
thesisterhoodmag.com
WINTER 2025
the sisterhood magazine
ROOTED IN GRACE AND PURPOSE
WILL YOU LOVE THEM?
MOTHERING THE MIRROR
RELENTLESS love
YOUR HIS FAVORITE
THE GIFT OF HOME
HOLIDAY RECIPES
WHEN LOVE FINDS YOU IN THE WAITING

PEACE *of* MIND

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 1:18



↑ Cardinals' red against white snow becomes a symbol of forgiveness and grace.

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ROOTED IN GRACE AND PURPOSE

PUBLISHER
Cathy Mogler

EDITOR
Mindy Walker

COPY EDITOR/PROOFREADER
LeAnn Sheppard

CREATIVE ART DIRECTOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Nancy S. Kurnik–Ardis Design Co.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS
Anne Wooten, Barbie Morgan Sheffield
Brenda Savanhu, Brittni Northrup
Carol Stokes, Crystal Tharp
Francine Ivey, Jennifer Shook
Jenny Foster, Joyce Meyer
Kaase Levell, Kelley Tyan
Kimberly Sutton, Kirsten Samuel
Melissa MacGregor, Myra Johnson
Nicole Roth, Peggy Easterling
Sabine Guillaume Hayes, Sarah Freymuth
Shara Bueler Repka, Shaundra Dineen
Sourabhi Halder, Stefanie Gass
Susan Bolinger, Tischa Van de Reep

CORPORATE OFFICE
The Sisterhood Magazine
21149 Shannon Circle, Unit C
Montgomery, Texas 77316

CONTACT US:
936.344.1188/936.207.9998
thesisterhoodmag@gmail.com

CHECK US OUT:
thesisterhoodmag.com

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Dear Sisters,

As we prepare for this holy season, I find myself reflecting on the kind of love that changes everything. Not the fleeting kind that comes and goes with circumstances, but a love so steady and fierce it never lets us go. That's the love of the Father—a relentless love that moved Him to send His Son, Jesus, to show us what true sacrifice looks like. A love that has been pursuing us from the manger to the cross, to the resurrected Jesus who watches us from above.

The holidays have a way of stirring so many emotions—joy, longing, hope, sometimes even pain. And yet, in every season, His love meets us right where we are. It's the kind of love that doesn't wait for us to get it all together. It simply keeps reaching. It holds us through quiet nights and busy days, through laughter around the table and tears no one else may see.

In this issue, you'll find stories and reflections meant to remind you of that love—fierce, faithful, and forever. From *"God Loves You; Not Because You're Lovely!"* to *"Awakened by Relentless Love"* and *"The Relentless Love That Meets Us at Christmas,"* every page points back to Him—the One who loves without condition.

We're so thankful for you—our readers, our sisters, and friends. Your support and shared journey mean more than words can say. From our hearts to yours, Merry Christmas. May your holiday be full of love and laughter, and may you rest in the peace that can only come from the love of a relentless Father.

From our hearts to yours,

Merry Christmas.

May your holiday be full of love and laughter, and may you rest in the peace that can only come from the love of a relentless Father.

Rooted in Grace & Purpose

the Sisterhood team



A LOVE SO GREAT
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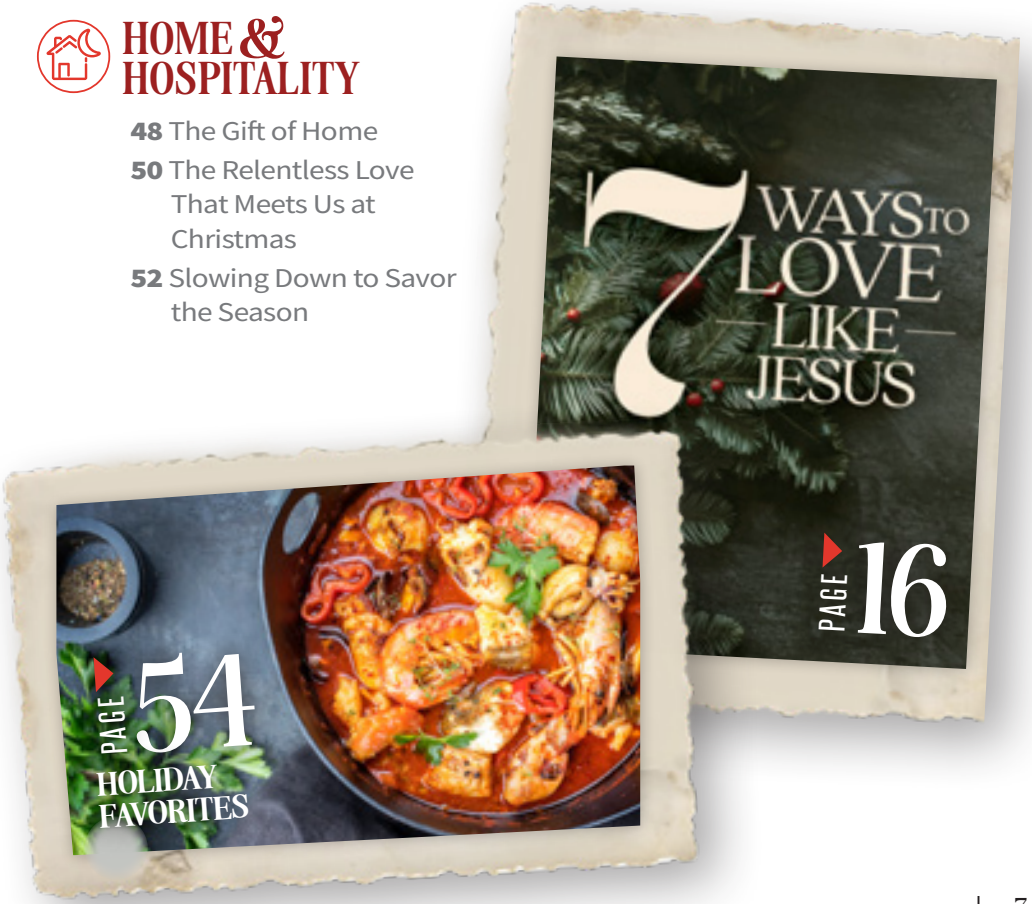



DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT *love!*

///BY JOYCE MEYER

The Bible teaches us that it's God's will for us to help hurting people. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV).

Matthew 22:37-39 says, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (NIV).

The love message is the power of the gospel. It's so simple: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think we need someone to love us, but what we really need is someone to love. And the world is desperate for real love, so it isn't hard to find someone who needs to be loved.

We live in a society that drives people to selfishness. So much of the advertising we see and hear influences us to want more and more and never to be satisfied with what we have. But the more selfish and self-centered we are, the less power we have to do good and help others.

The good news is we have what we need in Christ to overcome a selfish "What about me?!" mindset and lifestyle. We have the power of God's love! It's the answer to every dilemma and problem in our society today. And as Christians, our goal is to represent Christ in the world and show His love.

Love is not just a feeling, or a theory, or a nice word. It's action—it's the way you treat people...what you do for others. Love will always cost you something: time, energy, effort, money, giving up your pride, doing what's right when you don't feel like it, and keeping a good attitude when you don't get your way.

Loving the way God loves means you love when there's nothing in it for you; it's all about giving out and not expecting anything in return. We're called to *out*reach, not in-reach. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others.

Now, you have to understand that before you can love others, you have to experience God's love in your own life, because you can't give away something you don't have. Then you have to be willing to ask God to teach you to love the way He loves. When you do this, God will enable you to reach out

and help someone else. I know this works because I've lived it.

I used to be selfish, self-centered, always thinking about how I could get my way. And I was miserable. See, I loved God and wanted to love people, but no matter how hard I tried to be sweet and nice to everybody, all of my trying was getting me nowhere. I was cranky, hard to get along with, and impatient. God showed me the problem was that I didn't like myself because of the shame of my past. I grew up in an abusive home, and I felt guilty, condemned, and ashamed because of it. I had to accept God's love for me before I could love anyone else.

So I decided to study God's love in the Word, pray for God to change my heart, and confess what His Word says about His love for me. Every day I would say out loud, "God loves me," and I would say it over and over to purposely keep this truth in my heart throughout the day. After a year of doing this, I finally got a revelation about God's love for me.

Now I am able to receive God's love and love others the way Jesus taught us to love. I don't do it perfectly all the time, but I've come a long way and am making progress every day. My prayer is, "God, show me how I can help others. Make me a blessing everywhere I go. I want to live to love You and others."

Every day, I look for ways to add value to people I come in contact with. I can honestly say that learning how to love others with God's love has made me the happiest I've ever been! The truth is, you can't be selfish and also be happy or have peace.

Make it your goal each day to pursue God's love and then give it away. First Corinthians 14:1 (AMPC) says to "eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]...." So go after it with all your might, and ask God to make you a blessing everywhere you go! You can do something to help someone. You can live to love, just like Jesus.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource What Is Love? You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

> *"We're called to outreach, not in-reach. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others."*



Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit.joycemeyer.org



SLOWING DOWN TO SAVOR *the* SEASON

///BY SARAH FREYMUTH

Sleigh bells are ringing, lights are gleaming, twinkling. Curled up under a blanket, mug of hot cocoa nestled in my hands, right now I'm living for Christmas-cozy feels.

It's been hard getting to this point, however. Since the hint of the holiday season, I've prepped and prepared for squeezing the most out of these quickly fleeting weeks.

Sure, my heart says to savor, but my body and mind tell me to rush ahead, give until there's nothing left, sacrifice, strain, and stay focused on getting it all done in time for everyone to enjoy the festivities.

Christmas is a giving time, after all. The season of selflessness, the joy of an undeserved but eternal gift come to Earth for us. The month of miracles and sitting with what this season really means.

So why am I hooked on hectic? Why do I look for a sign to see whether this season is going my way? It's as if I have this cookie-cutter idea of what I expect from the holiday, and if it's a fraction of an inch different than my expectations, I moan and marvel at how it just doesn't seem like the way I experienced it before. Goodness, how nostalgia can tempt and trap.

If I step back and assess my actions, I am trying to make the season about me. Yes, this year is different than in years past. My schedule's changed and doesn't allow time for making gifts or greeting cards or even, dare I admit, deep reflection on the origin of the reason we're celebrating in the first place. Somehow, in my twisted, self-absorbed brain, I've made it about what I can get from the hustle and bustle.

How did I get my worship so warped?

Pause. Breathe. Remember.

A star appearing. The choir of angels. The small bundle breathing close to Mary's breast. The shepherds and their marveling joy. A night that changed everything.

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.

-Isaiah 7:14

Immanuel. God with us. God willing to become one of us, to usher in redeeming grace. This is the true and proper worship: sit with the reality of Jesus come. To sing praise and look for Him to come again.

All my striving and preconceived notions of the holiday? The first Christmas had no agenda or structure, other than a newborn sleeping quietly, new parents figuring out this unexpected life, and a God who came near to our humanity—joined in our humanity, for the sake of the world.

There's the sign—God's divine destiny. It all happened according to the Father's good design, smoothly and without worry. And I am the recipient; can I curl up with the gift of this moment, God with me?

Perhaps I have been too occupied with my to-do list rather than my to-Who list. It's time for me to slow down. Time for me to reflect and repent, and to fall at the feet of Him who gave me the greatest, most freeing gift of all. The gift that granted me the right to celebrate life—His life, my life, the life of humanity.

Yes, lights are twinkling, and gingerbread cookies coat the air with sugar and spice. Yes, I may get distracted and think the world's turned upside down if something doesn't go as planned. But I remember why I am here beside the tree tonight, awash in its soft glow and a quiet instrumental carol floating through speakers.

In this subdued quiet, there is a pull to slow down and savor not what I think the season should be but what this season actually is.



← *Sarah Freymuth is a writer and dreamer whose words weave honesty, vulnerability, and hope. As content and storytelling manager for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she also writes for Proverbs 31, She Reads Truth, and YouVersion, sharing how God meets us in the everyday and in-between. She treasures life by Lake Michigan with her husband and finds beauty in simple Midwest living. Her book* All the Hard Things: 50 Days Through the Valley *releases February 2026 with Harvest House Publishers. sarahfreymuth.com*