**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I celebrate and shout  
 because of my Lord God.  
His saving power and justice  
 are the very clothes I wear.  
They are more beautiful  
than the jewelry worn  
 by a bride or a groom.  
The Lord will bring about  
justice and praise  
 in every nation on earth,  
like flowers blooming  
 in a garden.

Jerusalem, I will speak up  
 for your good.  
I will never be silent  
till you are safe and secure,  
 sparkling like a flame.  
Your great victory will be seen  
 by every nation and king;  
the Lord will even give you  
 a new name.  
 You will be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
And a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Psalm 84**

1 Lord God All-Powerful,  
    your temple is so lovely!  
2 Deep in my heart I long  
    for your temple,  
    and with all that I am  
    I sing joyful songs to you.

3 Lord God All-Powerful,  
    my King and my God,  
sparrows find a home  
    near your altars;  
    swallows build nests there  
    to raise their young.

4 You bless everyone  
who lives in your house,  
    and they sing your praises.  
5 You bless all who depend  
    on you for their strength  
    and all who deeply desire  
    to visit your temple.  
6 When they reach Dry Valley,  
    springs start flowing,  
    and the autumn rain fills it  
    with pools of water.  
7 Your people grow stronger,  
    and you, the God of gods,  
    will be seen in Zion.

8 Lord God All-Powerful,  
the God of Jacob,  
    please answer my prayer!  
9 You are the shield  
    that protects your people,  
    and I am your chosen one.  
    Won’t you smile on me?

10 One day in your temple  
is better  
    than a thousand  
    anywhere else.  
I would rather serve  
    in your house,  
    than live in the homes  
    of the wicked.

11 Our Lord and our God,  
you are like the sun  
    and also like a shield.  
You treat us with kindness  
    and with honor,  
    never denying any good thing  
    to those who live right.

12 Lord God All-Powerful,  
    you bless everyone  
    who trusts you.

**Galatians 3:23-25: 4:4-7**

The Law controlled us and kept us under its power until the time came when we would have faith.  In fact, the Law was our teacher. It was supposed to teach us until we had faith and were acceptable to God.  But once a person has learned to have faith, there is no more need to have the Law as a teacher.

But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God’s children.  Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. You are no longer slaves. You are God’s children, and you will be given what he has promised.

**John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.

God sent a man named John, who came to tell about the light and to lead all people to have faith.  John wasn’t that light. He came only to tell about the light. The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world, but no one knew him, though God had made the world with his Word. He came into his own world, but his own nation did not welcome him. Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God.  
They were not God’s children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one  
 who made them his children.

The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us. John spoke about him and shouted, “This is the one I told you would come! He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born.” Because of all that the Son is, we have been given one blessing after another. The Law was given by Moses, but Jesus Christ brought us undeserved kindness and truth.  No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all of us love poorly. We do not even know what we are doing when we hurt others. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour--unceasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.

Source: *The Only Necessary Thing,* Henri J. M. Nouwen