



Uniting our hearts in
PRAYER

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to
pray, listen, learn, grow and give.

Join us in praying for Europe

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024



Hope and Healing in Jesus' Name



Dear friends,

TWR Women of Hope's goal is to bring hope in Jesus to women around the world and across generations. For nearly 25 years, TWR Canada has been partnering with them to do just this. Together, we recognize that women in many parts of the world are marginalized, experiencing high levels of poverty, a lack of education, oppression, and health crises. And while social reforms promise the empowerment of women and the end of negative family cycles, only a spiritual solution found in Jesus Christ has the power to provide sustainable change and lasting hope.

In all of this, God has a beautiful story of hope for each woman around the world as a unique expression of his grace and love. No matter how daunting the challenges appear for women around the world, God has not forgotten any of them and has a good plan for each one.

For the next two months, we have the opportunity to see God's stories of hope for women across Europe. As you read the articles and pray through the requests in the following pages, you will see the ways God is changing lives in the midst of challenging circumstances. He is providing hope that leads to healing and changed individuals, families and communities. These are stories of hope that demonstrate God's grace and love for each woman across the region.

Here at home, our circumstances and difficulties may be different than those of the women of Europe, but God also has a beautiful story for each of us. God has not forgotten us and has a good plan for us. He brings hope and healing into our deepest pain and most difficult circumstances. In every situation, no matter where we are in the world, God is ready to speak his hope and healing into our lives.

This year, we encourage you to seek after Jesus in every situation. In the moments of pain and brokenness, ask God for hope and healing. In the moments of joy and celebration, praise him. In all circumstances, we have a good God who loves us, heals us and gives us hope.

Together in prayer,

TWR Canada's Women's Ministry Team

JANUARY

1. God, may abused women in Albania have courage to denounce their abusers. Bring healing and hope in Jesus to these women. (Ps. 130:7)
2. Lord, give inspiration to Anja as she produces the TWR Women of Hope program *Rise and Shine* in Belgium. (Matt. 10:20)
3. Father God, we pray that the *Women of Hope* program in the Croatian language would be relevant and deeply touching in women's hearts. (Ps. 119:105)



4. Father, we ask that you see, be near and rescue the women in Denmark who live under slave-like circumstances, are exploited and live in fear of violence. (Gen. 16:13)
5. Lord, give wisdom to refugee women in Europe as they navigate relationships with men in their lives while exploring possibilities that were not open to women in their home countries. (Ps. 32:8)
6. We pray that people of Greenland who have lost loved ones to suicide would come to you for healing, Father, and find peace of mind instead of longing for death themselves. (Matt. 11:28)
7. Lord, we ask that Finnish women who feel distress and pressure as they compare themselves with others on social media would find their true worth in Jesus Christ. (Prov. 3:15)
8. Lord, give the needed tools and resources to organizations working with girls and families, such as the poor and many from Bulgaria and Romania, who are at risk of falling victim to human trafficking. (2 Cor. 9:8)
9. Heavenly Father, we ask that you protect the women in France from those who harass them sexually. (Ps. 116:6)
10. God, inspire Stephanie Neeb, the new ERF and TWR Women of Hope national coordinator in Germany, with creative ideas to make the ministry known to more intercessors and donors. (Ps. 34:1)
11. Lord, free women from prostitution in the Netherlands and help the organizations who reach out to them to bring both encouragement and the gospel message. (Gal. 5:1)
12. Father, restore the lost dignity and true identity in Christ to girls and women in North Macedonia who have been treated as inferior beings. (Rom. 8:14-17)

From the Hearts of Those Across the Region

13. Through their lives and godly example, Lord, give Christian mothers in Norway strength and boldness to share Jesus daily with their children. (Titus 2:7)
14. God, we pray for improved medical care in Poland, including the ability to perform surgery for brain cancer. Many Polish patients cannot go abroad for this expensive treatment. (Ps. 40:7)
15. Violence, divorce, abuse and pornography increasingly affect Portuguese families. Lord, bring your restoration to these families in need. (Jer. 17:14)
16. Lord, reveal yourself to young people in Romania; may their hearts be open to love you. Set them free from drugs and addictions and restore their lives. (Ps. 18:16)
17. Father, reveal yourself to every person who responds to the programs our North Caucasus team produces. May these listeners come to know you as our team ministers truth, comfort and support to them. (Rom. 15:13)
18. God, we ask that you open doors for studio construction for our Serbian team as they seek to change women's lives through impactful content creation. (Eph. 3:20)
19. Lord, we pray for the passage of laws against human trafficking in Spain to protect the many girls and women in slavery and sexual exploitation. (Ps. 103:6)
20. Father, we pray for the children in Swedish schools who struggle with their identity; open their eyes to see themselves as God does. (Mark 8:25)
21. Protect and strengthen the TWR Ukraine team members, Lord, who remain in Ukraine to serve and bless their people. May the message of hope in Jesus continue to be broadcast and reach many women online. (Isa. 40:31)
22. Heavenly Father, bring unity in the Albanian church so that the members work together to reach their country for Christ. (1 Cor. 1:10)
23. God, bless the work of our Croatian coordinator, Hana, and her team as they help prostitutes and addicts find freedom at the Zagreb drop-in center. (Prov. 14:21)



From a listener in Serbia: "Thank you to the TWR Women of Hope team for sharing these profound truths with us women and reminding us of God's love and blessings we have as his daughters. This show has become a source of courage and inspiration for me, and I will continue to recommend it to other women I know so that they too can experience the same transformation and encouragement."

From a listener in Romania: "When my husband heard this program on the radio, he went to his room and wept because he had persecuted me because of my faith in Christ. Now, I know that he is sorry. I'm thankful that we are both praising God together."

From a listener in Albania: "I have started to listen to your Women of Hope programs. We as women face many different challenges and it is so good to hear from one another. Thank you for your Women of Hope programs. They comfort me. Before I go to sleep, I listen to your programs and feel comforted. I come from a cycle of domestic violence and I didn't know this God before. I want to know him more."

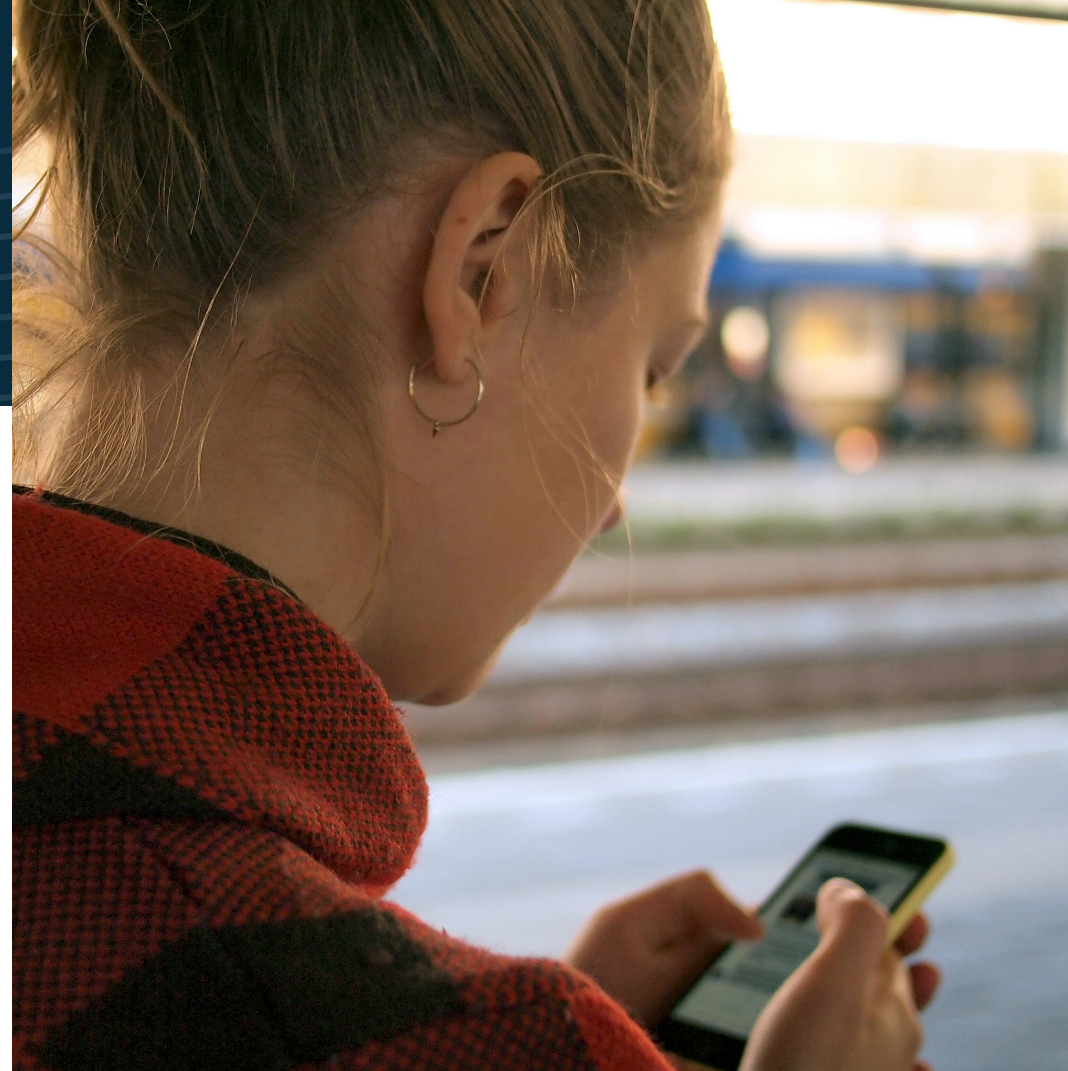
From a listener in Portugal: "I want to congratulate you. I just listened to the Women of Hope program about mental prisons. It's fabulous how you speak in such a simple, direct, practical way to such a complex problem."

From a listener in Bulgaria: "I attend a church and somebody told me about the Women of Hope program. I started listening to it and I like it very much. I learned many practical things about family and our daily life as women. Also, there is a spiritual part in the program where I learn more about God. Thank you."



Media's Place in Ending Trafficking

By Miia da Silva, TWR Women of Hope Europe and CAMENA regional coordinator



Slavery is a thing of the past, right? Wrong. Even today, there are approximately 50 million people living under slavery. One of the most prominent forms of modern-day slavery is human trafficking, and within that, millions of women worldwide are trafficked into forced sex work.

A 2023 report by the U.S. Department of State estimates that out of 44,722 victims trafficked to Germany in 2021 alone, 93 per cent were women. But Germany is not an exception. Statistics like these in Germany paint a picture of the challenge that all more prosperous EU countries face. They also portray the unfortunate yet understandable reality of the demand for female prostitutes as well as the pull of victims from poor countries to rich ones. Most European-born victims are from Bulgaria and Romania. In Bulgaria, for example, people who have little education and income, children who are in residential care, the homeless, and women in the Roma

minority group are most at risk of being trafficked.

There is no simple fix to the complex and multifaceted issue of human trafficking. That is why partnership in fighting this major injustice becomes crucial. We at TWR Women of Hope don't have all the answers but get to provide a part of the solution through *Hidden Treasures*: using media to share the gospel with trafficked women.

There are many reasons why media is a helpful tool not only in reaching out to women but also in assisting with the healing process. The main reasons are: 1) a lot of trafficking victims (being from poor communities) can't read, so consuming audio is a more realistic option for learning about Jesus; 2) media can be consumed in secret or privacy, out of sight of the oppressors.

Hidden Treasures has developed a 10-episode audio drama that seeks to encourage listeners to escape

from their "brothel prisons." But escape isn't the end of the journey; it is often only the beginning of a challenging healing process. Now, we are in the midst of producing a second series that has a different format and focuses on worship music. This series is intended for women who have only just begun their process of healing

and recovery. Through worship music and encouraging words of trafficked survivors and the Bible, we hope to aid in the process of the development of a survivor's new identity in Christ. Please pray that God will give our team the wisdom and guidance we need in developing this new series.

JANUARY CONT'D

24. Lord, strengthen marriages in the Faroe Islands so that love, respect and care characterize their relationships. Protect them from Satan's attacks. (1 Peter 4:8)
25. We pray for the development and provision for our Serbian team's ministry among Romani women. Lord, may the Romani recognize their worth in your eyes. (Jer. 29:11)
26. We pray for the creation of a support system in Norway for women who choose to keep their babies despite unwanted pregnancies. (Gal. 6:2)
27. Jesus Christ, you alone are Lord. Please reveal this truth to the Polish people so that they worship only you. (Phil. 2:9-11)
28. With mental health declining significantly in Portugal since the pandemic, Lord, may people have more access to medical care, a greater awareness of illness and less shame in asking for help. (Phil. 4:6-7)
29. Strengthen the faith of Romanian Christian mothers, Lord, and hear their prayers for the salvation of all in their homes. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)
30. Father, be a refuge for young women in Spain. May they be protected from gang rape and delivered from violence. (2 Sam. 22:3-4)
31. Father, bless our Ukrainian sister who, in the midst of war, continues to translate the prayer calendar into Russian for Ukraine, Russia and Central Asia. (Jer. 17:7-8)



STORY OF HOPE

Lighthouses for those in Darkness



One day, Sonia asked Laura: "I have had it in my heart to ask you for a long time: What do you really do at your job?"

Laura shared about her work helping women to escape forced prostitution, to get to know Christ, and to start a new life. She also told her about the projects she participates in, including *Hidden Treasures*. Sonia's reaction was surprising: "You know, for years I did exactly the opposite."

Sonia revealed that she used to be heavily involved in recruiting and trapping people for sex work. She was on the front lines of connecting Latin women with men in Europe and getting them into prostitution. It is only after Sonia gave her life to Christ that the true gravity of all she had done as part of such a dark world was revealed to her.

One of our *Hidden Treasures* team members, Laura,* is actively involved in anti-trafficking work in Europe. At a school meeting, Laura met the mother of her daughter's classmates, Sonia,* and it came up in the conversation that Laura was a Christian. They talked occasionally, and a year later, Sonia told Laura that her husband was watching videos of Bible stories and studying the Bible very seriously. After some months, he became a Christian. The ladies continued to meet from time to time to talk about the Christian faith and Laura encouraged Sonia to follow in her husband's footsteps.

We all carry sin in our lives, big or small. We all need Jesus to save us, and no one is too broken, bad or lost to enter this heavenly family – not even sex traffickers. As Christians, we get to be like lighthouses, helping to guide seafarers on the dark waters away from shipwreck and into safe harbour. So, shine the light of Christ wherever you are, because you never know who is watching.

* Names have been anonymized for security purposes.

EMBRACING HOPE

A new year, a new book

TWR Women of Hope
Global Director Susie Pek



It's a new day – and a whole new year! The beginning of a year can be compared to a book with 365 blank pages. What are the stories that this book will tell? I wonder if everyone's Chapter 1 is filled with plans and New Year's resolutions. I imagine some dreams will make it into one of the chapters as well.

New beginnings are inspiring. We look to the future with expectation. We dare to dream about the new stories we will be sharing some months from now. What will our books be about? Adventure? Romance? Or maybe it will contain a little of the focused intensity of a good short story? I guess we'll find out as God writes daily history and thereby writes his story in and through us.

Regardless of the genre, our books will be about real life. That's one of my favourite kinds. The plots are not predictable. They are filled with challenges, twists, some action, adventure, a little romance, and even some suspense! The best part is to know that we are not alone. We have a great Editor who guides us through it all.

While we are aware that our book writing will involve aspects we have absolutely no control of, we also know we'll very actively participate in its process. I am reminded of Ephesians 5:15, which says: "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise." As the protagonists of our plot, we need to give special attention to two areas: our hearts and our minds!

As in a war story, our minds are our great battlefields. It's there where our references, our outlook on life, the way we process information, and the way we understand people and situations lie. In addition, our thoughts have a direct impact on our emotions. Our thoughts are capable of evoking different feelings. So, it's important that we ask ourselves: What is the quality of our thoughts? Philippians 4:8 presents us with a wonderful checklist. "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

A sound mind will help us navigate the challenges that the year's narratives will bring. God's Word is an infinite source of wisdom. It helps us in a very practical way in our daily lives, therefore "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). A mind aligned with the Lord's is healthy, happy and wise. It's ready for spiritual battle.

Our hearts are as important as our minds. Jesus said that it is from within the heart that all evils come. It is there that we hold grudges, welcome anxiety, and nurture evil desires. "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Prov. 4:23). It is also there that we conceal our greatest passions and loves which will drive our whole life. There's no better way to protect our hearts than to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

When our minds and hearts are surrendered to the Lord, our outlook on life, on people and on the world changes. We have his perspective. His Word is our guidance for daily living, we cast our anxieties on him, we present our requests to him, and finally, we live entirely for him. I pray that our "books" for 2024 feature his story of redemption whatever the genre.

Thank you for praying with us so that stories of hope and redemption can be written in the lives of thousands and thousands of women around the world and across generations.



FEBRUARY

1. Lord, comfort, strengthen and protect every Ukrainian woman and family that have fled the war into European countries, leaving behind their husbands and homes. (Ps. 59:16)
2. Father, protect mothers and relatives who have death threats against them because their children are part of criminal gangs in Sweden. May their children be set free as well. (Ps. 32:7)
3. Lord, please grant wisdom to our team in Spain promoting *Hidden Treasures* so it may reach many women trapped in sexual exploitation. (John 8:36)
4. God, transform lives through our Serbian team's social networks and digital platform ministry. May the *Women of Hope* programs they create inspire women to seek you and find guidance through the Bible. (Ps. 90:17)
5. Father, raise up and guide spiritual mentors and volunteers to answer the questions of subscribers and listeners of the TWR Women of Hope ministry in the North Caucasus region of Russia. (Prov. 2:6)
6. The economic situation in Portugal is serious. Many families cannot even pay for food and housing, forcing some

- to live in tents. God, we cry for merciful provision. (Ps. 34:6)
7. We pray for young people in Poland controlled by addictions. May they receive mental health care and find deliverance through you, Lord. (Rom. 13:14)
8. Father, inspire our leaders to choose themes and guests that truly speak to the spiritual needs of those listening to *Women of Hope* programs in Romania. (Phil. 4:9)
9. Lord, help Norwegian women to understand their true value in you and how they should live so they can establish good priorities in their busy lives. (Rom. 12:2)



10. Father, guide the leader of the potential TWR Women of Hope ministry involving Roma and Muslim women in North Macedonia. Please also guide the possible recording of *Precious and Beloved* there. (James 1:5)
11. May Christian women in the Netherlands use their freedom to share the gospel with those around them. Two-thirds of the population call themselves non-Christian. (Rom. 1:6)
12. Father, guide the European *Hidden Treasures* team as they create the next set of programs aimed at supporting survivors of sex trafficking by helping them recover and build a new identity in Christ. (Prov. 3:5-6)
13. Praise God for donors in Germany who help us support TWR Women of Hope teams, programs and projects in 14 countries. (Isa. 12:4)



14. Father God, we pray for the Christian women in France who minister to prostitutes. Help them to share the gospel with them so they may be free. (John 8:9-11)
15. God, please protect the Finnish women who suffer mental and physical abuse. May they seek and find help, and may their partners learn to love them. (Eph. 5:25)
16. Father, may people in Greenland bring their burdens of anger, longing and grief to you and receive healing. Shine your light to conquer their darkness and despair. (Ps. 55:22)
17. God, may the new Farsi app being developed by TWR organizations in Scandinavia and the Netherlands bring the gospel to Iranians who hunger for truth. (Matt. 5:6)
18. Lord, may your healing, peace and presence be with every woman in Denmark who suffers from anxiety, low self-esteem, stress and mental illness. (Isa. 57:18-19)
19. Lord, continue to deepen the spiritual lives of our coordinator and team in Croatia. May what you pour into them overflow to the Croatian women to whom they minister. (Col. 1:9-10)

20. Father, strengthen and encourage Christians in Belgium, where they are in the minority. Help them stand strong through difficulties that arise because of the faith they hold. (John 16:33)
21. Praise God for the organizations coming alongside our Albanian team that serve at the National Shelter of Domestic Violence. May the abused women come to faith in Christ and be embraced by a local church once they leave the shelter. (John 13:34-35)
22. God, we pray for every Spanish woman who suffers from stress, anxiety and mental illness. May she come to know you and experience your rest. (1 Peter 5:7)
23. Lord, protect the women who listen to the new *Precious and Beloved* broadcasts in Russian but do so secretly out of fear that their husbands will get angry. Open their hearts to know you. (Mark 5:36)
24. Give wisdom and guidance to our Portugal team, Lord. Use them to share your Word and help women find their true identity in you. (Prov. 4:6-7)
25. God, raise up righteous leaders in Poland who will protect the rights of women and provide quality health care for them. (John 15:12)
26. One in four girls aged 16 to 19 in Norway have experienced sexual abuse. Lord, protect girls from this abuse and heal their trauma. (Isa. 41:10)
27. Father, give wisdom to the TWR Women of Hope team in Albania as they reach the next generation and unreached people groups in their nation. (Prov. 11:30)
28. Heavenly Father, you knit us together in our mother's womb; we are fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. Please guide lawmakers in Denmark to have your perspective on life. (Ps. 139:13-15)
29. Lord, give wisdom to European leaders and lawmakers as they create laws regarding prostitution. Many countries are criminalizing the sex trade to lower demand. (1 Tim. 2:1-4)



Beautifully Broken

A Word of Hope from Lisa Hall,
International Prayer Coordinator



"Before God can use you, he has to break you. Every great movement of God is preceded by a season of humility and repentance. A time of tearing down walls. Of getting honest with God and others about your true spiritual condition. It may be hard. It may hurt. But in the end, God will use your brokenness to restore your 'first love' for Jesus, rekindle your spiritual life, reconcile your relationships, and repair your life." - Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Brokenness

Are you longing for revival in your life? Do you desire to be set free from sinful patterns that defeat you and instead to walk with God in an intimate and life-giving way? Many of us long for this, but how do we get there? God wants this for us as well and proclaims, *"I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite"* (Isa. 57:15b).

Brokenness is not an emotion but a surrendering of our will. It is an ongoing decision to die to our self-will and embrace his will and ways, and to choose dependence on God rather than our own self-reliance. When we respond with sincere repentance to the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin, God softens our hearts so that we can both receive and respond to God. It opens the pathway of the flow of his presence and power in our lives. Brokenness is the means to put to death our pride and the controlling of our fleshly desires.

Several months ago, I found myself needing to confess and repent of a sin that I had committed. Honestly, in my mind, it was something quite small. But I knew that I still needed to confess it to God and ask forgiveness. However, I was not prepared for God's response.

As I asked him to cleanse me of my sin, God flashed a scene in my mind. I was standing there in front of him with Jesus at his side. When I asked to be cleansed of my sin, he turned around and put his hand on Jesus' body. When he removed it, I could see it was covered in Christ's blood. God then reached over and touched me with it. I looked up at Jesus' face and felt his loving but very sad eyes upon me.

It completely undid me. I had not realized how offensive my sin was to God, how it affected our relationship and what it cost Jesus. I was forced

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Beautifully Broken, cont'd

at that moment to confront the way I view my sin, and I began to question: Do I cherish my relationship with God to the point that I will do anything to not violate it? Do I fully understand what my sin cost Jesus? Am I taking my sin seriously or just casually asking forgiveness and then moving on with my life? Do I see the effects of my sin and what it is doing to my relationship with God and with others?

I've come to the heavy realization that I violate relationship when I sin. In other words, I break trust with the Lord when I sin. I have broken that vow of holiness when I sin and am no longer set apart for God; I have instead embraced another god, perhaps myself or my flesh.

But God was so good in not leaving me in despair. In his mercy, he showed

me that the solution to my giving in to sin lies in my abiding in God and he in me. When I am fully surrendered to God and broken in humility before him, when I choose to love him more than anything else, he can give me his power to say no to temptation and choose his way of escape. He can give me the discernment to think through the consequences of my actions. When I choose holiness so that I am set apart for him, he can give me the will to do what is right.

My heart was crushed when I understood my sin as God sees it. But it also opened my eyes to the immensity of God's love and grace in a way I had not previously understood. I'm learning that being in a state of brokenness is the best place to be before God. Will you join me there?



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