

Mike Parsons



**Restoring  
First Love**

Session 1

# Restoring First Love

- A big thanks to all who have become Patreon supporters – you are helping us share the message of God's unconditional love.
- We are all part of this great love awakening as we come to the realisation of who God is.

# Restoring First Love

- The world is beginning to experience these awakenings:
- A Love awakening
- A Grace awakening
- A Joy awakening
- A Peace awakening
- A True God awakening.
- Embrace the awakenings.

# Restoring First Love

- Building on the foundation of unconditional love, in this new series I am going to share the journey that led to the restoration of my first love relationship with the Father and the discovery of my own identity as a son of God.

# Restoring First Love

- Who are you? That is a question that God has been asking me in various ways for a long time.
- My answers were always works-based, associated with what I was doing.
- My soul defined my identity. God was seeking to reveal the true me but my soul needed to accept that.

# Restoring First Love

- Each of our souls has created an identity for ourselves using the data collected during our lives.
- Information, flowing through our senses from the outside, created the need for our soul to survive, cope and protect itself from the harsh realities of life.

# Restoring First Love

- The soul's defence mechanisms are in fact prisons that the soul uses falsely to keep us safe.
- Those prisons stop us knowing the true reality of who we really are, until the soul surrenders control; that then enables us to trust God for His protection, provision and direction.

# Restoring First Love

- Who am I?
- That question is at the core of most people's psyche.
- Imagine you are in a boat adrift on a vast ocean (not knowing it is an ocean of unconditional love) and you have no sails or oars.
- That is the seemingly hopeless position that mankind is in.



# Restoring First Love

- This state of despair is a deceptive delusion that fools mankind into trying to navigate on the surface of the ocean of love by self-effort.
- The answer is to get out of the boat and sink into the depths of unconditional love to find out who we really are.

# Restoring First Love

- We are never separated from God, as we exist within Him.
- Acts 17:28 In Him we live and move and exist.
- Everything exists within God, who has created a place within Himself for relationship.
- Separation is an illusion we have created because of our guilt and shame.

# Restoring First Love

- Getting out of the safety of the boat seems counterintuitive to the natural mind, which has been conditioned by following the DIY-tree independent path
- So who are you?
- How are you going to find out?
- You will not know if you stay in the boat.

# Restoring First Love

- Who do you think you are?
- Who do others think you are?
- Are you defined by other people's opinions of you or by your own life's circumstances?
- Are you defined and shaped by your past experiences?

# Restoring First Love

- Are you who your parents say you are ?
- Are you who your friends say you are?
- Are you who your boss says you are?
- Are you who your genetics say you are?

# Restoring First Love

- Who does Love say you are?
- Get out of the boat and sink into the vast ocean of love; and surrender and be immersed and saturated in unconditional love.
- A return to first love will reveal who you really are.
- God as love defines you.

# Restoring First Love

- So who are you?
- You can only really know through a restored face to face love relationship with God (Father, Son and Spirit).
- This new series about first love is intended to help you discover who you are.

# Restoring First Love

- You are a child of God, the apple of God's eye, the treasure of God's heart and the object of His desire.
- To know that truth we need to stop trying to set our own course or row the boat, jump into the vast ocean of love and be consumed by unconditional love.



# Restoring First Love

- So who are you?
- Discover who you are as you journey through the garden of your heart towards intimacy.
- Step on the dance floor of discovery and then enter the soaking room of transformation to engage with the bridal chamber for the consummation of first love.

# Restoring First Love

- Restoring first love will restore our true identity.
- Restoring our origin and our sonship relationship and position.
- Restoring our inheritance and authority as sons of God and coheirs of creation.

# Restoring First Love

- Restoring our creative power and position within the order of Melchizedek.
- Restoring our identity as priests, kings, oracles and legislators.
- Restoring our destiny and true creational purpose as sons of God.

# Restoring First Love

- Unconditional love is to be experienced, not just intellectually believed or understood.
- We are invited to go beyond intellectual and theoretical knowledge to experiential truth.

# Restoring First Love

- Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
- God has been proactive in predestining us to a restored intimate face to face relationship with Him.

# Restoring First Love

- Eph 1:4 Mirror: He associated us in Christ before the fall of the world! Jesus is God's mind made up about us! He always knew in his love that he would present us again face-to-face before him in blameless innocence.

# Restoring First Love

- God is not passive; He is proactive and actively seeks us out to restore us to first love.
- First love was established within God's heart and mind before the fall of the world to ensure our relationship would be eternal.

# Restoring First Love

- The journey to discover first love is about God wooing us back into an intimate relationship with Him.
- Marriage or union is the model that is used to illustrate this first love relationship and help us experience it.



# Restoring First Love

- God desired marriage with mankind and chose Israel to be forerunners of that relationship.
- They refused the invitation but marriage is still the metaphor that God uses for the process to restore us to first love.

# Restoring First Love

- This process is metaphorical and spiritual, not a literal marriage, although there is a physical element.
- We will each have unique individual experiences and journeys.
- I am going to share my journey to encourage you to discover your own.

# Restoring First Love

- Marriage is a union, becoming one flesh, a union of spirit, soul and body with God; we are becoming one spirit with One who actually dwells within us.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

# Restoring First Love

- The depth of relationship is equated to a physical union.
- 1 Cor 6:16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “The two shall become one flesh.”

# Restoring First Love

- The union of first love contains a physical (not a sexual) component.
- John 3:2 In My Father's house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because **I am** going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where **I am**, there you also will be.

# Restoring First Love

- Jesus went to the cross to prepare us to be His dwelling place or home.
- **I am** is a union of relationship, not a physical or spiritual location.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that **I am** in the Father, and the Father is in Me?

# Restoring First Love

- This relationship is intended to be a present state of reality, but religion has put it off to the future.
- Religion makes 'where I am' a place in heaven we go to only after death.
- 'Where I am' is a statement describing a relationship of being in union, not a location in heaven someday in the future.

# Restoring First Love

- Jesus did come back as He promised in resurrection power to reveal the union of **I am**.
- John 14:20 On that day you will know that **I am** in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.
- God now dwells within all mankind: most don't know it yet.



# Restoring First Love

- Intimacy with God is beyond and deeper than sexual union: it is the knowledge of the heart – cardiognosis.
- There is no gender, no male or female in the kingdom; and sonship is neither male nor female, so it refers to both sons and daughters.

# Restoring First Love

- First love is the restoration of our relational identity as sons and daughters – there is no need for gender identity because we are all made in the image and likeness of God, who has both male and female characteristics.

# Restoring First Love

- First love restores our true identify in a union of spirit, soul body with Father, Son and Spirit within the core of our innermost being.
- The process that leads to this consummation is the re-establishing of first love; and the process is like a courtship or betrothal.

# Restoring First Love

- As individuals and as humanity, we all like sheep have gone astray, following our own path of independence; but God proactively came to seek and to save that which was lost.
- The good shepherd sought out the lost sheep – and still does.

# Restoring First Love

- Mankind may have turned away from God to live in the lost identity of independence but God never turned away from us.
- God as Father always saw us, His children, through the lens of love and desired that all would return to our first love origin.

# Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:38 Mirror: This is my conviction; no threat whether it be in death or life; be it angelic beings, demon powers or political principalities, nothing known to us at this time, or even in the unknown future; 39 no dimension of any calculation in time or space, nor any device yet to be invented, has what it takes to separate us from the love of God demonstrated in Christ. Jesus is our ultimate authority.

# Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”



## Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are **children of God**, 17 and if children, heirs also, **heirs of God** and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

# Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:14 Mirror: The **original life** of the Father revealed in his son is the life the Spirit now conducts within us. 15 Slavery is such a poor substitute for sonship! They are opposites; the one leads forcefully through fear while sonship responds fondly to Abba Father.

# Restoring First Love

- Rom 8:16 Mirror: His Spirit resonates within our spirit to confirm the fact that **we originate in God**.17 Because we are his offspring, we qualify to be heirs; God himself is our portion, we **co-inherit** with Christ. Since we were represented and included in his suffering we equally participate in the glory of his resurrection.

# Restoring First Love

- What is love?
- What is different about first love?
- Why is first love so important?
- Our eternal destiny is established on the restoration of our First Love experience with our heavenly Father.

# Restoring First Love

- First love is not the state or feelings we had when we first discovered our salvation.
- First love is our origin in God before we ever came to live in this body on earth.
- First love is our eternal identity, originating in Perichoresis.

# Restoring First Love

- Rev 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have **left your first love**.
- We also may have left our earthly first love relationship with God, succumbing to the religious trap of works, duty and obligation just as the Ephesian church did.

# Restoring First Love

- The Ephesian church abandoned the love they once had for God; relationship was no longer their priority.
- Duty became the focus rather than intimacy.
- They were no longer in love with God but started working for Him.

# Restoring First Love

- Do you remember how your own first love felt with God or another person?
- Emotions of passion, overwhelming desire being smitten.
- Our minds captivated, thinking of the next glimpse or meeting.
- Was your salvation experience with God an encounter with first love?



# Restoring First Love

- Besotted with, infatuated with, enamoured of, love-struck by, smitten with, passionate about, with a passion for, consumed with desire for; captivated by, enthralled by, entranced by; devoted to, doting on; mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about, bowled over by, carrying a torch for; twitterpated by.

# Restoring First Love

- **First** Love: let's focus on the meaning of 'first.'
- Coming before all others in time or order, paramount, top, topmost, utmost, uppermost, prime, chief, leading, main, major.
- Foremost, principal, highest, greatest; pre-eminent, overriding, outstanding, supreme, premier, predominant, prevailing, most important, of greatest importance, of prime importance; vital, key, essential, crucial, central, core, focal, pivotal, dominant; ruling, head.

# Restoring First Love

- First before everything:
- Me, my family, my relationships, my work, my leisure, my needs.
- Before worry, concern, anxiety, fear, depression, despair.
- If the priority of my life is first love with God, everything else will flow from that relationship.

# Restoring First Love

- Luke 14:33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.
- If our relationship with God is our priority above everything else then those earthly possession pale in comparison.

# Restoring First Love

- What is **love**?
- What do we mean when we use the word love?
- What do we think and feel when we hear the word love?
- The answer to those questions will have been influenced and affected by our personal experiences.

# Restoring First Love

- 1 John 4:16 We have come to **know** and have **believed** the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who **abides in love** abides in God, and God **abides in** him.
- John 3:16 For God **so loved** the world, that **He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish (be lost), but have eternal life.

# Restoring First Love

- Love is one word in the English language with many different meanings.
- Love has many words in other languages that differentiates its meaning.
- I love you or I love ice cream are very different concepts.

# Restoring First Love

- Hebrew words for love:
- Ahab – spontaneous, impulsive love.
- Hased – deliberate choice of affection and kindness, covenant love.
- Raham – to have compassion, brotherly love.



# Restoring First Love

- Greek words for love.
- Eros – erotic love, this word is not found in New Testament.
- Phileo.
- Storge.
- Agape.

# Restoring First Love

- Phileo: “love” which means “to have a special interest in someone or something, frequently with focus on close association; have affection for, like, consider someone a friend.” It refers to a strong liking or a strong friendship.
- We “love” things that we strongly like: “I love ice cream,” “I love my car,” “I love the way your hair looks” etc.

# Restoring First Love

- Greek word – Storge.
- The love and affection that naturally occurs between parents and children, can exist between siblings, and exists between husbands and wives in a good marriage.
- Romans 12:10 philostorgos, encouraging us to be loving and kind to each other.

# Restoring First Love

- The Greek word agape was seldom used in Greek literature.
- Agape refers to the love of God, one of the kinds of love God has for us and we are to have for God and people.
- You can agape love your enemies, but you cannot phileo love them.

# Restoring First Love

- Agape is the very nature of God, for God is love (1 John 4:7-12, 16).
- Agape love is known by the action it prompts towards others.
- Agape love motivates to positive action; it is not just doing things because of how it feels.

# Restoring First Love

- Agape love is therefore not simply an impulse generated from feelings.
- Agape love is an exercise of the will, a deliberate choice.
- This is why God can encourage us to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44; Exod. 23:1-5).

# Restoring First Love

- He is not commanding us to “have a good feeling” for our enemies, but to act in a loving way towards them.
- Agape love is related to a choice and commitment, and not necessarily just being moved by feelings and emotions.
- “Loving” someone is to be like God towards someone, seeking his or her long-term blessing and profit.

# Restoring First Love

- There are many Biblical references to agape love:
- Matt 5:43,44 – "love your enemies"
- Matt 22:36-40 – "great commandment...love God..."
- John 3:16 – "God so loved the world He gave His only Son"
- John 13:34; 15:12 – "new commandment...love one another.."
- John 17:26 – "love with which You loved Me may be in them"



# Restoring First Love

- Rom. 5:5 – "love of God poured out within our hearts"
- Rom. 13:10 – "love is the fulfilment of the law"
- 1 Cor 13:1-13 – "...the greatest of these is love"
- 2 Cor. 5:14 – "the love of Christ controls us"
- Gal. 5:6 – "faith working through love"
- Gal. 5:22 – "fruit of the Spirit is love..."
- 1 Jn. 4:7 – "everyone who loves is born of God"

# Restoring First Love

- God expresses His character through restoring first love to inspire, motivate and empower us to love Him, ourselves and others.
- My friend Lindy shared this week that God had been asking her how much she loved herself.
- That is an important question for us to ponder.

# Restoring First Love

- Love is not just a virtue, value, ideal or moral principle.
- Love is not just a feeling, sentiment, impulse or passion.
- Love is not just romance, benevolence or amicability.
- Love is the most powerful force in the whole of creation.

# Restoring First Love

- John 13:34 I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; **just as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.
- Only God can express His character through love to us, to inspire and motivate us to be able to love ourselves – and others – with agape.

# Restoring First Love

- Love is not a psychological predisposition or a genetically produced social habit.
- Agape love can only be expressed by us when derived from God.
- Love is the essence, nature and character of God experienced by us and then expressed through our lives.

# Restoring First Love

- God's love has practical features to be expressed and demonstrated.
- Love is not defined by the act, but by the character of God within the act.
- Love precludes hypocrisy and play-acting.
- Love is unselfish; not based on self-need or want.

# Restoring First Love

- Love is not conditional on repayment.
- Love doesn't care who gets the credit.
- Love is active; not merely passive or theoretical.
- Love precludes resentment, covetousness, and judging another.

# Restoring First Love

- Love believes, trusts and expects God to overcome all things by love.
- Agape love is primarily directed toward people; not things, ideas, doctrines, principles...
- Love of our neighbour desires them to have everything we have in our relationship with God, and more.



# Restoring First Love

- Love seeks to commend, not condemn.
- Love is not conditional on the lovability or the actions of the recipient.
- Love builds others up, nurtures, edifies; it is constructive, not destructive.

# Restoring First Love

- Love seeks the highest good of the other, with no thought of benefit to oneself.
- Love may involve self-denial, personal sacrifice and humility.
- Love is willing to suffer slights, hurts and rejection without retaliation.
- Love is the antidote to fear and paranoia

# Restoring First Love

- Love does not preclude confrontation, opposition and discipline - Heb. 12:6
- Love is not soft it speaks the truth ("tough love"); cf. Matt 10:34; Luke 12:49
- Love is not retaliatory (Rom. 12:17); it turns the other cheek (Matt. 5:39)

# Restoring First Love

- Love prompts one to take the initiative to be the first to act - (Matt 7:12).
- Love does not demand its personal rights.
- Love excludes suspicion and mistrust.
- Love is the fullest expression of God Himself.

# Restoring First Love

- God's love for us contains all those ideals, words and concepts.
- He want us to experience Him – Love
- He has parental love like a mother and father.
- He wants us to experience a deep brotherly friendship.
- God has emotions and expresses them towards us so we can reciprocate with our emotions and feelings.

# Restoring First Love

- Love is not a weak wishy-washy emotion but a powerful motivational force for good.
- Love is at the very foundation and heart of the kingdom of God.
- Love is righteousness expressed.
- Love is the greatest practical expression of who God is.

# Restoring First Love

- Love motivates whatever God does, as it is the essence of who He is.
- Love is to be experienced at all levels of who we are.
- Love is the vibrational frequency of God to be resonated with.
- Love is the highest frequency of vibration we can experience.

# Restoring First Love

- John 3:16 “For God **so loved YOU**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not be lost, but have eternal life.
- God’s love was strong and powerful enough to overcome death in Jesus and us through its resurrection power.
- His love is strong and powerful enough brings us from death to life.



# Restoring First Love

- Song 8:6 “Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm. **For love is as strong as death**, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The very flame of the Lord. 7 “Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it;

# Restoring First Love

- Love the is strongest motivating force for good.
- “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” – M.L.King

# Restoring First Love

- First love will enable us to experience:
- Acceptance                      Affirmation
- Approval                        Value and Worth
- Esteem                          Recommendation
- Commendation                Blessing
- Endorsement                  Validation

# Restoring First Love

- This is the song of eternal, everlasting love that God has sung to you from before the foundation of the world.
- Embrace Him where the beginning and the end meet. In the midst of covenant love, infinite, unending love, where **what was** meets **what is** to reveal and release and birth **what will be**.

# Restoring First Love

- To experience, first we have to abandon our soul into the trust of God who loves us unconditionally.
- We need to get out of the boat of survival and sink into the vast ocean of unconditional love.

# Restoring First Love

- Rest is the key to living loved.
- Start to focus on your breathing, slowing it down; and focus your thinking on 'God is love' .
- Breathe in deeply the unconditional love of the Father.
- Feel unconditional love flow through your being
- Be still and let God love on you.

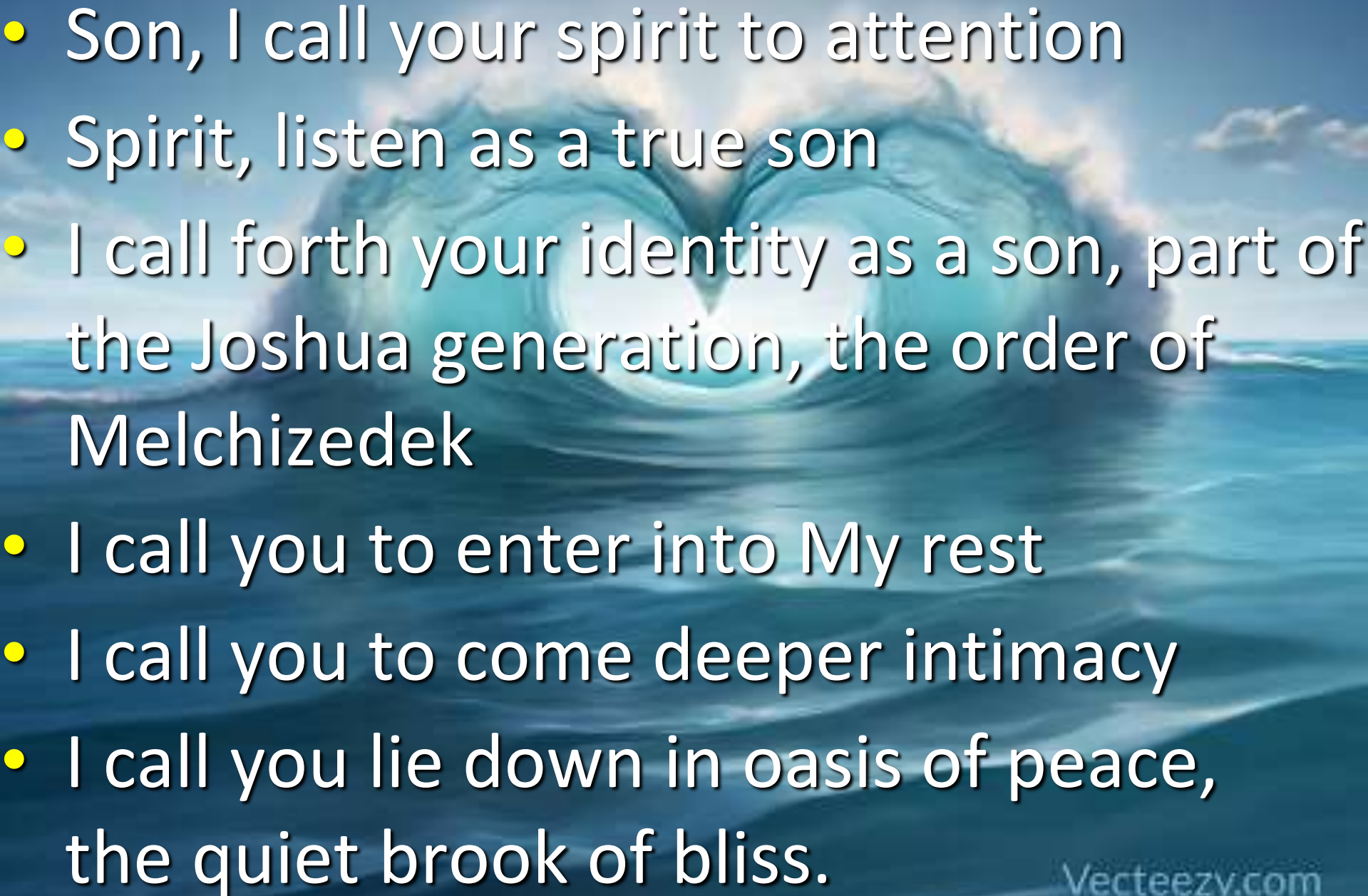
# Restoring First Love

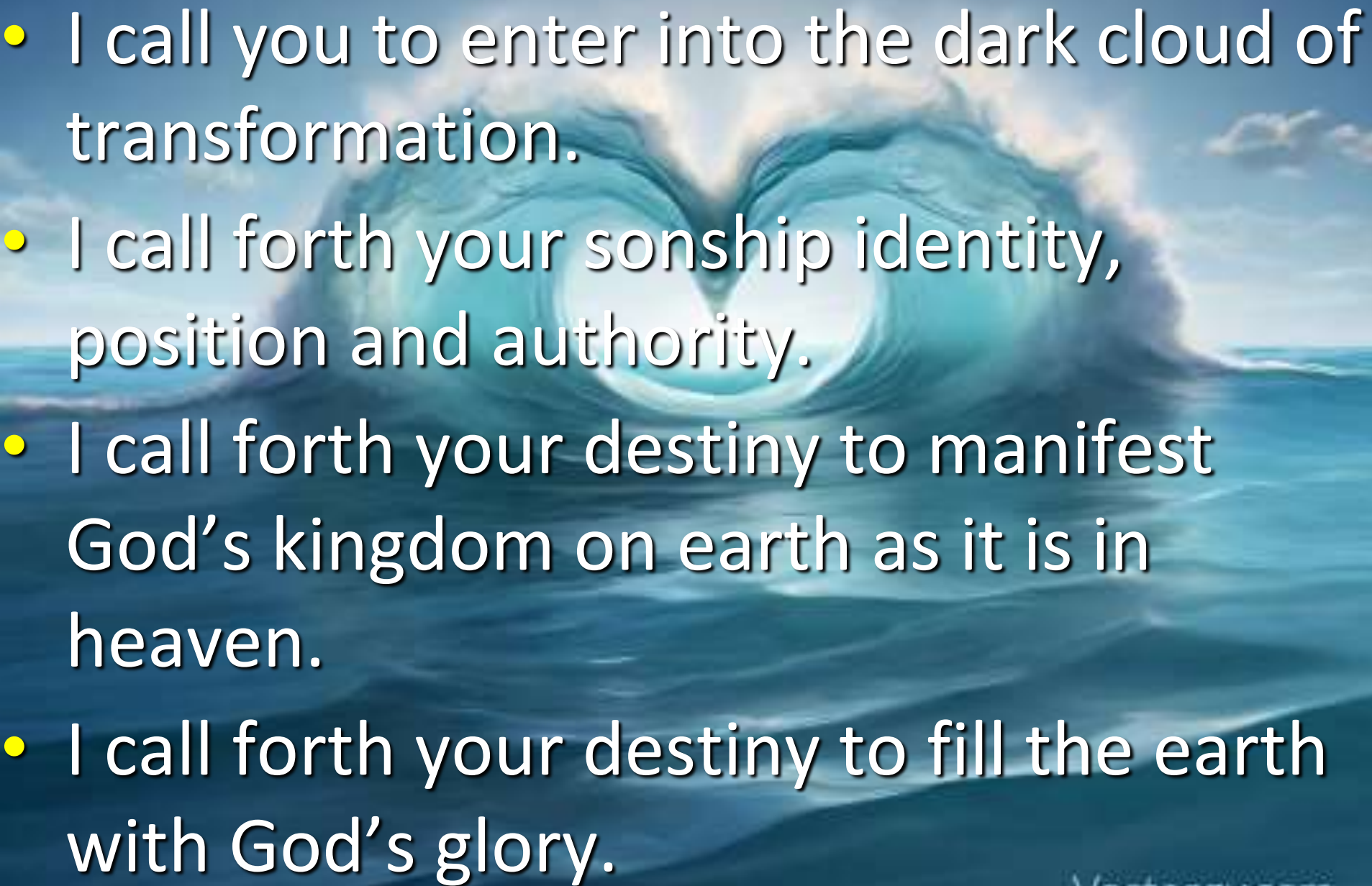
- Invite love, joy and peace to come on you; to flow in you and through you; to create an atmosphere of rest around you.
- Feel unconditional love flow through your whole being.
- Be still and let God show you first love and love on you.

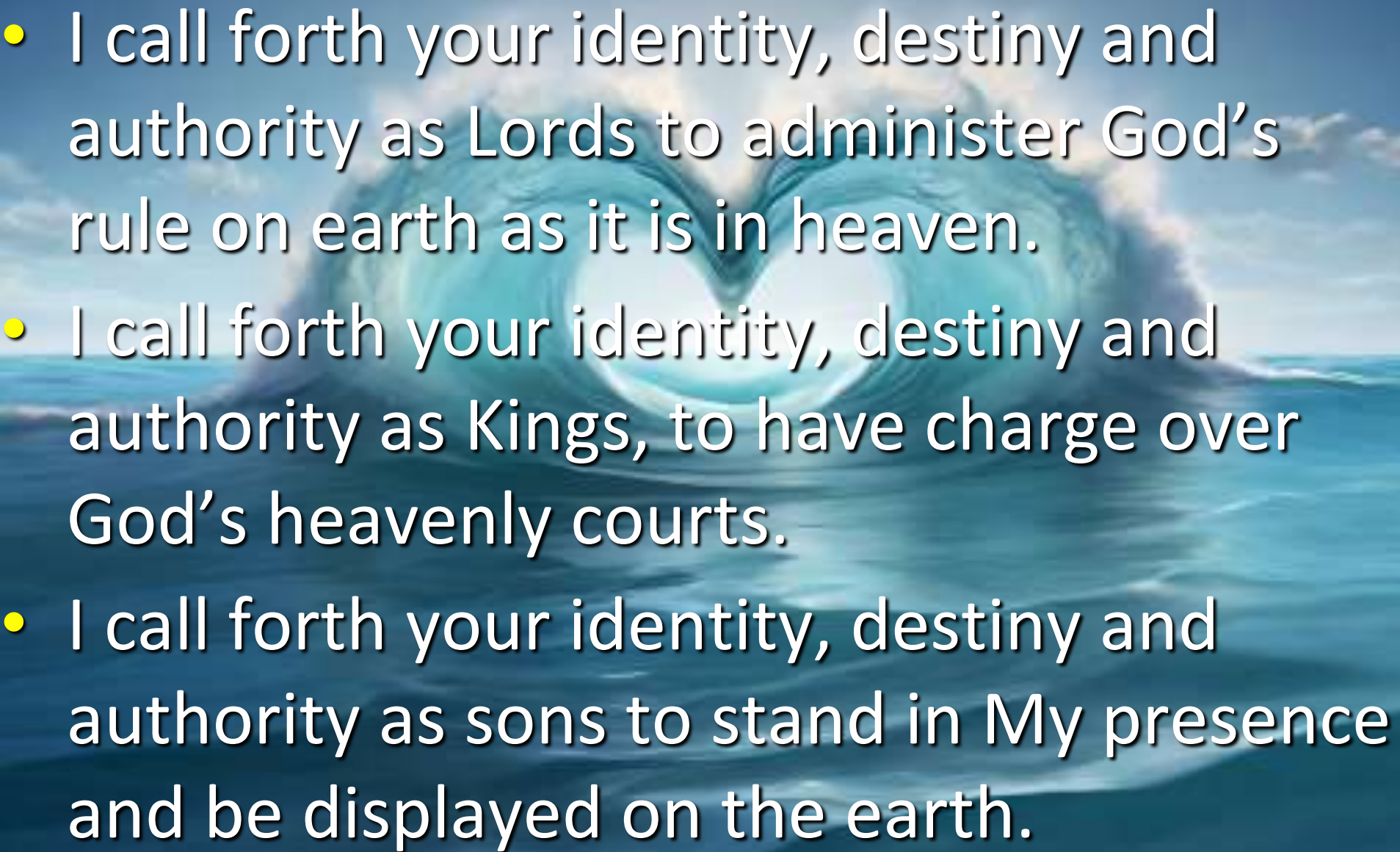
# Restoring First Love

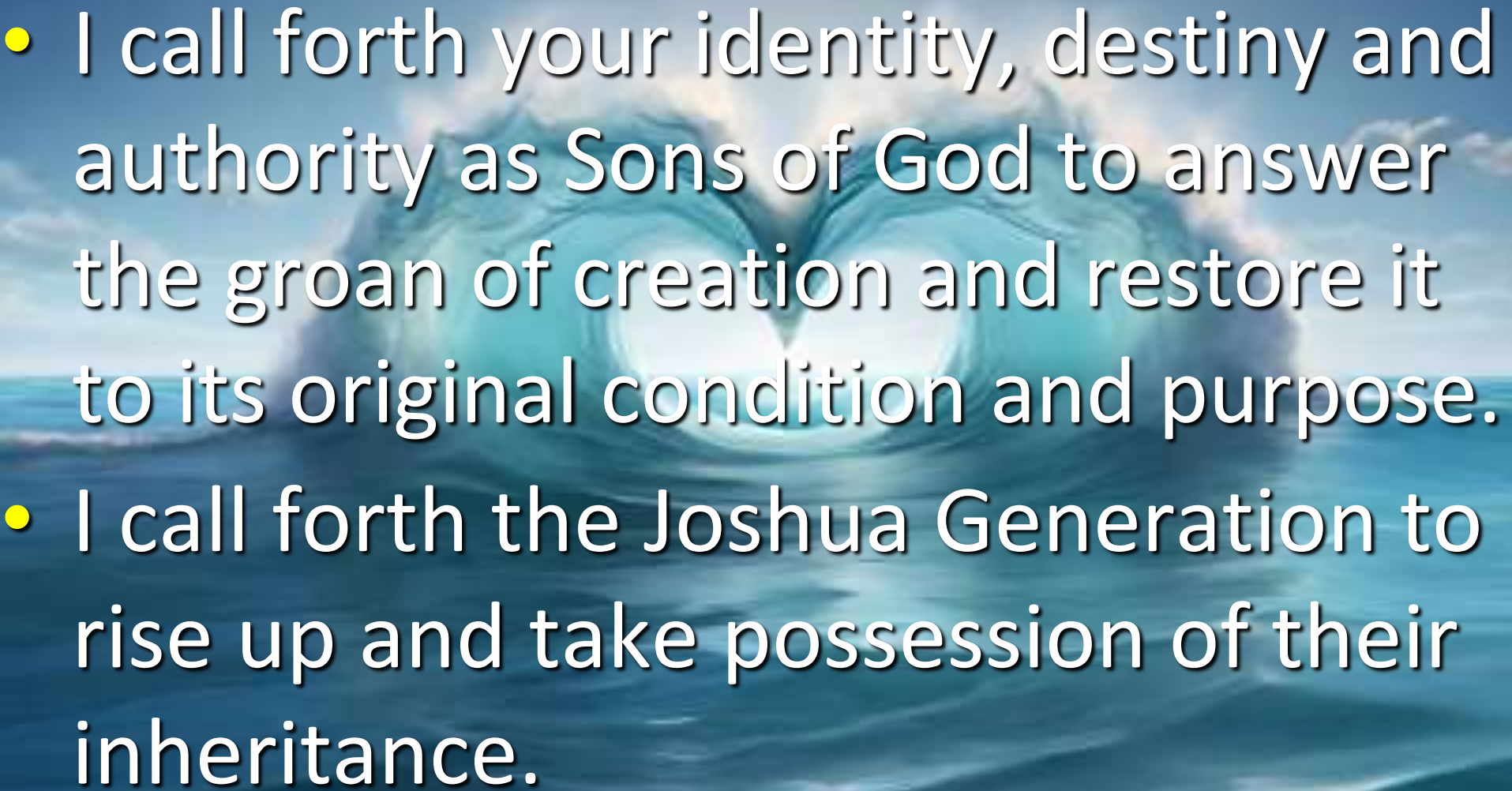
- You are in a safe place.
- You can choose to get out of the boat and abandon yourself by sinking into the vast ocean of unconditional love.
- Sink deeper and deeper into love and experience restored first love.

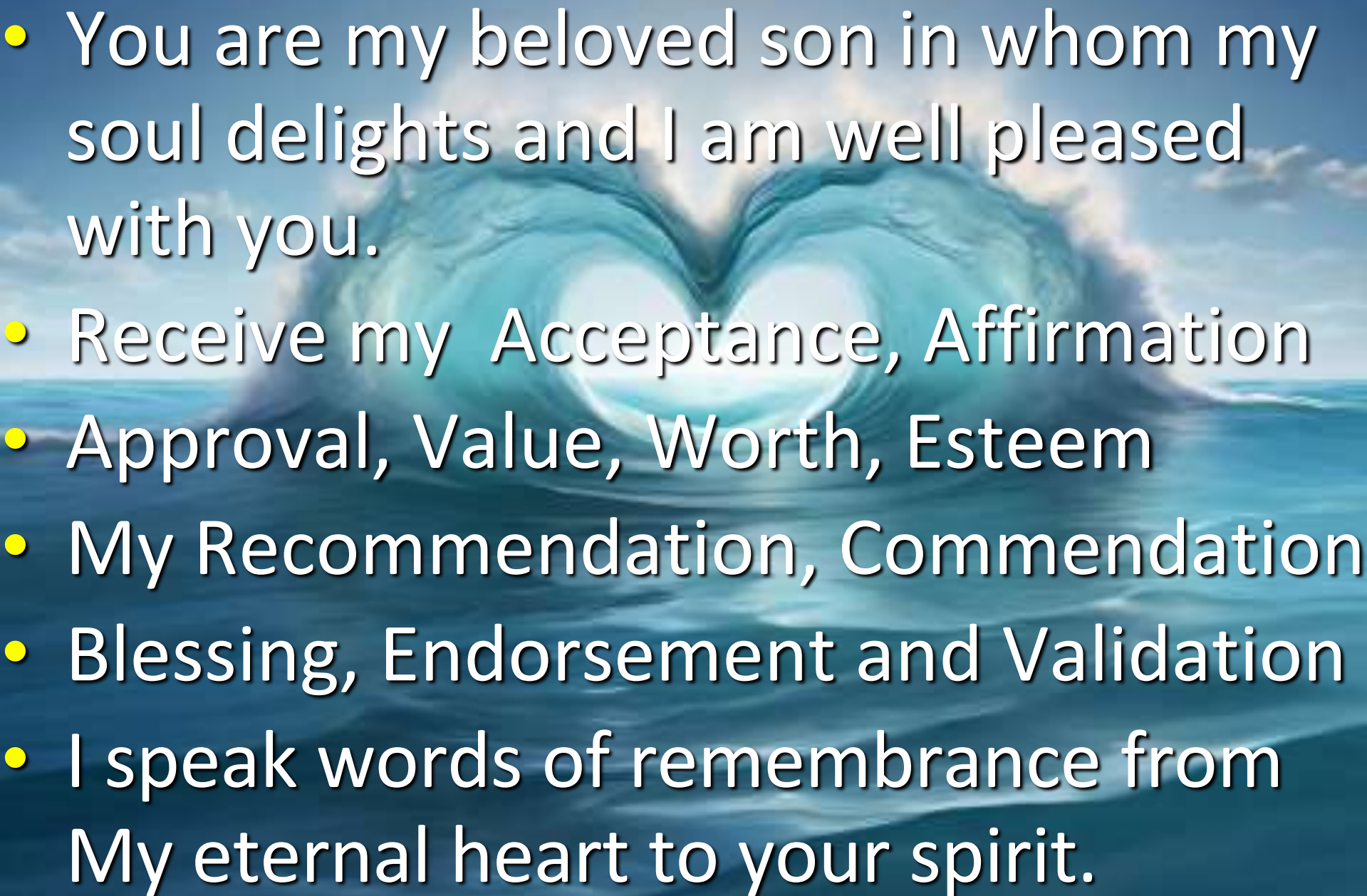


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- Son, I call your spirit to attention
  - Spirit, listen as a true son
  - I call forth your identity as a son, part of the Joshua generation, the order of Melchizedek
  - I call you to enter into My rest
  - I call you to come deeper intimacy
  - I call you lie down in oasis of peace, the quiet brook of bliss.

- 
- I call you to enter into the dark cloud of transformation.
  - I call forth your sonship identity, position and authority.
  - I call forth your destiny to manifest God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
  - I call forth your destiny to fill the earth with God's glory.

- 
- I call forth your identity, destiny and authority as Lords to administer God's rule on earth as it is in heaven.
  - I call forth your identity, destiny and authority as Kings, to have charge over God's heavenly courts.
  - I call forth your identity, destiny and authority as sons to stand in My presence and be displayed on the earth.

- 
- I call forth your identity, destiny and authority as Sons of God to answer the groan of creation and restore it to its original condition and purpose.
  - I call forth the Joshua Generation to rise up and take possession of their inheritance.

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- You are my beloved son in whom my soul delights and I am well pleased with you.
  - Receive my Acceptance, Affirmation
  - Approval, Value, Worth, Esteem
  - My Recommendation, Commendation
  - Blessing, Endorsement and Validation
  - I speak words of remembrance from My eternal heart to your spirit.





# Freedom

## Apostolic Resources

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