

Esther

He heals the broken hearted, He binds their wounds, He is Love,
He finds those forgotten, Those who've been abused, He is Love,
He knows your name,
A Farther to the fatherless, A healer of the brokenness, You make, beauty from the ashes,
A helper to helpless, A fighter for the hopeless, You Love, those who are alone.
He comforts the lonely, He hears their cry, He is Love,
He holds the children, Through out the night, He is Love,
He knows your name,
A Farther to the Fatherless, A healer of the brokenness, You make, beauty from the ashes,
A helper to the helpless, A fighter for the hopeless, You Love, those who are alone,
Give us your Heart Lord, Help us Love, the unseen, And give us your eyes Lord, Help us Love, those in need,
Your a Farther of the Fatherless, A healer of the brokenness, You make, beauty from the ashes,
Your a helper to helpless, A fighter for the hopeless, You Love, those who are alone,
He knows your name,
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Prodigal Son Suite

I was done hoeing, out in the fields for the day, I was thinking of going, I had to leave right away,
My life is just fading, and oh I felt so alone, The nearest young maiden was, a full day's ride from home.
My father was reading, the holy books in his room, My heart was just bleeding, I knew I had to go soon,
He smiled and pointed at an old wooden chair, I wanted to hold him, but then I just wouldn't dare.

I said, father, there's so much to know, There's a world of things to see, And I'm ready to go and make a life for myself If you give me what is mine, I will go, if I can have your blessing, But if you won't bless my journey, I'm gonna leave anyway. Son, I've always tried my best for you, And if you must be leaving home, then go with the blessing of god. Not too many days later, I was well on my way, I met a travelling stranger, who seemed to have much to say, He told me tales of the city, and all the women he'd had, I asked him, wasn't that sinful, He said, no, it isn't that bad. And then a few days later, on an old city road, We were drowning in laughter, and we had women to hold, And this went on quite a long time, my father gave me a lot, But when my pockets were empty, my friends all left me to rot.

Then a famine hit and drained the land ,Everywhere I looked I saw starvation, and a job was nowhere to find, I wandered through the city streets, competing for the food of common beggars,
Until then I'd never known hunger, but now I wasn't too proud. I finally found some employment, feeding pigs on a farm, I wasn't treated to kindly, I had to sleep in the barn, I had to eat with the swine,
The bread I ate was like stone, It didn't take too much time until, I was dreaming of home. Oh, the servants there are better fed, If I could only have what my father gives them, I would truly need nothing more.
Oh, I will go and say to him, I'm no longer worthy to be in your family,
Will you take me as your servant, and let me live with them.

It didn't take too long to pack my things, I left with only what I wore,
And I prayed that I still had a home. I was near home, in site of the house,
My father just stared, dropped open his mouth, He ran up the road, and fell to my feet, and cried, and cried, Father I've sinned, heaven ashamed, I'm no longer worthy to wear your name,
I've learned that my home is right where you are, Oh father, take me in.

Bring the best robe, put it on my son, Shoes for his feet, hurry put them on, This is my son who I thought had died, Prepare a feast for my son's alive, I've prayed and prayed, never heard a sound,
My son was lost, oh thank you God he's found, My son was dead and he's now alive,

Prepare a feast for my son's alive, My son was dead, My son was lost, My son's returned in the hands of God.

God's Love for us

'The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in **love** and forgiving sin and rebellion.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his **love** endures forever.

Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing **love**.

But I trust in your unfailing **love**; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

Surely your goodness and **love** will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

For I have always been mindful of your unfailing **love** and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

Your **love**, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

How priceless is your unfailing **love**, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

By day the Lord directs his **love**, at night his song is with me

Because your **love** is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in **love** to all who call to you.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing **love**, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be **love**.

"I have **loved** you with an everlasting **love**; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Because of the Lord's great **love** we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing **love**.

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me, and chased after other gods. It was I who taught my children to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his **love** he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

Long before any human being saw us, we are seen by God's loving eyes. Long before anyone heard us cry or laugh, we are heard by our God who is all ears for us

-Henri Nouwen

Here is the mystery of my life is unveiled, I am loved so much that I am left free to leave home. The blessing is here from the beginning. I have left and keep leaving it. But the father is always looking for me with outstretched arms to receive me back and to whisper again in my ear, "You are my Beloved on you my favor rests"

-Henri Nouwen

I think one thing that happens frequently is that we 20th century American people interpret love, when we read it in the Bible,...as being the kind of love that we see in movies or that we read in dumb novels. The love of God is most expressed in the death of Christ...God loves us with an intense love...He pursues us...its not God loves you if you're good, it's not God loves you if He's having a good day. It's God loves you desperately, passionately-and it's a hard thing to get a hold of...But I think its time to get past our hang ups and get into the way things really are.

-Rich Mullins

We need to hear from our Heavenly Father our Abba that we are loved as we are, with all our fears, frustrations, failures, and faults. Only when we hear this directly from our Abba will we become whole that is complete.