian life and how we manage everything that goes into our minds and comes out from our mouth, because the Bible says so, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of (Matthew 12:34b). In other words, whatever you have filled in your mind, sooner or later, you will speak it out. That's why you have to analyze what you put into your mind and try to change it for your own good!

Have you ever thought about the music you listen to? What about the movies you watch? Are they pure, lovely, or noble? Analyze the books you read, the conversations you have with your friends and the places you go. How about your secret habits? Your daydreams, your hobbies, and the things you do when "nobody" is around. All those things shape your thinking little by little, and when you least expected, your mouth will speak out everything you were gathering into your heart and mind.

Yes, of course, you may go to church every Saturday, but do you think that few hours in the temple will wash off forty hours of bad thoughts? I don't think so. The only way to get rid of your bad thinking is when you fill up your mind with sacred things, that way, your mouth will speak what God wants to, wise and lovely words everybody needs. So, what are you going to do now? What are you going to feed your soul with?

Remember, GIGO? Why don't we change it for PIPO (Pureness in, pureness out)? Do you accept it?

Oh, Lord, thank you because you want me to speak only words to praise you. I want that too. Please open up my mind and fill me up with your lovely thought!



Reason # 19: "You are a wonderful thinker (3)"

... Bad company corrupts good character.

1 Corinthians 15:33

How can you become a positive and noble thinker? It's not easy, actually after being exposed to too much trashy things, such as cheap TV shows, trivial conversations and some other sort kind of things, changing your mind will take time, but it is still possible, with God's help.

Did you know that your friends have a great influence in your life? That's why Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that "bad company corrupts good character". Whether you like or not, bad companies will make you do what they do, and if you think you lift them up, many times you will end up all the way down. So it's very important to examine the friends you hang out with and ask yourself: are they taking me to heaven or somewhere else?

To be a noble thinker, it's a good idea to read the Bible, it's even better try to memorize passages from the Scripture. Jesus did it! He cited the Scriptures when He was tempted by Satan. And it worked! So in order to have positive and noble thoughts, memorize portions of the Bible; your brain will storage them, and when you need them, they will come out in your help! Because God's Word has the power to change lives, minds and hearts.

There is a quote from an unknown source that says, "You're not what you think you are, but what you think, you are". In other words, whatever you have in your head, in your mind, it's what you really are, because that's how you are going to act in your life. In other words, sooner or later your thoughts translate into reality. So, think out on truth and your mouth will speak truth. Look for noble things so you can act out noble too. Try to be lovely all the time. When you do the right things, you will refuse to do the wrong ones. So, there's a way to become a positive thinker, think out on pure things, look for virtue and search for higher things that will take you to a higher relation to God. It's your time, it's you goal. Go for it!

Oh, Lord! I know I need you in order to be a pure and noble Christian. Please help me to think out more on you and your love.

Reason # 20: "You are an agent of change"

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:13

Everybody knows that Jesus has power. Power to change a sinful person into a powerful noble new man. You are a powerful human being who can help others who need to be close to Jesus and with your new thoughts and heart can help to change others, as easy as it sounds! Because once Jesus is in you, he will give you the power to obey Him, and so, your actions will be new, fresh and alike to Jesus and His Word.

There is no other person who you can trust more than Jesus.

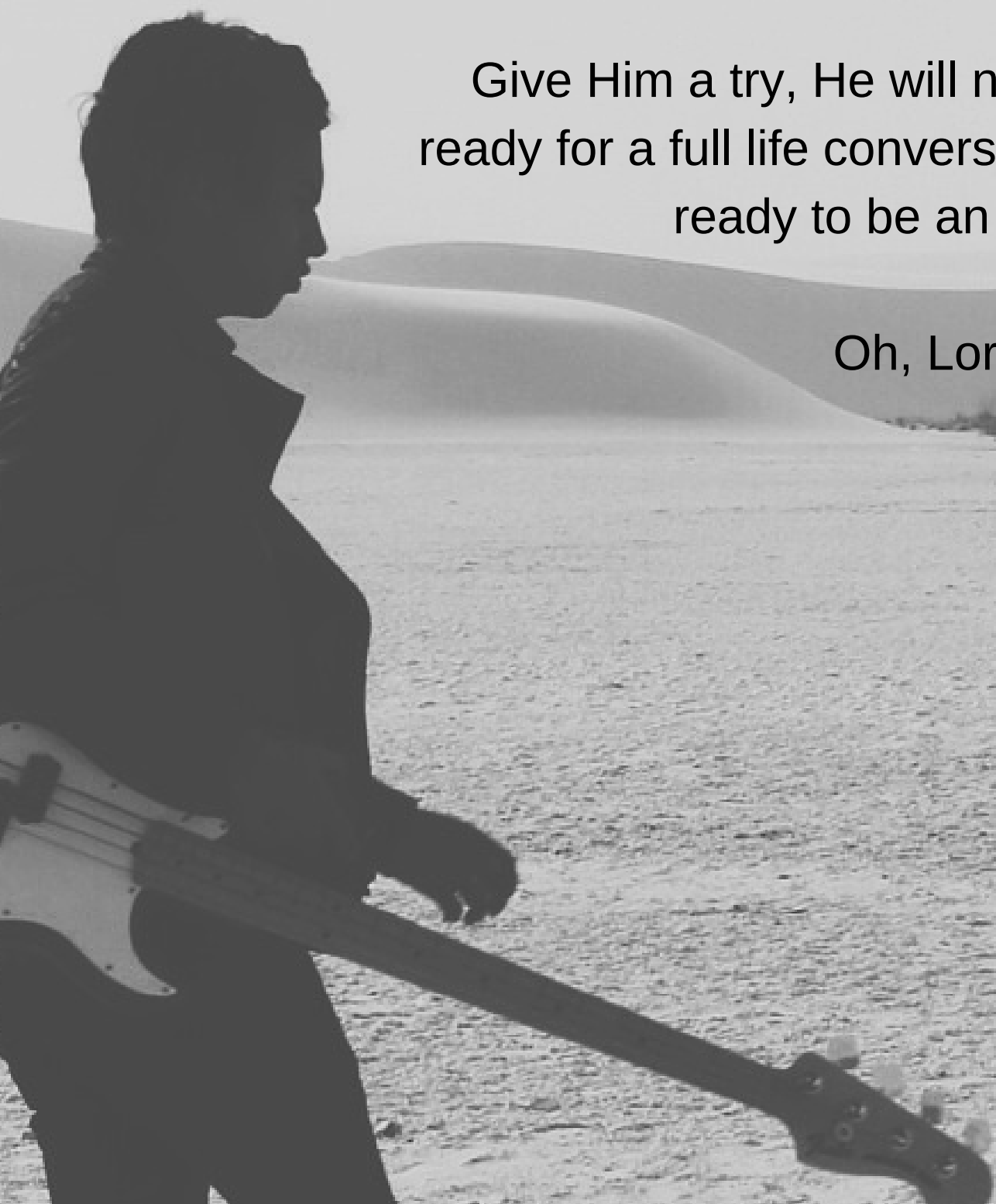
Remember that "...whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy", of... Philipians 4:8, it can only be found in one person, Jesus Christ! He has everything we look for and everything we have to think out. He is the Truth, He is noble, He is just, he is pure, He is lovely, He is admirable, He is all virtue, etc. etc.

If you believe that everything above is right, then Jesus is waiting for you to start a new personal relationship with Him, so you can become into an agent of change and help others to know Jesus. God will give you His power.

The question is: do you really want to change your mind? If so, walk next to Jesus. Talk to Him as a friend. Hold His hand tightly and don't let Him go. After that, you will see how easy is to be an agent of change.

Give Him a try, He will not disappoint you, ever! You only need to be ready for a full life conversion that will transform your life forever! Are you ready to be an agent of change? Today is the day!

Oh, Lord, change my life. I'm ready!



Reason # 21: "You are part of a team"

When each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:16

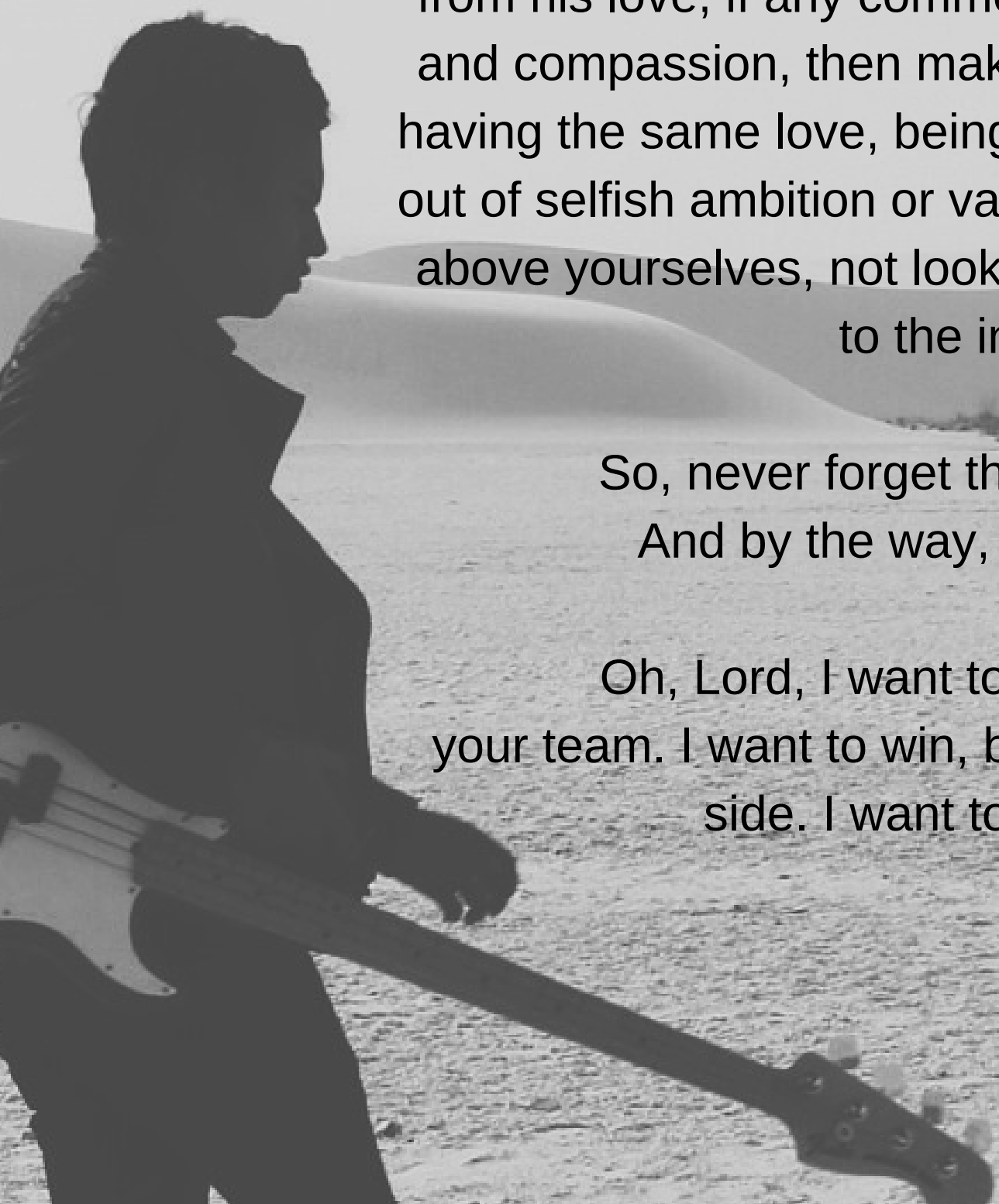
The word is "Teamwork" and without you, the team is incomplete. So, you are an important part of this world. Your teammates need you to win this game, the game of life. Don't you want to be part of it? I bet you have a wonderful gift to share with the team. We cannot win without you! That's a fact. So join us and be part of the winners, as you always have been!

Jesus has provided you with such great talents, abilities and gifts that you are able to fit in any team you want. Maybe your team doesn't know very well how wonderful you are for certain things. Why don't you go and tell them that you want to be part of the team? Because, you know what? I don't think any organization can depend only on the genius, they need a backup team.

No person is an island in this world of mutual cooperation. We all need everybody to succeed. Maybe you can start by asking yourself, how can I help others? Helping other people will give you a sense of being important for someone and also you will have the opportunity to show your talents to other people. But please always remember what John says in Philippians 2:-1-4, "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others".

So, never forget that God gave you a key role in His team. And by the way, He is a winner, and so will you!

Oh, Lord, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be part your team. I want to win, but I know that I only can do that on your side. I want to be on your side every day.



Reason # 22: "You are sincere"

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5a

What do people see in you? Whether you like it or not people are watching you. They observe every movement you make. Especially if you are a Christian. They want to make sure if what you say is according to how you act. People observe you to see if they can trust the God you say you adore.

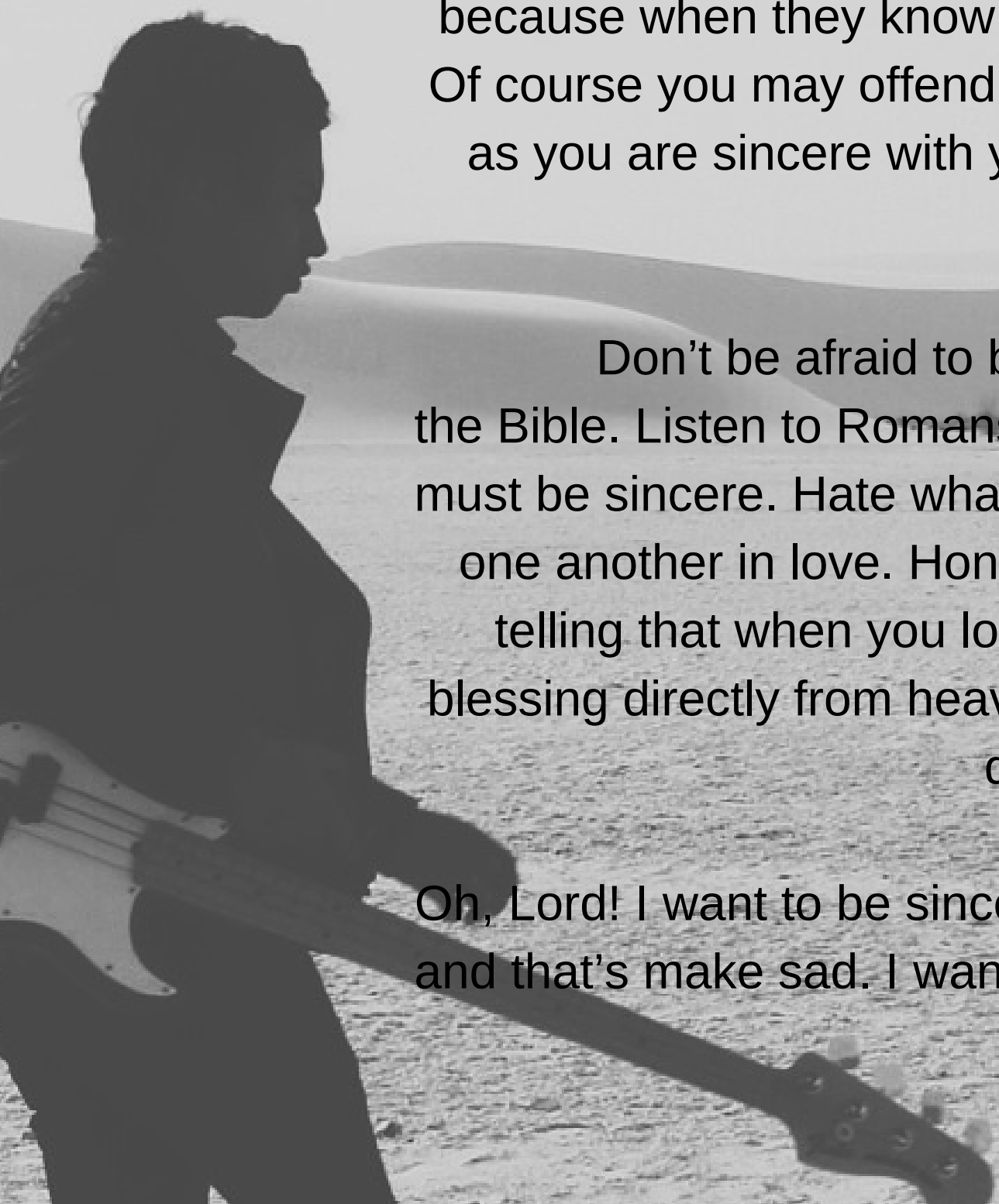
And of course, you are sincere. You are an open book to the public. You have freedom to speak what you want. You say honest things right from the bottom of your heart, and that's important. You want to be heard from the people around you. And you know what? People hear you and see you, too. They indeed want to know what you have in your mind so that they can understand you.

Don't be afraid to speak out what you have in your heart! Don't keep it! Let others listen what you have to say. It's your right! But if you really, really want someone who fully understands you, call on to Jesus. He will comprehend everything that happens in your life. He is the only one who can listen to you clearly, and He also is as sincere as you are. He has a lot to tell you about how to have a rich life, full of happiness and joy.

So, keep being sincere until now, it's better than to be a hypocrite. God appreciates sincere people, precisely for their sincerity, because when they know Him, his love towards God is also sincere. Of course you may offend many people by being sincere, but as long as you are sincere with yourself and God, everything else doesn't matter.

Don't be afraid to be sincere, especially when you love. It's in the Bible. Listen to Romans 12:9-10, talking about love in action, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves". God is telling that when you love, open your heart and you will receive blessing directly from heaven. And that's a good reason to live today, don't you think so?

Oh, Lord! I want to be sincere to you, sometimes I don't feel your love, and that's make sad. I want to open my heart today, so you can get in.
Amen.



Reason # 23: "You are a champion"

Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Proverbs 4:13

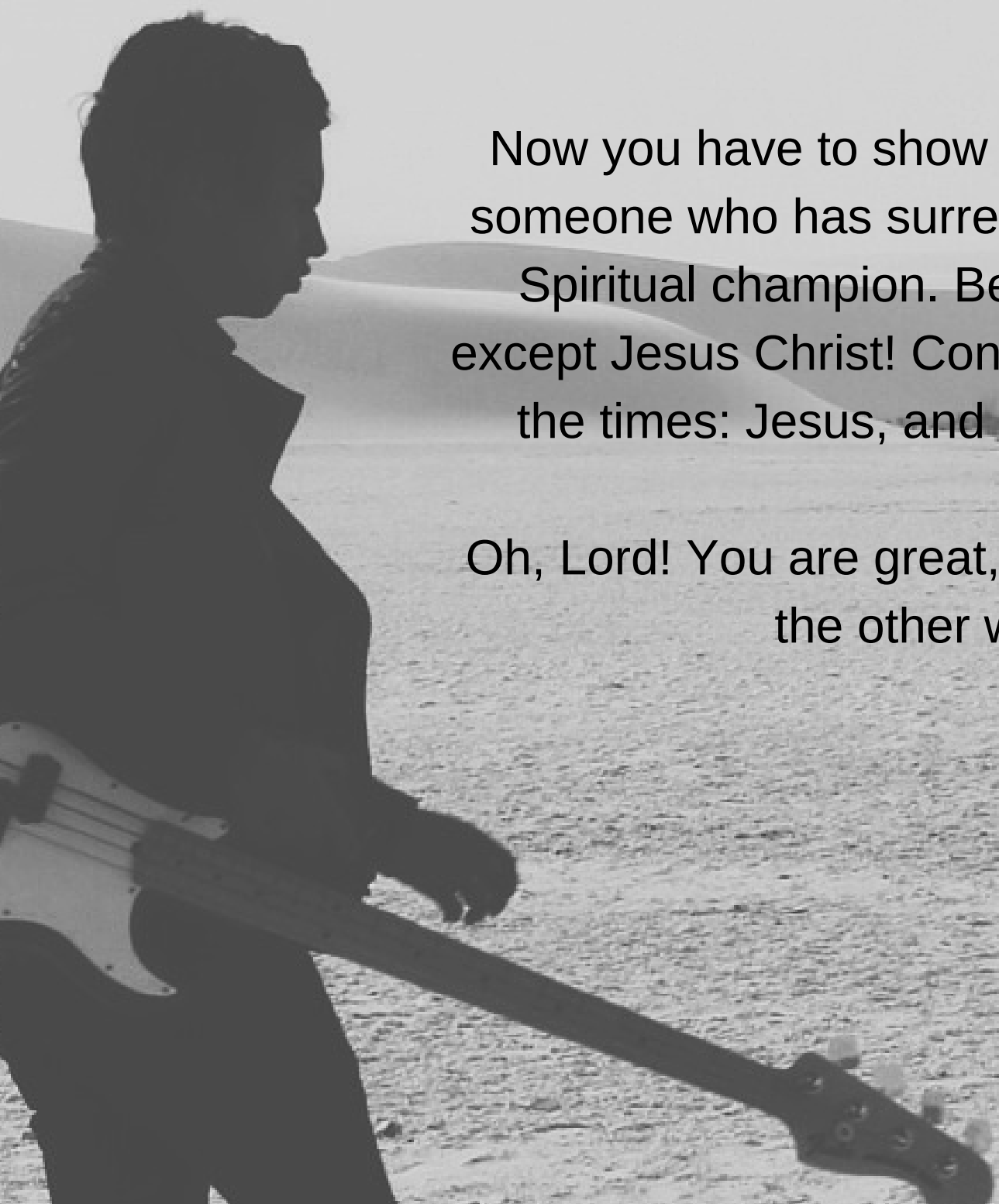
How about a race? That's how it started the most wonderful and amazing race of all the times. Million and millions of little guys were competing to get the first prize, and there was only one champion: YOU! You did it! Don't you believe me? Well, let me explain how it happened. You were in a death race against millions of sperm and thank to your ability to swim speedily, you were able to get first to the goal. By the way, the other millions of guys who were behind you, are death; only you survived! Wow! Isn't it just marvelous?

You are that tiny little guy who fought for his life. That's something to be proud of, don't you think so? You are a champion like Abraham, the Father of the faith; Moses, the leader of the people of Israel; Joshua, the General that conquered the Promised Land; Gideon, a soldier who trusted God; David, the most foremost King of Israel; Elijah, the great prophet; Peter, whose message converted 3 thousand people, and many others whose lives were an example for many through centuries.

God knew you were going to be a champion, even before you were born. In Psalm 47:4 we read, "He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved". See? You were chosen by God to be His champion. He gave you great attributes so you could accomplish what He wanted you to achieve. Like Ephesians 1:11 says, "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will".

Now you have to show to the world that a real champion like you is someone who has surrendered to Jesus; now it's the time to become a Spiritual champion. Be yourself all the time, don't mimic anyone, except Jesus Christ! Confess your sins to the only real champion of all the times: Jesus, and you will become one of His champions too.

Oh, Lord! You are great, and you made me champion for this life and the other with you. Thank you, thank you!



Reason # 24: "You are a royal ambassador"

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1

We all have surnames, it's like a name but it identifies us which family we come from. Sometimes instead of calling us by our name, we are called by the surname. But this last name is only physical, although it reminds us some traits of the character of our parents. There is another surname, one that we should all carry: "children of God".

If we analyze the verse well, we can realize that it is a name that we do not earn, that we did not obtain it by our own merits, if we read it again we will realize that it is only out of love that we can be called "children of God". It is a privilege we have obtained by grace, because no action of ours, however pure and holy, is worthy to gain something so valuable. This name should be given to us by our behavior, because we have actually reflected the character of our heavenly father and not just because we go to church or have a certificate that we are Adventists.

Our life must be a light in the dark. God in his infinite love gave us the opportunity and the privilege of being called his children, will not we respond in a reciprocal way and testify of the same? Should not we pray every day for his Spirit so we can demonstrate that a life with Christ is better?

Therefore, we know that we are in this world as ambassadors of Christ, the world looks at us every step we take, every action we do, we have been called to testify for our God and just as a surname does not physically identify our actions, words or thoughts, it must be our spiritual surname so that they identify us with our loving father. We have a duty to be a light in every place in which we are, in each person with whom we live and thus fulfill the mission that God has entrusted to us. We must always remember that the surname that really counts is the one that will take us to heaven and that last name is "son of God".

Written by: Eliam Edrei Arias Peñuelas, 9th grade student

Reason # 25: "You have talents"

So he gave one five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.

Matthew 25: 14-15

What talent do I have? It's the question of many people. Sometimes when we think about talents, we believe we don't have any; but if at least we just could see how good we are in certain areas, we would believe more in ourselves.

What is a talent? Talent is a manifestation of emotional intelligence and it's an aptitude or set of outstanding skills or abilities.

Some of the talents that God gave us are in sports, painting, photography, singing, and some others. We must put our talents to serve others. Most people use the talent God gave them to do good, for example people who know sign language help the deaf, as it says in 1 Peter 4:10: "Each one according to the gift he has received, administer it to others, as good dispensers of the different graces of God."

We realize we are good at something when we like what we do. Also we have to practice that talent in order to master it and please God. But as James Baldwin says it, "above the talent are the common values: discipline, love, good luck, but, above all, tenacity."

Sometimes we have a lot of excuses for not developing the talents God gave us, that causes many to say "I do not know that I am good at" or "I do not know what my talent is", "I feel sorry", "I can't do it." Those are negative words that means you've already given up, and that makes you not to continue to develop that talent you have. Pay attention to what Timothy 4:14 says, "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

So, remember if you don't know what your talent is, ask God for help. He is willing to show you all the talents He has given to you!

Written by: Susana Ballesteros, 9th grade student

Reason # 26: "You are a miracle"

I want to praise you, Lord, with all my heart and count all your wonders.

Psalms 9: 1

You are a true miracle of God. He says so in His Word. Also He promises to be by your side all the time you are in problems. The great plans God has for you are loaded with miracles. Remember that where there is hope, there is faith; where there is faith, there are miracles.

Let me tell you a miracle. It was Friday, January 30th, 2015. There was a long weekend, so my family and I went off to visit my grandmother in Queretaro, Mexico. On the way to my granny's house we had to go through a mountain range. Once we got to grandmother's house we spent a fantastic weekend there.

Finally it was time to go back home, so we headed straight to our city. When we were about to enter the mountains range, my mother fell asleep because of the dizziness that caused the sinuous road. My dad was driving and my brother was sitting on the back seat. My pet dog "Gringo" was on my lap covered with a small blanket. My dad and my brother were singing and I was about to sleep.

Suddenly our car slipped off on the slippery pavement and crashed on the retaining wall and knocked it down. Seconds later our car went down tumbling in a 500 meters slope. It was scary! My family and I were inside the car while it was turning over and over and over and over. I don't remember how many turns the car did but they were the longest seconds of my life.

Finally the car stopped. We were very scary, thinking that it was just a nightmare, but it wasn't. Everything was real! But thank God we were alive. My eyes were closed and when I opened them up, I saw something really amazing, in front of me there was an angel! I know it was God who has protected us from the fall. Who else?

When you trust in God, He will take care of you all the times; and always remember that you are a great miracle of God and he gives you a new opportunity every day. As for me, He granted me a new life after the accident, and now I can say that God works miracles. I am one of those. And you, do you consider yourself a miracle of God? I believe you do! By the way, my pet "Gringo", was protected too and is still a happy puppy, thank God!

Written by: Ana Abigail Arrieta Sánchez, 7th grade student