

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and spiritual connection.

Belonging to Him

**OUR NEED FOR
TRUE RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, textured clouds. The overall mood is one of spiritual devotion and hope.

Belonging to Him

The Word of Relationship

The Word of Relationship



“What though the radiance which was once so bright be now forever taken from my sight.”

The Word of Relationship



“Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower.”

The Word of Relationship



“We will grieve not,
rather find strength in
what remains behind.”

The Word of Relationship



“In the primal sympathy, which having been must ever be.”

The Word of Relationship



“In the soothing thoughts that spring out of human suffering.”

The Word of Relationship



“In the faith that looks through death, in years that bring the philosophic mind.”

-- William Wordsworth

The Word of Relationship



“Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.

‘Pooh!’ he whispered.

‘Yes, Piglet?’”

The Word of Relationship



“Nothing,” said Piglet,
taking Pooh's paw.”

The Word of Relationship



“I just wanted to be
sure of you.”

- A.A. Milne

The Word of Relationship



“There, peeping among the cloud-wrack above a dark tor high up in the mountains, Sam Gamgee saw a white star twinkle for a while.”

The Word of Relationship



“The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land of Mordor, and hope returned to him.”

The Word of Relationship



“For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing.”

The Word of Relationship



“There was a light and high beauty forever beyond its reach.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien

The Word of Relationship



“Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the
everlasting God, the
Creator of the ends of
the earth. He does not
faint or grow weary; his
understanding is
unsearchable.”

The Word of Relationship



“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.”

The Word of Relationship



“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted.”

The Word of Relationship



“But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles.”

The Word of Relationship



“They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.”

- Isaiah, the prophet

The Word of Relationship



The Word of Relationship

Words Have Power

- **Words shape your world.**
- **Words inspire, instruct, and enlighten.**
- **Words can create and destroy.**

Words are one of the chief foundations for all relationship.

They are the very fabric of personal connection.

The Word of Relationship

How do God's words
meet our need for true
relationship?



The Word of Relationship

1. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it is the chief way God has chosen to relate to his creation and to mankind.**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”

(John 1:1-4)

The Word of Relationship

1. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it is the chief way God has chosen to relate to his creation and to mankind.**

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...and God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1, 3)

The Word of Relationship

2. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it is the embodiment of the living Christ who himself is true in character and true to us.**

*“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.”
(John 1:14)*

The Word of Relationship

3. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it serves as the chief entryway to living in true relationship with Christ himself.**

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

The Word of Relationship

3. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it serves as the chief entryway to living in true relationship with Christ himself.**

“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12-13)

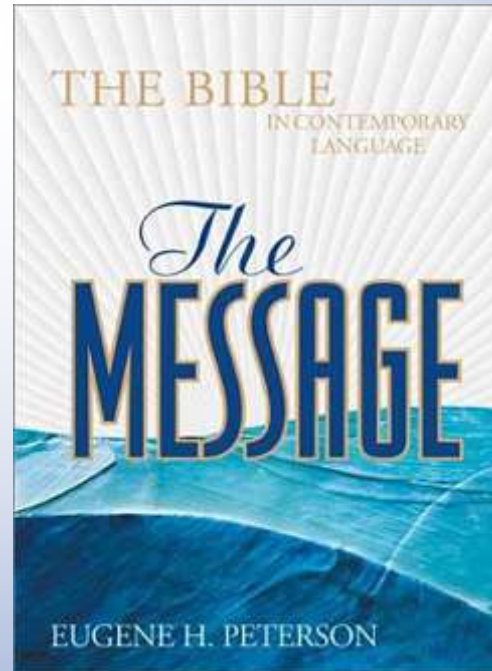
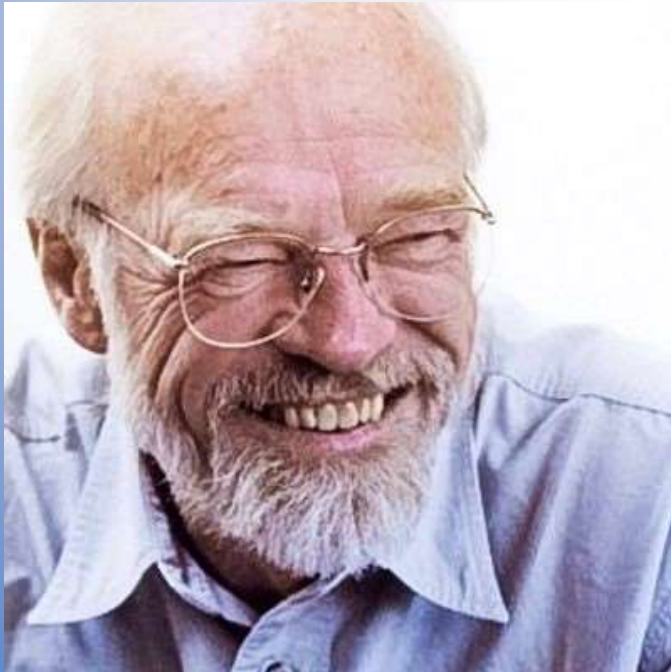
The Word of Relationship

4. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because it relates to every part of our lives and reflects the clearest reality of who God is, who we are, and the true nature of the world around us.**

“[God's] divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” (2 Peter 1:3)

The Word of Relationship

5. **God's Word meets our need for true relationship because (through our relationship with the Holy Spirit) it empowers us to live lives that are true, honest, and faithful to God and others.**



The Word of Relationship

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“I once tried translating a Psalm for a friend. I tried to get as close to the Hebrew as I could get. It wasn't smooth. It wasn't pretty. But it was honest. That's what the Psalms are.”

– Eugene Peterson

The Word of Relationship

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The Word of Relationship



“You’re the one I’ve violated, and you’ve seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.”

The Word of Relationship



“I’ve been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

What you’re after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life!”

The Word of Relationship



“Soak me in your laundry and I’ll come out clean, scrub me and I’ll have a snow-white life.”

The Word of Relationship



“Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing.

Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.”

The Word of Relationship



“God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

Don’t throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.”

The Word of Relationship



“Bring me back from
gray exile, put a fresh
wind in my sails!

Give me a job teaching
rebels your ways so the
lost can find their way
home.”

The Word of Relationship



“Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation-God, and I’ll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.

Unbutton my lips, dear God; I’ll let loose with your praise.”

The Word of Relationship



“Going through the motions doesn’t please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you.

I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered.”

The Word of Relationship



“Heart-shattered lives ready for love don’t for a moment escape God’s notice.”

(Psalm 51:4-17)

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high towards a dramatic, golden sunset sky filled with clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The overall mood is one of hope, prayer, or spiritual connection.

Belonging to Him

**OUR NEED FOR
TRUE RELATIONSHIP**