

{ Day 199 }

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! **—Isaiah 30:18**

Our Bridegroom God burns with fiery affections. This fact is separate and distinct from His tenderness and great gladness. Most people have a hard time thinking of God as desiring or wanting anything. After all, He owns everything. His pantry is always stocked. He can create creatures and worlds and galaxies to bring Him pleasure. He could entertain Himself endlessly. But the fact is deeply rooted in Scripture that He is also full of intense desire and burning love for each of us. This God of affection is what so many are longing to encounter, even though they may not be aware that the encounter will radically transform their heart. This is what makes you great. This is what makes you special and unique in all the universe. This provides each of us with the primary definition for our lives.

{ PRAYER STARTER }

Father, You own this universe and those in the world unknown to me. You hung the stars in space and caused the oceans to stay in place. When You spoke a word, the earth came into being. Yet You know me, and You desire to have a personal relationship with me. This is far beyond my understanding.

He longs to be near each one of us personally, in the way friends and lovers want to be together.