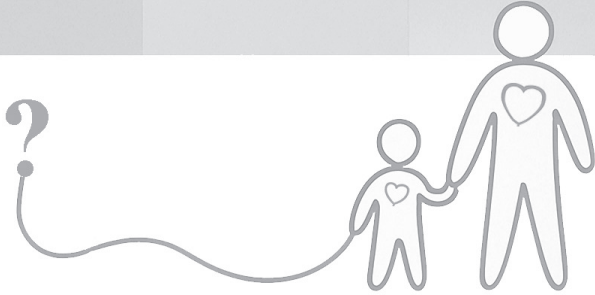


Big Questions *from* Little Hearts

*Answers from God's Word
for Every Generation*



To: _____

From: _____

_____ *date*

Big Questions from Little Hearts

Answers from God's Word for Every Generation



*That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and
tell of all thy wondrous works. (Psalm 26:7)*

Published by Psalm 267 Publishing
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SHARI S. ABBOTT
Shari S. Abbott



CONTENTS

FOREWORD15

INTRODUCTION19

CHAPTER 1. GOD'S NATURE & CREATION.....23

1. How did God create the world?
2. Why did God make people?
3. Why did God make animals?
4. Why did God rest on the seventh day?
5. Why did God put the tree in the Garden of Eden?
6. Why did God create angels?
7. Why did God create the stars?
8. Why did God create time?
9. Why did God create the seasons?
10. Why did some angels become demons?
11. Why did God let people choose to sin?
12. Why did God send His Son to earth?
13. Why did God send prophets?
14. Why did God give people a conscience?
15. Why does God care about every detail of our lives?

CHAPTER 2. OLD TESTAMENT STORIES & PATRIARCHS.....29

16. Why did God send the flood?
17. Why did God save Noah?
18. Why did God allow people to build the Tower of Babel?

19. Why did God confuse the languages at Babel?
20. Why did God choose Abraham?
21. Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
22. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
23. Why did Joseph's brothers sell him?
24. Why did God choose Moses to lead the Israelites?
25. Why did God send plagues on Egypt?
26. Why did God give the Israelites manna in the desert?
27. Why did God give the Ten Commandments?
28. Why did God give the Israelites the Promised Land?
29. Why did God choose David to be king?
30. Why did God give Solomon wisdom?

CHAPTER 3. JESUS' LIFE & TEACHINGS.....35

31. Why did Jesus come as a baby?
32. Why did Jesus do miracles?
33. Why did Jesus teach the Lord's Prayer?
34. Why did Jesus say, "Let the little children come to me"?
35. Why did Jesus choose twelve disciples?
36. Why did Jesus teach with parables?
37. Why did Jesus heal blind people?
38. Why did Jesus say, "I am the Good Shepherd"?
39. Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem?
40. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?
41. Why did Jesus spend time with sinners?
42. Why did Jesus give signs?
43. Why did Jesus perform miracles on the Sabbath?
44. Why did Jesus say, "I am the way, the truth, and the life"?

45. Why did Jesus pray before important decisions?
46. Why did Jesus say, “It is finished” on the cross?
47. Why did Jesus appear to His disciples after resurrection?

CHAPTER 4. SIN, FORGIVENESS & SALVATION.....41

48. Why did Jesus have to die?
49. Why do we confess our sins to God?
50. Why do we repent?
51. Why do we need faith?
52. Why do we need a Savior?
53. Why do we need to believe in Jesus to be saved?
54. Why do we need to forgive ourselves?
55. Why do we need to forgive others again and again?
56. Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 5. LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.....45

57. Why should we share?
58. Why should we say sorry when we do wrong?
59. Why should we be kind to everyone?
60. Why should we be humble?
61. Why should we be gentle?
62. Why should we be patient?
63. Why should we be patient with others?
64. Why should we be honest?
65. Why should we be thankful?
66. Why should we work hard?
67. Why should we rest?
68. Why should we help people in need?

69. Why should we be good stewards of the earth?
70. Why should we learn from our mistakes?
71. Why should we be content with what we have?
72. Why should we be wise and loyal with our friends?
73. Why should we be peacemakers?
74. Why should we be careful what we watch and listen to?
75. Why should we be slow to anger?
76. Why should we be careful with money?
77. Why should we be cheerful givers?
78. Why should we be good listeners?
79. Why should we be joyful?
80. Why should we encourage one another?

CHAPTER 6. FAITHFULNESS, LOVE & HOPE53

81. Why should we be faithful?
82. Why should we be hopeful?
83. Why should we be strong and courageous?
84. Why should we be self-controlled?
85. Why should we love God with all our hearts?
86. Why should we love our neighbors?
87. Why should we worship God?
88. Why should we tell others about Jesus?
89. Why should we be thankful for Jesus?
90. Why should we remember what God has done?
91. Why should we trust God's plan?
92. Why should we read the Bible every day?
93. Why should we be careful with our words?
94. Why should we keep our promises?

CHAPTER 7. PRAYER & WORSHIP.....59

- 95. Why do we pray?
- 96. Why do we pray in Jesus' name?
- 97. Why do we pray the Lord's Prayer?
- 98. Why do we bow our heads when we pray?
- 99. Why do we say "Amen" at the end of prayers?
- 100. Why do we pray before meals?
- 101. Why do we pray silently sometimes?
- 102. Why do we sing hymns at church?
- 103. Why do we pray for our enemies?
- 104. Why do we pray for wisdom?
- 105. Why do we pray for healing?
- 106. Why do we worship God with our whole lives?
- 107. Why does God sometimes wait to answer prayers?

CHAPTER 8. THE BIBLE & FAITH.....63

- 108. Why do we call the Bible God's Word?
- 109. Why do we call Jesus the "Word"?
- 110. Why do we study the lives of Bible heroes?
- 111. Why do we have both the Old and New Testaments?
- 112. Why do we study the Old Testament?
- 113. Why do we have four Gospels?
- 114. Why do we believe the Bible is true?
- 115. Why do we memorize Scripture?
- 116. Why do we trust God's promises?
- 117. Why do we read the Psalms?

CHAPTER 9. CHURCH & COMMUNITY.....67

- 118. Why do we meet together as a church?
- 119. Why do we have pastors and teachers at?
- 120. Why do we have church leaders?
- 121. Why do we have Sunday School?
- 122. Why do we have baptism?
- 123. Why do we have different churches/denominations?
- 124. Why do we serve in church?
- 125. Why do we give offerings?
- 126. Why do we take communion?
- 127. Why do we celebrate Christmas?
- 128. Why do we celebrate Easter?
- 129. Why do we support missionaries?
- 130. Why do we have fellowship after church?
- 131. Why do we serve others?

CHAPTER 10. HEAVEN, HELL & ETERNITY.....73

- 132. Why do we believe in Heaven?
- 133. Why do we believe in Hell?
- 134. Why does God want everyone to be saved?
- 135. Why do we have hope for the future?
- 136. Why do we look forward to Jesus' return?
- 137. Why do we believe in eternal life?
- 138. Why does God want us to tell others about Heaven?

RESOURCES..... 77

ABOUT REASONS FOR HOPE* JESUS..81

MY QUESTIONS..... .85

FOREWORD

As a grandmother, I know both the joy and the weight of answering the big questions that rise up from little hearts. Those questions often come at unexpected times—during bedtime prayers, in the car, or over a simple meal—and they reveal just how carefully children are watching, listening, and thinking about God and the world around them.

As Chairman of the Board for Reasons for Hope* Jesus, I also feel both the urgency and the privilege of helping the next generation know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a sacred stewardship to be part of a ministry devoted to pointing people of all ages to the hope we have in Jesus and equipping believers to share that hope with clarity and confidence.

Serving in this ministry alongside my dear friend and sister-in-Christ, Shari Abbott, has been a joy. Over the years, I have watched her handle God's Word with faithful diligence—studying it carefully, teaching it clearly, and always seeking to honor the Lord in both message and manner. She does not shy away from difficult questions. Instead, she addresses them with dependence on Scripture and desire to communicate truth in ways that open the door for deeper question and age appropriate answers.

Shari has written many books, and I am especially grateful for this one. I have certainly had my own share of “big questions from little hearts.” My grandchildren ask important questions that require thoughtful consideration so I can answer in a way that instructs them, satisfies their curiosity, and points them to

Big Questions from Little Hearts

Jesus. Over time, I have learned that beginning with a simple answer is often best. A clear, truthful response that a child can grasp opens the door to further questions and deeper conversations. What children often need first is not a full theological lecture, but a faithful answer sized to their understanding.

That need is exactly what *Big Questions from Little Hearts* addresses so well. Shari understands that many adults—parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and other caregivers—often feel unprepared to give a quick, simple answer when children ask about God, the Bible, Jesus, sin, salvation, prayer, church, Heaven, and more. Many people know what they believe, yet struggle to express those truths in words that children can understand. This book meets that need with grace. It is written to equip, encourage, and empower adults to respond to children's questions with greater confidence, biblical faithfulness, and loving clarity.

Big Questions from Little Hearts addresses 140 of the honest questions children actually ask and offers clear, gentle, biblical answers that can be read, absorbed, and then shared in one's own words. It does not attempt to say everything about every subject. Rather, it helps readers say the most important things in a way that little hearts can understand and remember.

The importance of starting simply is illustrated by a story of a little boy who asked his father at the dinner table, "Dad, why did Jesus have to die?" His father, wanting to be biblical and thorough, launched into a long explanation about animal sacrifices in the Old Testament. He spoke about covenants and atonement, and carefully defined words like "propitiation" and "substitution." Everything he said was theologically sound, but it was too much for the little boy to take in. When he finished, his son looked at him with confusion and simply said, "I thought it was because Jesus loves us, so He died to pay for our sins."

Not all children will be satisfied with short answers, but be-

ginning with short, clear, direct answers is wise. A simple answer can open the door for more questions

Another strength of this book is its usefulness in everyday life. It can be read aloud at bedtime, opened after a car-ride question catches someone off guard, or discussed together around the kitchen table. It can be read from beginning to end, or used as a reference by turning to the table of contents and locating a particular question. Its format makes it flexible, approachable, and well suited for answering children's spontaneous questions. Rather than being a resource that sits untouched on a shelf, this is a book designed to be used again and again.

Although the title highlights "little hearts," this book will bless and benefit readers of any age. As many adults will discover, the questions children ask often echo questions in their own hearts. Sometimes people realize they have believed the right things for years, yet struggle to explain those truths simply and clearly. These short, Scripture-rich readings help readers revisit and strengthen the foundations of their own faith even as they prepare to share those truths with the next generation.

I am deeply thankful for Shari Abbott—for her love for the Lord, her faithfulness to His Word, and her desire to serve families, churches, and ministries through resources like this one. She is well qualified to write this book, not only because of her knowledge of Scripture, but also because of her deep desire to help others understand the Bible and apply its teachings. This beautiful book is written with such clarity and grace that readers at any stage of their spiritual understanding can grasp its message and be helped by its truth.

I gladly and wholeheartedly commend *Big Questions from Little Hearts* to parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and to all who have the privilege of guiding children toward Christ. It is my prayer that God will use these pages to strengthen your confidence in His Word, deepen your love for the Lord Jesus,

Big Questions from Little Hearts

and equip you to answer the honest questions of the children in your life with wisdom, gentleness, and truth. May He use this book to turn curiosity into conversation, confusion into confidence, and simple questions into lifelong faith in the Savior.

Becky Rice

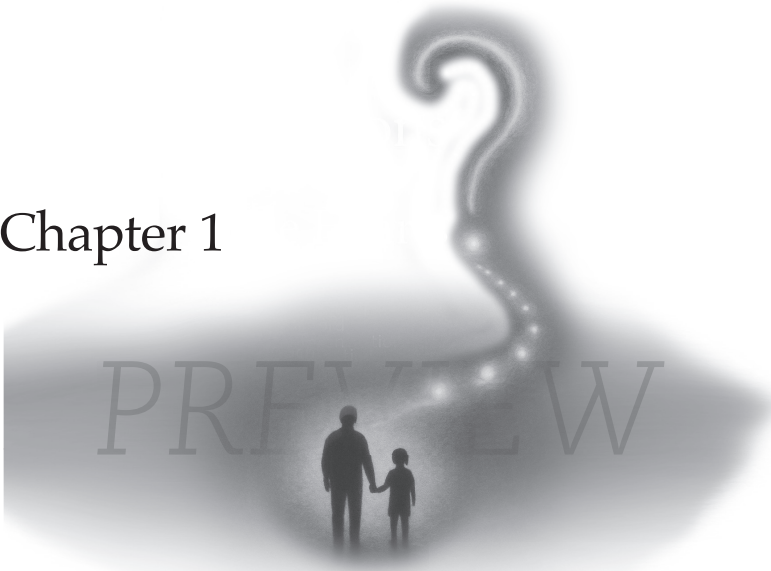
Managing Partner & Founder, Retired

Rebecca Rice & Associates

Chairman of the Board, Reasons for Hope* Jesus

PREVIEW

Chapter 1



CHARLES ABBOTT

God's Nature & Creation

1. HOW DID GOD CREATE THE WORLD?

God created the world by His word and power. Psalm 33:6 says, “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” The Bible tells us in Genesis 1 that God spoke everything into existence: “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3).

Over six days, God created the heavens and the earth, the sky, land, seas, plants, sun, moon, stars, birds, fish, animals, and finally people. Each day, God looked at what He made and saw that it was good, and very good (Genesis 1:31).

2. WHY DID GOD MAKE PEOPLE?

God made people because He wanted to share His love and have a relationship with us. Genesis 1:26–27 says God created

humans in His own image, which means we are special and set apart from the rest of creation. God gave people the ability to think, feel, and make choices, and He wants us to know Him and love Him back. God also created people to care for the world and each other (Genesis 2:15). Throughout the Bible, God shows that He desires friendship with us, and He delights in our prayers, worship, and obedience (Micah 6:8; John 15:15).

3. WHY DID GOD MAKE ANIMALS?

God made animals to fill the earth with life and beauty. Genesis 1:20–25 describes how God created every creature—birds, fish, and land animals—each according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God also gave people the responsibility to care for animals (Genesis 1:28, 2:19–20). Animals remind us of God’s creativity and the variety in His creation, and they can be our helpers and companions.

4. WHY DID GOD REST ON THE SEVENTH DAY?

God didn’t rest because He was tired, but to set an example for us. The seventh day, called the Sabbath, became a special day for people to stop working and remember God’s goodness. In Exodus 20:8-11, God commanded His people to keep the Sabbath holy as a day of rest and worship. This weekly rest helps us trust God, remember His blessings, and enjoy His creation.

5. WHY DID GOD PUT THE TREE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve a choice (Genesis 2:16–17). God wanted people to have free will, not be robots. By choosing to obey or disobey, Adam and Eve could show their love and trust for God. Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to disobey, bringing sin into the world (Genesis 3:6). But God’s plan was

always to offer forgiveness and restore our relationship with Him through Jesus (Romans 5:18–19).

6. WHY DID GOD CREATE ANGELS?

The Bible teaches that God created angels to serve Him and carry out His will (Psalm 103:20–21; Hebrews 1:14). Angels are spiritual beings who worship God, deliver His messages, protect people, and fight against evil. Their existence shows God's glory and the reality of the spiritual world.

7. WHY DID GOD CREATE THE STARS?

God created the stars to give light at night, to mark seasons and times, and to display His glory (Genesis 1:14–18; Psalm 19:1). The vastness of the universe reminds us of how great and powerful God is. The Bible tells that God has named all the stars (Isaiah 40:26); and if He cares that much for the stars, He certainly cares for each of us.

8. WHY DID GOD CREATE TIME?

God created time as part of the universe so that we could have order, seasons, and a sense of purpose (Genesis 1:14–19; Ecclesiastes 3:1–2). God Himself is eternal and outside of time (Psalm 90:2). He uses time to accomplish His plans and to teach us patience and trust.

9. WHY DID GOD CREATE THE SEASONS?

God created the seasons to provide variety, beauty, and order in the world (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 74:17). Each season has a purpose for growing food, resting the land, and reminding us of God's faithfulness. The changing seasons also teach us that life has different times—joy and sorrow, work and rest—and that God is with us in every season (Ecclesiastes 3:1–11).

10. WHY DID SOME ANGELS BECOME DEMONS?

The Bible teaches that demons are actually fallen angels who rebelled against God. Led by Satan (formerly the angel Lucifer), these angels chose pride and disobedience, turning away from their original purpose to serve God. As a result, they were cast out of Heaven and became demons (Revelation 12:7–9; Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–17). Scripture suggests that about one third of the angels joined in this rebellion (Revelation 12:4). Their fall serves as a warning about the consequences of pride and the misuse of free will.

11. WHY DID GOD LET PEOPLE CHOOSE TO SIN?

God gave people free will so that our love for Him would be real and not forced. Choosing to follow God or turn away from Him is part of being truly human. Even when Adam and Eve chose to sin, God's plan to rescue us was already in place. And when we continue to sin, we know that God's grace is greater than our failures.

12. WHY DID GOD SEND HIS SON TO EARTH?

God sent Jesus to restore the broken relationship between Himself and mankind. Because of sin, humanity was separated from God, but Jesus came to live the sinless life we could not live and take the punishment that we deserve. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, forgiveness and eternal life are available to everyone who trusts in Him.

13. WHY DID GOD SEND PROPHETS?

Prophets were sent by God to deliver His messages, especially messages of correction and encouragement. They warned about the consequences of turning away from God, called people back to God, and gave hope for the future. Many prophets spoke

about the coming of Jesus, His mission, His death and resurrection, and many yet to be fulfilled events.

14. WHY DID GOD GIVE PEOPLE A CONSCIENCE?

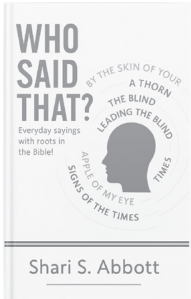
Our conscience is an inner sense of right and wrong that helps guide our actions. God gave everyone a conscience to help us recognize good and avoid evil. When we listen to our conscience and align it with God's Word, we grow in wisdom and character.

15. WHY DOES GOD CARE ABOUT EVERY DETAIL OF OUR LIVES?

God cares deeply about every aspect of our lives because He loves us completely and knows us better than anyone else. Even the smallest details matter to Him. He wants us to bring all our concerns and joys to Him, trusting that He is always attentive and involved in our lives.

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Books & Resources from this Author

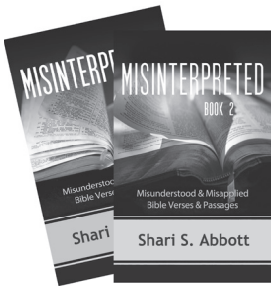
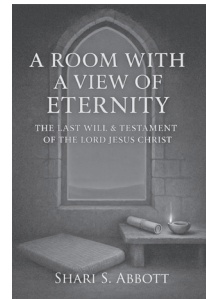


[Who Said That? Common Everyday Sayings](#)

This is a great book to give to unbelievers. It's simply a look at everyday sayings originating from God's Word. At the end of the book is a gospel presentation.

[A Room with a View of Eternity— The Last Will & Testament of the Lord Jesus Christ](#)

Take a seat at the Master's table. Learn about the Lord's final words to His faithful disciples (John 13-17), and the riches He gives to all who are His.



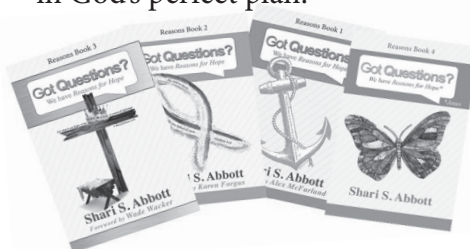
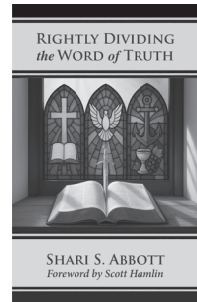
[MISINTERPRETED 1 & 2](#)

Misunderstood & Misapplied Bible

Verses & Passages—Sometimes Scripture is wrongly taught with an intention to deceive, but most often it is unintentional. As Christians, we must be diligent in discerning truth —God's truth from His Word.

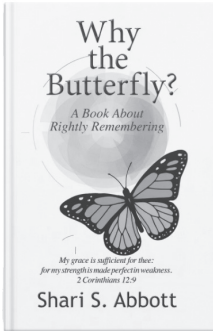
[Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth](#) —

With simple explanations and Scripture-centered teaching, this book will help you discover how a right understanding of Scripture brings clarity instead of confusion, confidence instead of doubt, and joy as you see how every part of the Bible fits together in God's perfect plan.



[Got Questions? We have Reasons for Hope](#) [Reasons Books 1, 2, 3 & 4](#)

30 questions and 30 answers with reasons for hope.



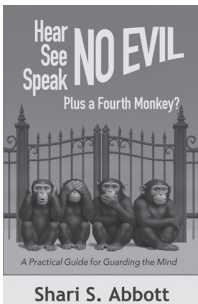
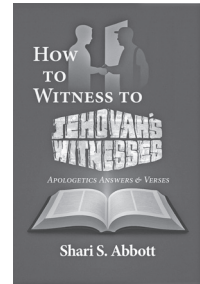
[Why the Butterfly? Rightly Remembering Jesus](#) — This book isn't about butterflies. . .it's all about Jesus! Discover how rightly remembering will establish your heart, anchor your soul, and transform your mind. A quick read that will give you a heavenly perspective on this journey we call life!

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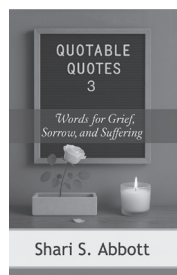
[Hear, See, Speak No Evil—Plus a Fourth Monkey](#) Three little monkeys, with their proverbial quip, “Hear No Evil, See No Evil, and Speak No Evil,” date back as far as 17th century. What biblical lessons do these monkeys offer? And what about the newest warning. . .post no evil?



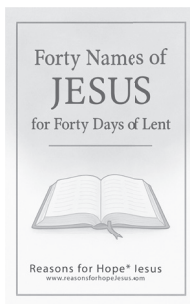
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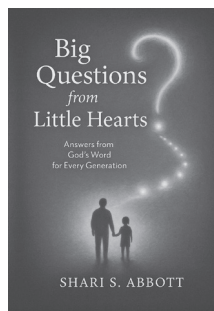


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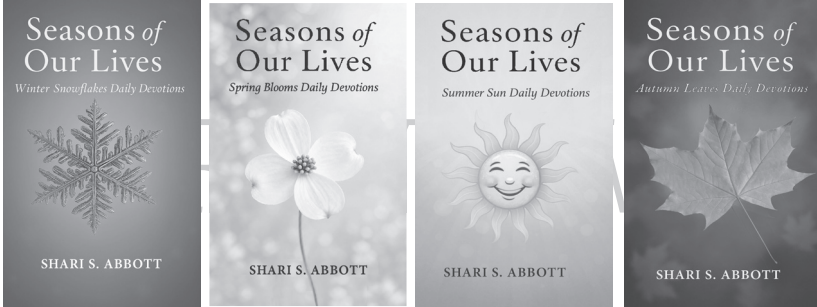
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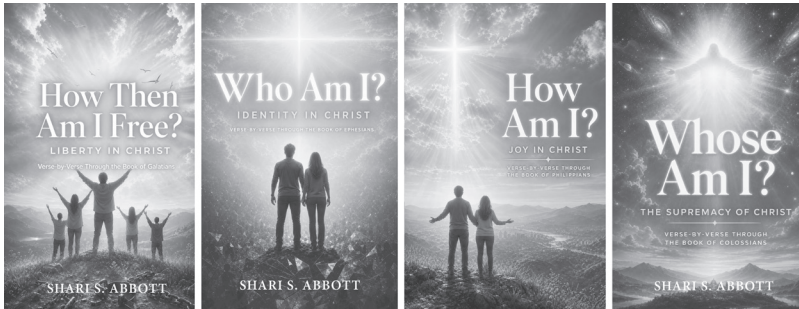


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- Ephesians ~ Identity in Christ
- Philippians ~ Joy in Christ
- Colossians ~ Supremacy of Christ





*This hope we have as an anchor for the soul,
both sure and steadfast. (Hebrews 6:19)*

Helping Christians to know Jesus better, by
Offering biblical answers and reasoning from God's Word,
and
Promoting the benefits and joys of spending time with God
in prayer and in reading and studying His Word, which leads
to
Enjoying God, finding rest in Jesus, and living to honor Him
and serve others.

Get *equipped* with KNOWLEDGE!



Be *encouraged* in HOPE!

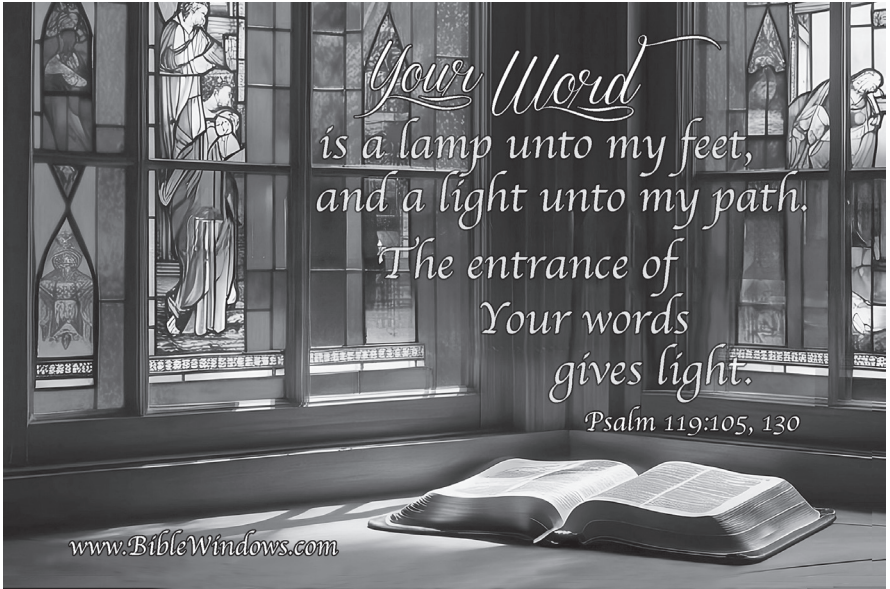


Live *empowered* with LOVE!



About Reasons for Hope* Jesus

Our ministry exists to glorify God by equipping Christians with biblical knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. By knowing and trusting God and growing in our understanding of His will and ways, we can change the world. Jesus is the reason this ministry exists. Visit www.reasonsforhopeJesus.com for biblical articles, instructional videos, and inspiring song videos.



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