

## THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

The Seven Greatest Words of Love  
Rick Warren

"A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves. . . .' Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.' The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'"

Luke 23:27-28, 32-37 (NIV)

### WHAT WE USUALLY DO WITH OUR GUILT

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. . . . My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone." Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)

"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins." Proverbs 28:13 (GNT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"'Yes,' Adam admitted, 'but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.'" Genesis 3:12 (TLB)

"People's own foolishness ruins their lives, but in their minds they blame the LORD." Proverbs 19:3 (NCV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. . . . I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning."

Psalm 38:4, 6 (NIV)

### WHAT JESUS WANTS US TO DO WITH OUR GUILT

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"The LORD gave us mind and conscience; we cannot hide from ourselves." Proverbs 20:27 (GNT)

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8 (NIV)

"Let us examine our ways and test them." Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"I recognize my faults; I am conscious of my sins." Psalm 51:3 (GNT)

"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (TLB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable . . . he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil." 1 John 1:9 (PHILLIPS)

"All have sinned . . . yet now God declares us 'not guilty' . . . if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins." Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)

### WHAT JESUS DOES WITH MY GUILT

• **HE FORGIVES ME** \_\_\_\_\_  
"God . . . is merciful and quick to forgive." Isaiah 55:7 (GNT)

• **HE FORGIVES ME** \_\_\_\_\_  
"He has forgiven you all your sins: Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over his own head on the cross." Colossians 2:13-14 (PHILLIPS)

• **HE FORGIVES ME** \_\_\_\_\_  
"[Christ] is always living to intercede on their behalf." Hebrews 7:25 (PHILLIPS)

• **HE FORGIVES ME** \_\_\_\_\_  
"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God." Ephesians 1:7 (GNT)

"What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! . . . What relief for those who . . . God has cleared their record." Psalm 32:1-2 (TLB)

## THE WORD OF ASSURANCE

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*“One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, ‘So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!’ But the other criminal protested, ‘Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.’ And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” Luke 23:39-43 (NLT)*

### WHAT MUST I KNOW TO BE SAVED? 5 TRUTHS THAT SAVED THE DYING THIEF

#### 1. I MUST KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

*“Don’t you fear God even when you are dying?” Luke 23:40 (TLB)*

*“Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God.” Hebrews 9:27 (GNT)*

#### 2. I MUST KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

*“We deserve to die for our evil deeds.” Luke 23:41 (TLB)*

*“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NIV)*

#### 3. I MUST KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

*“But this man has not done anything wrong!” Luke 23:41 (NLT)*

*“There is not a single man in all the earth who is always good and never sins.”  
Ecclesiastes 7:20 (TLB)*

*“God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God’s approval through him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (GW)*

#### 4. I MUST KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

*“Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me.’” Luke 23:42 (NIV)*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”  
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)*

#### 5. I MUST KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

*“When you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42 (NIV)*

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31 (NIV)*

### HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM SAVED?

\_\_\_\_\_  
*“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”  
Luke 23:43 (NLT)*

- IT IS \_\_\_\_\_ **“Today”**
- IT IS \_\_\_\_\_ **“you will”**
- IT IS \_\_\_\_\_ **“be with me”**
- IT IS \_\_\_\_\_ **“in paradise”**

### WHEN CAN I BE SAVED?

*“This is the hour to receive God’s favor; today is the day to be saved!”  
2 Corinthians 6:2 (GNT)*

*“Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (TLB)*

### Next Steps

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## THE WORD OF LOVE

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*"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."*  
John 19:25-27 (NIV)

### TO LOVE LIKE JESUS . . .

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Honor your father and your mother."* Exodus 20:12 (NIV)
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Show respect for widows who really are all alone. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should learn first to carry out their religious duties toward their own family and in this way repay their parents and grandparents, because that is what pleases God."* 1 Timothy 5:3-4 (GNT)
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*  
1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)
  - \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble."* Proverbs 17:17 (MSG)
2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as if he were your father. Treat the younger men as your brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, with all purity."* 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (GNT)

*"Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other."* Romans 12:10 (GW)

*"When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."*  
Galatians 6:10 (NCV)

*"Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command."*  
Galatians 6:2 (TLB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."* Philippians 2:5 (GW)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude he did; you must be ready to suffer, too. For remember, when your body suffers, sin loses its power."* 1 Peter 4:1 (TLB)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'"* Romans 15:2 (MSG)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night."*  
Romans 12:13 (TLB)

### WHEN GRIEVING

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE WORD OF SUBSTITUTION

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*"From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?')" Matthew 27:45-46 (NIV)*

### WHAT HAPPENED?

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*"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2 (NIV)*

*"God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!" 2 Corinthians 5:21 (TLB)*

### WHAT DOES IT TEACH US?

1. 

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*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8 (NIV)*

*"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing." Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV)*

2. 

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*"It is your evil that has separated you from your God. Your sins cause him to turn away from you, so he does not hear you." Isaiah 59:2 (NCV)*

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*"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear." Psalm 38:4 (NIV)*

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*"God is a righteous judge and always condemns the wicked." Psalm 7:11 (GNT)*

*"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (NIV)*

3. 

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*"For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us." Romans 3:25 (TLB)*

*"People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood." Romans 3:25 (NLT)*

*"Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing." Galatians 3:13 (NLT)*

### WHAT SHOULD BE MY RESPONSE?

1. 

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*"Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us 'not guilty'—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like." Romans 3:22 (TLB)*

*"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left." Hebrews 10:26 (NIV)*

2. 

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*"Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." Romans 5:11 (NLT)*

3. 

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*"God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver." 1 Peter 1:18 (NLT)*

*"But he paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." 1 Peter 1:19 (TLB)*

4. 

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*"The Lord . . . is patient for your sake. He doesn't want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act." 2 Peter 3:9 (GW)*

*Next Step*

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## THE WORD OF HUMANITY

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*"After this, Jesus knew that everything had been done. So that the Scripture would come true, he said, 'I am thirsty.' There was a jar full of vinegar there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' mouth." John 19:28-29 (NCV)*

### THE THIRST OF JESUS

#### • IT SHOWED \_\_\_\_\_

*"[Jesus] gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross." Philipians 2:7-8 (NCV)*

#### • IT SHOWED \_\_\_\_\_

*"So that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'" John 19:28 (NIV)*

*"When I was thirsty they offered me vinegar." Psalm 69:21 (GNT)*

*"Take a branch of the hyssop plant, dip it into the bowl filled with blood, and then wipe the blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes." Exodus 12:22 (NCV)*

#### • IT SHOWS \_\_\_\_\_

*"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)*

### THE THIRST OF OTHERS

*"The time is coming when I will send famine on the land. People will be hungry, but not for bread; they will be thirsty, but not for water. They will hunger and thirst for a message from the Lord." Amos 8:11 (GNT)*

*"Men will wander everywhere from sea to sea, seeking the word of the Lord, searching, running here and going there, but will not find it. Beautiful girls and fine young men alike will grow faint and weary, thirsting for the word of God." Amos 8:12-13 (TLB)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?" . . . And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" Matthew 25:37, 40 (NLT)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42 (NLT)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink." Proverbs 25:21 (NLT)*

### HOW DO I GET MY THIRST SATISFIED?

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*"O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you." Psalm 63:1 (GNT)*

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6 (NIV)*

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*"He took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. . . . he was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds." Isaiah 53:4-5 (NCV)*

*"This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin." Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)*

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*"My people have done two evils: They have turned away from me, the spring of living water. And they have dug their own wells, which are broken wells that cannot hold water." Jeremiah 2:13 (NCV)*

*"On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, 'Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, "Rivers of living water will flow from his heart."'" John 7:37-38 (NLT)*

*"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.'" John 4:13-14 (NLT)*

## THE WORD OF VICTORY

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Jesus: "I must finish the work that [God] gave me to do." John 4:34 (CEV)

"Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, 'I am thirsty.' . . . Jesus drank . . . and said, 'It is finished!' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." John 19:28, 30 (GNT)

### 5 USES OF "TETELESTAI"

- **Servant: The task is completed!**
- **Judge: Justice has been served!**
- **Accountant: The debt has been paid in full!**
- **Artist: The picture is finished!**
- **Priest: The perfect offering has been given!**

### WHAT DID JESUS "FINISH" ON THE CROSS?

#### 1. HE FULFILLED \_\_\_\_\_

"[Jesus] said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.'" Luke 24:44-47 (NIV)

"For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding 'Yes!' And through Christ, our 'Amen' (which means 'Yes') ascends to God for his glory." 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT)

### SONG OF THANKS & PRAISE HERE

#### 2. HE SATISFIED \_\_\_\_\_

"The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us." Romans 8:3-4 (NLT)

"After Jesus had finished his work, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him." Hebrews 5:9 (GW)

"Christ ended the law so that everyone who believes in him may be right with God."  
Romans 10:4 (NCV)

#### 3. HE PAID OFF \_\_\_\_\_

"We owed a debt because we broke God's laws. That debt listed all the rules we failed to follow. But God forgave us that debt. He took away that debt and nailed it to the cross." Colossians 2:14 (ICB)

"[God's] Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven."  
Colossians 1:14 (GW)

#### 4. HE DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

"The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ."  
Romans 5:17 (NLT)

"[Jesus] also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying." Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

"By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life." Romans 6:4 (GNT)

### LIVE BAPTISM HERE

#### 5. HE DESTROYED \_\_\_\_\_

##### THROUGH TEMPTATION

"God has freed us from the power of darkness, and he brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Colossians 1:13 (NCV)

##### THROUGH CONDEMNATION

"God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin, and God openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away."  
Colossians 2:15 (TLB)

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."  
Philippians 1:6 (NLT)



## THE WORD OF TRUST

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*"By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, 'Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!' And with those words he breathed his last. When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, 'Surely this man was innocent.'" Luke 23:44-47 (NLT)*

### JESUS IS A MODEL OF HOW TO DIE WELL

1. He was at peace that it was his time
2. He wasn't afraid to die
3. He died with no unresolved relationships
4. He wasn't angry or bitter
5. He knew where he was going
6. He trusted God with his future

### JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE . . .

- \_\_\_\_\_  
John 10:18
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"shouted"
- \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 31:5

### 4 TRUTHS TO REMEMBER IN YOUR DARKEST HOUR

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him."* Psalm 103:13 (NIV)  
  
*"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"* Luke 23:46 (NLT)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"* Luke 23:46 (NLT)  
  
*"For all God's words are right, and everything he does is worthy of our trust."*  
Psalm 33:4 (TLB)

- **WHAT ABOUT BABIES & THOSE MENTALLY INCAPACITATED WHO DIE?**  
*"The Lord protects the simple and the childlike."* Psalm 116:6 (TLB)
- **WHAT ABOUT BELIEVERS WHO GET CONFUSED & STOP BELIEVING?**  
*"Many deceivers . . . have gone out into the world. . . . Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully."*  
2 John 1:7-8 (NIV)
- **WHAT ABOUT BELIEVERS WHO COMMIT SUICIDE?**  
*"If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself."*  
2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"* Luke 23:46 (NLT)  
  
*"When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold."* Job 23:9-10 (NIV)  
  
*"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*  
2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"* Luke 23:46 (NLT)

### GOD'S HANDS ARE . . .

- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head."* Psalm 139:5 (NLT)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish . . . My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."* John 10:28-29 (NIV)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."* Isaiah 49:15-16 (NIV)  
  
*"I think you ought to know, dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead."*  
2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (TLB)