

"Only *fear the LORD* and *serve Him in truth* with all your heart for consider what great things He has done for you." (Sam 12:24) As this verse states, I am starting to see that when we consider the great and marvelous work of our God and Savior it produces in us a desire to serve Him with godly fear and to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. I believe the greatest gift and work of God is the redemptive work His Son Jesus accomplished for us on the cross of Calvary. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness towards those who fear Him." (Psa 103:11) When I meditate on how Jesus, "through His own blood, entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Heb 9:12) it produces in me a heart of gratitude and a fresh realization of how worthy His is to be praised and worshiped with all of our lives.

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

- Fanny Crosby

I like the words of the Psalmist when he says, "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." (Psa 2:11) And, "But for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your *mercy*; In fear of You I will worship towards Your holy temple." (Psa 5:7)

I have often been challenged by the words of Jesus to Simon the Pharisee in regard to women who wiped Jesus' feet with her tears. "I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." Many times when I feel my love for Jesus is lacking, it is a result of forgetting how much He has forgiven a wretch like me and how great a price was *necessary* for the ransom of my soul. Again, the words of the Psalmist ring true: "The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy." (Psa 147:11) And, "There is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared." (Psa 130:4)

You shed Your blood for me that I might be free
You gave Your body as a sacrifice that I may have eternal life
Your wounds have brought healing and life to me
May your life sanctify my heart and make me holy