

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from Heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)**

THREE SMALL TRUTHS FOR A BIG YEAR

1. I AM A CHILD OF GOD

But to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **John 1:12 (NIV)**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. **1 John 3:1 (ESV)**

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
Romans 8:16 (ESV)

REMEMBERING THAT I AM A CHILD OF GOD GIVES ME CONFIDENCE FOR TODAY

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. **Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)**

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
Romans 8:14-17 (NIV)

2. I AM LOVED BY GOD

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16 (ESV)**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8 (ESV)

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **1 John 4:15-16 (ESV)**

KNOWING I AM LOVED BY GOD ALLOWS ME TO LOVE OTHERS.

We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19 (ESV)**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. **1 John 3:16 (ESV)**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. **1 John 13:34 (ESV)**

3. I AM PLEASING TO GOD

He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.
Psalm 18:19 (ESV)

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.
Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)

BELIEVING I AM PLEASING TO GOD, HELPS ME RISE AGAIN.

For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. **Proverbs 24:16 (NIV)**

... but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.
Hebrews 10:38 (ESV)