

**TEENS
SHARE
THE WORD**

by teens



TEENS SHARE THE WORD

Compiled and edited by
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INTRODUCTION

How can we know God?

One of the most important ways God has revealed himself to us is through Sacred Scripture, also known as the Bible. We call Scripture the Word of God because it is not like any other book ever written. It's actually a collection of books written over a period of many centuries. The human beings who wrote the Bible were the ones who put the words down on paper (or whatever they used to write on back then!), but it is God who speaks to us through them, using the gifts and minds and writing of the human authors to reveal himself. That's what we mean when we say the Bible is

inspired. And that's why the Bible inspires us when we read it today.

The Word of God can touch us like no other book can. And once we have been touched by it, we cannot keep to ourselves how it has changed us. We want to testify to the power and love we have experienced.

The teens who contributed to this book all have experienced the power of the Word of God in their lives, and now they share it with you.

GOD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE



A PRAYER OF GODS LOVE

... that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
I pray that you may have the power to
comprehend,
with all the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height
and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses
knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness
of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:17–21

God knows me and loves me

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. . . . Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely” (Psalm 139:1–2, 4).

The fact that God knows every little thing about me never ceases to amaze me. He knows me better than I know myself. There are so many times in my life when I have to try to figure out how to deal with a difficult situation, but remembering that God has searched every little part of me and understands my thoughts even when I don't puts me at ease, because I know he has everything under control. These words free me from trying to hide myself and be somebody that I am not. God loves everything about me and wants me to be as happy as possible.

∞ Elyse

God lives within me

“Can it indeed be that God dwells among men on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this temple which I have built!” (1 Kings 8:27 NAB).

This verse, which Solomon prayed to God in the presence of the people of Israel at the dedication of the Temple, serves as a beautiful reflection for Holy Communion. Here Solomon speaks of the Temple he built; we are temples of the Holy Spirit. When we receive Holy Communion, God, whom the entire universe cannot contain, comes to dwell inside our bodies. This meditation gives me a greater feeling of awe and gratefulness to God for deigning to make his abode in the humble temple of my soul.

∞ Kimberly

Jesus is always with us

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

This quote touches me because I think it is very true. Many people seek materialistic things. Some people want more and more and yet are never satisfied. What they do not realize is that none of those things is truly what the heart desires. Our treasure and source of true happiness is heaven with Jesus. Thinking deeper into the meaning of the quote, I realize that our essential treasure is Jesus and that Jesus is always present in our hearts. So we are seeking for no reason at all, because what we've been seeking has always been with us, in our hearts.

∞ Cristina

God's love is generous

“Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:11–13).

This verse deals with God's being ever present and willing to help us whenever we ask for it. It really touches me personally because of how it seems to suggest in strong terms just how awesome God's presence in my life can be. It leaves this presence a mystery but firmly reassures me of God's fatherly care and promises even more. It is a humbling verse that provides a strong metaphor for God's love, making it very simple for me to relate to.

≈ Colin

God is on your side

“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love . . .” (Zephaniah 3:17).

This Scripture passage speaks to me. I think that if we modernized this it would pretty much mean that God is always with you. He will be joyful about your presence and fill in any love that has been lost. It speaks to me because this really is proof that God is on your side, so even when you're in a tough time and it seems like there's no way out, God will find a way to fix it.

≈ Danielle

Jesus calls me his friend!

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. . . . I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father” (John 15:13–15).

This is so beautiful to me, that Jesus would call me his friend. Jesus, in all of his power and glory, called lowly me, a sinner, his friend. He didn’t say that I’m an acquaintance, or just another person his Father made, or just some other kid he had to lay down his life for. Jesus said that *I’m his friend*—someone he loves and knows personally, and desires a relationship with. To me, this is an overwhelming statement, especially when friends let me down or hurt me, to know that I always have a best Friend who is constantly with me, loving me perfectly, never failing me, and always understanding everything I am, even my weaknesses and fears. He is always just waiting for me

to acknowledge his love and presence. He did the greatest thing anyone's ever done for me: saved my life by giving up his.

≈ *Mia*