



His Love Endures
Forever

Psalms 118:1-4

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- Because of the hours of pain Cherye went through and the exhaustion that flooded over me, I was really mad at what that thing did to Cheryle
- A wise nurse sat me down, handed Ericka to me
- Her big brown searching eyes were open wide and we looked at each other kind of like two boxers before the bell rings

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- I took her tiny hand and she wrapped it around my little finger, and we just looked at each other
- Her tiny body relaxed, and she closed her eyes, I took that to mean she accepted me or one day will conquer him

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- I tried to remove my hand, but she would not let go of it, even pulling it back to her – I took that her saying, “Mine” and I let her keep it saying, “Mine”
- It was in that moment and reflecting on it over the years that I began to grasp the eternal love God has for His creation, especially mankind
- You, me, and everyone that has come or ever will come into His creation

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- Here was a child of mine, Cheryle's and God's creation
 - Just like God the Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit created all of creation
- **Psalms 139:13-14 NLT**, 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- **Psalms 139:13-14**, MSG, Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation!
- Have you ever praised and worshipped God because of you and your uniqueness?

When Ericka came into this world, she did not do it easily

- We must begin to see ourselves and events of life through the goodness and faithfulness of God to rightfully trust and praise Him in the storms of life
- So much of how we view God is related to how we view ourselves
- In this world of pain, loss, failure, meaningless, and death, the one truth that can keep us solid and full of hope is this truth “God is good, and His love endures forever!”

Scripture

- **Psalms 118:1-4 NLT**, 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.
 - 2 Let all Israel repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”
 - 3 Let Aaron’s descendants, the priests, repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”
 - 4 Let all who fear the Lord repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”

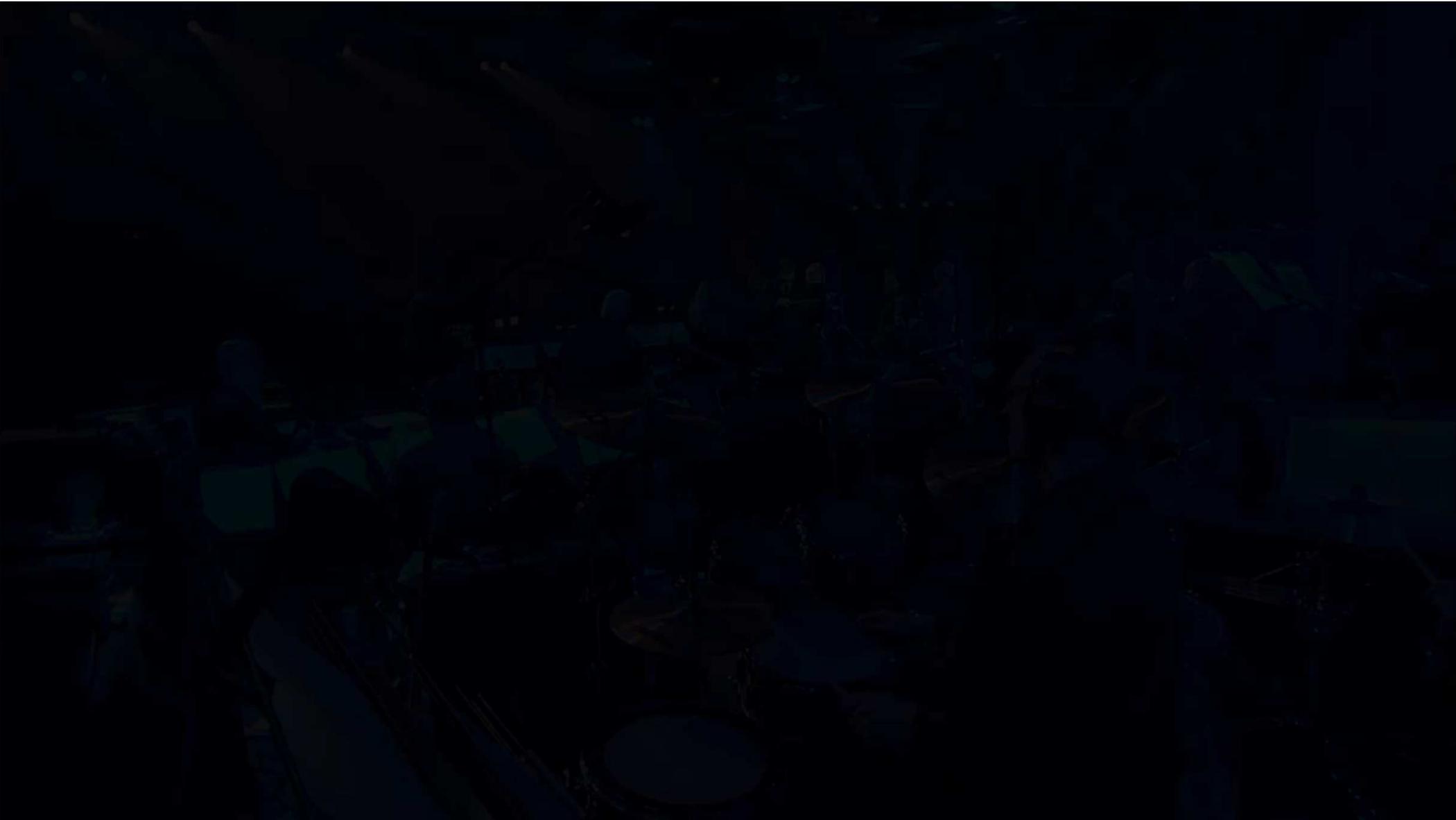
Psalms 118:1-4 MSG, 1-4 Thank God because he's good, because his love never quits. Tell the world, Israel, "His love never quits." And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world, "His love never quits." And you who fear God, join in, "His love never quits."

- When measuring the Bible by chapter count, **Psalms 118** is the very center chapter of God's Word
- The center of creation is God's goodness, the center of salvation is God's goodness, and the center of our hope for tomorrow is only in God's goodness

Psalms 118:1-4 MSG, 1-4 Thank God because he's good, because his love never quits. Tell the world, Israel, "His love never quits." And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world, "His love never quits." And you who fear God, join in, "His love never quits."

- When I sin, it is only the goodness of God I can trust
- When I am struggling, it is only the goodness of God that can give me hope
- When the only thing I have is God, that is enough

The Christian life, very simply, is keeping true praise and thankfulness in the center of your day



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- Praise the Lord Lyrics
 - When you're up against a struggle, that shatters all your dreams
 - And your hopes have been cruelly crushed by Satan's manifested schemes
 - And you feel the urge within you to submit to earthly fear

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- Praise the Lord Lyrics
 - Don't let the faith you're standing in seem to disappear
 - Praise the Lord, He will work through those who praise Him
 - Praise the Lord, for our God inhabits praise

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- Praise the Lord Lyrics
 - Praise the Lord, for the chains that seem to bind you
 - Serve only to remind you, that they drop powerless behind you
 - When you praise Him

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- Praise in Hebrew = to speak out, to confess, to sing, to give thanks
 - Emphasizes pride in an object
 - Not pride in yourself or your pride in you praise, but pride in the one you are praising
 - It involves the acknowledgement of sin, and the nature and work of God

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- Why?
 - The Psalmist says, “Because God is good!”
- Good is a strong word in Hebrew = pleasing, beautiful, excellent, kind + consistently, constantly

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- When your world is falling apart, God is still good
- When you're powerless God is still good
- When you've failed God is still good
- When you are taken advantage of God is still good
- When you're falsely accused God is still good
- When God is silent, He is still good
- When you scream, "Why God or Where are you God?", He is still good

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- He doesn't just do or allow good things; goodness is a part of His base nature and character
- And we must remember this because we forget or get distracted in the battle.”

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- 12 Stones of Israel – Joshua 4 and 5
- Joshua 4:20-24 NLT, 20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’”

The Christian life, very simply, is keeping true praise and thankfulness in the center of your day

- 12 Stones of Israel – Joshua 4 and 5
- Joshua 4:20-24 NLT,
 - 23 For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

The Christian life, very simply, is keeping true praise and thankfulness in the center of your day

- The Psalmist is speaking about the goodness of God to His people and nation, Israel
 - Those who have bowed their rebellious nature before Him, received His forgiveness and yield to His command of your life
 - You cannot claim this promise and live outside of His Kingdom

The Christian life, very simply, is keeping true praise and thankfulness in the center of your day

- The Psalmist is speaking about the goodness of God to His people and nation, Israel
 - You cannot claim this promise unless you have been born-again spiritually
- God is still good to you because He has provided a way to return through the cross of Jesus Christ
- John MacArthur, “God has never stopped being good, we’ve just stop being grateful.”

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Predominantly the Psalmist is addressing God's people under His Covenant
- God's love endures for those outside of His kingdom and He is drawing them to Himself that He may lavish them with His love

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- The Lost Sheep

- **Luke 15:3-5 NLT**, 3 So Jesus told them this story: 4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - **Luke 10:27 NLT**, 27 The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
 - **Luke 10:29 NLT**, The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - **Luke 29:30 NLT**, 30 Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - **Luke 29:31-32 NLT**, 31 “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.
 - 32 A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - **Luke 29:33-34 NLT**, 33 “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. 34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.”

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - This is an example of hesed love, the word the Psalmist used for God's love to us
 - To treat others with the kind of love normally reserved for very close family and friends

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Good Samaritan
 - We were that one beaten by bandits of life
 - We were left on the side of life mostly dead without hope of recovery
 - But God hesed us, loved us, soothed our wounds, bandaged our lost dreams, carried us with Him, and takes care of us
 - Why?

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- Because God's love is faithful, and it endures forever
 - Endures means to suffer (*something painful or difficult*) patiently
 - To remain in existence
 - To continue in the same state
 - It lasts

Because God is good, His faithful love endures forever

- **2nd Timothy 2:11-13 NLT**, 11 This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him. 12 If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. 13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

All the citizens of His kingdom have a need to praise and be thankful to the Lord who loves us so much

- **Vs. 2** Let all Israel (*the church*) repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”
- **Vs. 3** Let Aaron’s descendants, the priests (*those who lead in praise and worship*), repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”
- **Vs. 4** Let all who fear the *Lord* (*Everyone in the Church of Jesus Christ*) repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”

All the citizens of His kingdom have a need to praise and be thankful to the Lord who loves us so much

- **Psalms 22:3 NLT**, Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- **KJV**, But thou art holy, O thou that inhabit the praises of Israel.
- Hebrew word means to sit, remain, or dwell, live within
 - God is enthroned, inhabits, dwells within the praises of His people

All the citizens of His kingdom have a need to praise and be thankful to the Lord who loves us so much

- Sometimes it is spontaneous
- Most of the time it is a choice
- **Psalms 92:1-2 NLT**, 1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High. 2 It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening
- Why? Because God is good, and His faithful love endures forever



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