



Forgiven Creatures

by Tracy E. Grindle

You will call and I will answer you; you will long
for the creature your hands have made (Job 14:15).

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, thank You for opening Your Word to us. Your Word is life, and we are so very grateful for the life You give us and the incredible promise of eternal life to come. We praise You, awesome Creator, and ask You to bless our time together. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Opening Discussion

If you know the Lord as your Creator, you may hold on to hope like Job did. Through the torture and despair that had overcome him, he hoped to hear God call. He was prepared to answer. He still believed that God loved him — “you will long for the creature your hands have made.” God did eventually answer Job, and Job could not ask any more questions. He told the Lord in effect, “You are God. I am not. I repent.” The Lord responded with great blessings for Job after his near destruction by Satan.

Do you think God longs for you? If you answered “No” or “I don’t know,” have I got news for you! So many passages in the Bible tell us of God’s love and compassion for us. The very pinnacle of proof that God longs for you is Jesus Christ. His atoning sacrifice opened the way for our salvation and eternal life, indescribable gifts, so we needn’t long for God forever — or He for us.

What Does Our Creator Say?

Verses to look up:

Romans 5:8 _____

John 3:14–17 _____

Ephesians 2:4–10 _____

Forgiveness, Longing, Renewal

I had melanoma surgery several years ago and, in the days right after the surgery, my mind and emotions were a mess. What would the biopsy show? Would I need further treatment? I was filled with questions and fear, until God’s peace broke through. I asked forgiveness for the pity party and lack of trust, and then I longed for heaven.

Have you ever longed for heaven? What delightful thing does **Ecclesiastes 3:11** tell us about eternity? _____

The longing for heaven took me by surprise, and the devil used even that to scare me. “If you are longing for heaven, maybe it means you are going there soon!” I was certainly not longing to die, but the certainty and peace and complete joy of heaven was so appealing.

The idea of walking hand-in-hand with Jesus, whole and perfect, was overcoming my wild thoughts. I hadn’t invited Jesus to my fear-fest pity party, but He came and chased the fear away anyway. My mind was being renewed in a way that I hadn’t expected.

Has the Lord ever intervened in your life, or in your thought patterns, and surprised you with a renewal you might not have been seeking? Has He granted renewal when you were seeking it? Share an example if you are comfortable doing so.

Have a look at **Colossians 3:9–10**. What do we learn about the “new self”? _____

It’s a beautiful blessing when one’s “new self,” scarred and scared as it may be, is renewed by her Creator, for her Creator, in the very image of her Creator. (See **Genesis 1:27**.)

He created us in His image, and when we live with our Creator in mind — literally in our minds through His Holy Spirit — how can we not be different? We can be new and renewed, even when our bodies are sick or aging, having parts missing or parts that need replacing. We are renewed in knowledge, refreshed in spirit, held in the Hand of our Creator (**Isaiah 49:15–16**).

He longs for us with a holy passion that’s strong enough to carry us through life’s trials and into heaven.

Please look up **2 Corinthians 4:6–7**. How does this reference God as Creator (**Genesis 1:3**)? _____

Where does His light shine? _____

Doesn’t that humble you and make you want to shout hallelujah at the same time?

Closing

Dear Lord, You shine Your light into our hearts, and we are forever grateful. Let us live as joyful creatures, praising and serving our awesome Creator. We pray in the name of Jesus, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Say or sing together “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (*LSB* #686) or “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (*LSB* #790; *LW* #444; *TLH* #39).

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