

I AM NOT AN ACCIDENT OR SURPRISE

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup>His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.*

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

❖ God loves you with an UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

1. The first purpose of my life is to be LOVED by GOD.

*This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who are called to live in the love of God the Father and the care of Jesus Christ.*

Jude 1:1 (NLT)

2. God calls me to ENJOY a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with Him.

*Dear friends in Rome. God loves you dearly, and he has called you to be his very own people.*

Romans 1:7 (NLT)

3. God's desired relationship with us is for us to become one of HIS KIDS.

*See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children--think of it--and we really are!*

1 John 3:1 (LB)

❖ How Big is God's Love for You and Me?

*"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

1. God's love is WIDE ENOUGH to be EVERYWHERE.

2. God's love is LONG ENOUGH to LAST FOREVER.

3. God's love is HIGH ENOUGH to OVERLOOK my SINS.

4. God's love is DEEP ENOUGH to HANDLE ANYTHING that comes my way.

❖ Five Changes in My Life When I Choose to Believe that "God Loves Me..."

1. I will feel ACCEPTED rather than ASHAMED.

*By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we live at peace with God.*

Romans 5:1 (CEV)

2. I will become BOLD in bringing my NEEDS to God.

*So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.*

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

3. I will find PEACE when I am going through PAIN.

*Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.*

Philippians 4:7 (CEV)

4. I will choose to WORSHIP instead of WORRY.

*"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? <sup>31</sup>...So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Matthew 6:27, 31-33 (NIV)

5. I will gain COURAGE to live by FAITH, not FEAR.

*There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.*

1 John 4:18 (MSG)