

So Love
By Becky Combee

Wayne and I have been married almost 53 years, and one thing is absolutely certain. Wayne Combee is completely dependable. He is always for me and never against me. He is by my side in every glorious moment and through every harrowing experience. He has proven this over and over again.

Some time ago, a lady came to talk over a problem with me. She was to come back at a later date to finish our discussion. When I saw her again, she was very excited because things had worked out for her. Waving her hands and talking loudly, she reported the magnificent news. Wayne, who was nearby, could not hear the conversation but was concerned about all the yelling and hand waving. He kept coming closer and closer to me in case I needed help. But I didn't need help. This was victory.

She noticed him inching forward and said to me, "He really protects you, doesn't he?" What a wonderful comment!

At this season of the year when our hearts are drawing close to Valentine's Day, we celebrate the love of our spouse and family with gifts of appreciation. Roses! Candy! A favorite meal! A special I've-always-wanted-that surprise. It is a wonderful time of the year! Yet, as we rejoice in

the love given to us by our favorite people, it is even more important to glory in the greatness of God's love for us.

In the very familiar John 3:16, we read, "God SO loved the world." God sacrificed His only begotten Son because of His SO LOVE, and through our faith in Jesus' death and Resurrection, we become His sons and daughters. I love the word SO. It is essential to our vocabulary. If you attempt

## God makes abundant provision for His SO LOVED family.

a day without saying SO, you will be frustrated. Think of it. SO long! SO tired! SO big! SO difficult! SO far away! SO unnecessary! SO loud! SO forgetful! SO rude! And, on and on!

God makes abundant provision for His SO LOVED family. The day of rescue, redemption, and salvation through Jesus' sacrifice opens the door to all things pertaining to life and godliness.<sup>1</sup> It is the beginning of a glorious life with Him. We are His children, and He wants to provide "exceeding abundantly above all we ask our think."<sup>2</sup>

His promises to His faith family are overwhelming. Through our giving, we are recipients of His overflowing provision. He is our Great Physician, pouring healing power into our lives. He also gives us wisdom and understanding. In times of distress, He is our helper. He strengthens us, sustains us, and frees us from fear and dismay.<sup>3</sup> He walks with us through every valley, flooding us with mercy and grace. When we hear and obey, He places us in that high place beyond the reach of our enemies.<sup>4</sup> He is a magnificent Father!

As our Father, He offers us the shelter of His shadow. He guards us like a shepherd, providing restoration and peace. He sends angels to minister to us and protect us. When we call upon Him, He answers. He does great and mighty things for us

and through us! As the Captain of our salvation, He leads us to victory. He is God who loves us. He is God who SO LOVED the world!

This Valentine's Day, let's thank Him for the abundant blessings of His SO LOVE. As we hold the hands of the precious lives around us, let's praise Him for the seasons of laughter, the solitude of peace and the end of trauma and weeping. Looking toward our heavenly home, let's rejoice that one day our God wipes away all tears and eliminates death, sorrow, and pain. With the multitudes in glory, let's lift our voices in thunderous acclamation saying, "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." Together, let's celebrate our glorious future. Together, we say, "Happy Valentine's Day, Father."

God Thinks Big by Suzanne D. Williams

Sometimes God thinks BIG.

He saved a man and his family and two of every kind of creature from an earth-dissolving flood by enclosing them in a single boat.<sup>7</sup>

He split the entire Red Sea, 169,113 square miles of water, in order to cross some two and one-half million men, women and children to the other side on dry land, then crushed the enemy army in one huge wave.<sup>8</sup>

He resurrected a dead man who'd been gone for three days, healed another being let down through a roof. He touched blind eyes, made a leper whole, fed five thousand people with a handful of bread.<sup>9</sup>

**God is God of BIG things.** He can move mountains into the sea. <sup>10</sup> He'll make you the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. <sup>11</sup> There's nothing too big for Him to handle, no sickness too strong He cannot heal it, no person's life too large, He won't reach down and change it forever.

He is able. He is willing. He will do it. 12

But **God** is **God** of **SMALL** things, too. He fed a prophet with a group of ravens. He defeated an army of an estimated 135,000 soldiers with only three hundred men. He killed a mighty Philistine using the slingshot of a boy. He brought to earth the Savior of the world through the faith of a young girl. He

God sees the small things, knows their intricate nature, the finest thoughts in man's heart. He will provide for needs and desires we've given up on because we said, "God's too big for that." What we thought He ignored, He didn't. What we thought He didn't care about, He does. What we thought was too huge for Him was in actuality very, very small.

No sin, no sickness, no financial failure is out of His scope. The devil will never be stronger than God, smarter than God, and definitely not more powerful. This is, after all, The Almighty, The Great I Am, who can do everything from give light to the earth to comfort an adulteress fallen at His feet.<sup>17</sup>

God exists outside of time, outside of distance, outside of size. He never sleeps, never quits, never gives up. 18

Comfort yourself with that.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>2Pe 1:3 <sup>2</sup>Eph 3:28 <sup>3</sup>Is 41:10 <sup>4</sup>Ps 91:14 <sup>5</sup>Rev 21:4 <sup>6</sup>Rev 19:6 <sup>7</sup>Ge 8:1

<sup>91:14 9</sup>Mk 11:34; Mk 2:4; Mt 11:5; Mt 15:30; 8 8:1 Mk 6:44 10Mt 21:21; Mk 11:23 11Deu 7.htm 28:13 12Jn14:14; 2Co 9:8; 1Th 5:24