



**“In my finite story I am often left grasping after several different threads and cannot seem to weave them into one coherent whole. My story has broken characters, jarring interruptions, unexpected joys, relationships caught up in unresolved tensions and difficulties. My life story has unexplained contradictions, I have plenty of unanswered questions, and, in God’s kindness and mercy, I have as yet unfinished chapters. But my story is not the story.” —David Gibson**

**“Remember this, had any other condition been better for you than the one in which you are, divine love would have put you there.”  
—Charles Spurgeon**

**“Given God’s absolute freedom and sovereignty, his actions always reveal his pleasure.” —Joe Rigney**

**When we enjoy his gifts, we are experiencing his favor. The only right way to respond to God’s good gifts, and to his pleasure in giving us the gifts of food and wine and family, is to go and enjoy them.  
—David Gibson**

**“Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them”  
—Psalm 111:2**

**“I now bid you to see God in common things. He makes the grass to grow – grass is a common thing. You see it everywhere, yet God is in it...In truth everything teems with marvel. See God in the bread of your table and the water of your cup. It will be the happiest way of living if you can say in each providential circumstance, ‘My Father has done all this.’” —Charles Spurgeon**

**“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” —James 1:17**

**“The enjoyment is incomplete and somehow seems stolen until it expresses itself in gratitude to God.” —Phil Ryken**

**“Be present to the present’s presents.” —Bobby Jamieson**

**“To make every pleasure into a Channel of adoration...I don’t mean simply by giving thanks for it – one must, of course, give thanks – but I mean something different. Gratitude exclaims very properly: how good a God to give me this. Adoration says: what must be the quality of that Being whose far off and momentary coruscations are like this? One’s mind runs back up the sunbeam to the sun.” —C.S. Lewis**

**“What do I do with the truth that Jesus is better than pumpkin crunch cake? There are two possibilities. The first says, “I love pumpkin crunch cake. But Jesus is better. So maybe I shouldn’t love the sweet pumpkin filling and the crispy cake topping and the crunchy pecans scattered throughout so much. Perhaps I should even mix in a little vinegar to spoil the taste. Maybe I should suppress my satisfaction in the cake so it doesn’t compete with my satisfaction in God.” The second says, “This cake is unbelievably good, and it’s just a fleeting**

**taste of the fullness of joy that Jesus offers! As I eat it, I want to do so in such a way that I also taste and see that the Lord is good.”**

—Joe Rigney

**“In the first case, we seek to make Jesus better by making creation worse. In the second, we seek to let creation be grand, only to remind ourselves that we have not yet begun to experience true grandeur.”**

—Joe Rigney

**"You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound." —Psalm 4:7**

**"A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."**

—Psalm 84:10

**“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”**

—Psalm 127:1

**“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.” —Psalm 63:3**

**“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.”**

—C.S. Lewis

**“The Bible’s picture of the best that life can offer us is simply a foretaste of a wedding banquet still to come, the beauty and grandeur and glory of which cannot be put into words.” —David Gibson**

**“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the heart of man has not imagined what God has prepared for those who love him”**

— 1 Corinthians 2:9