

# homesick

## 3. Home at Last







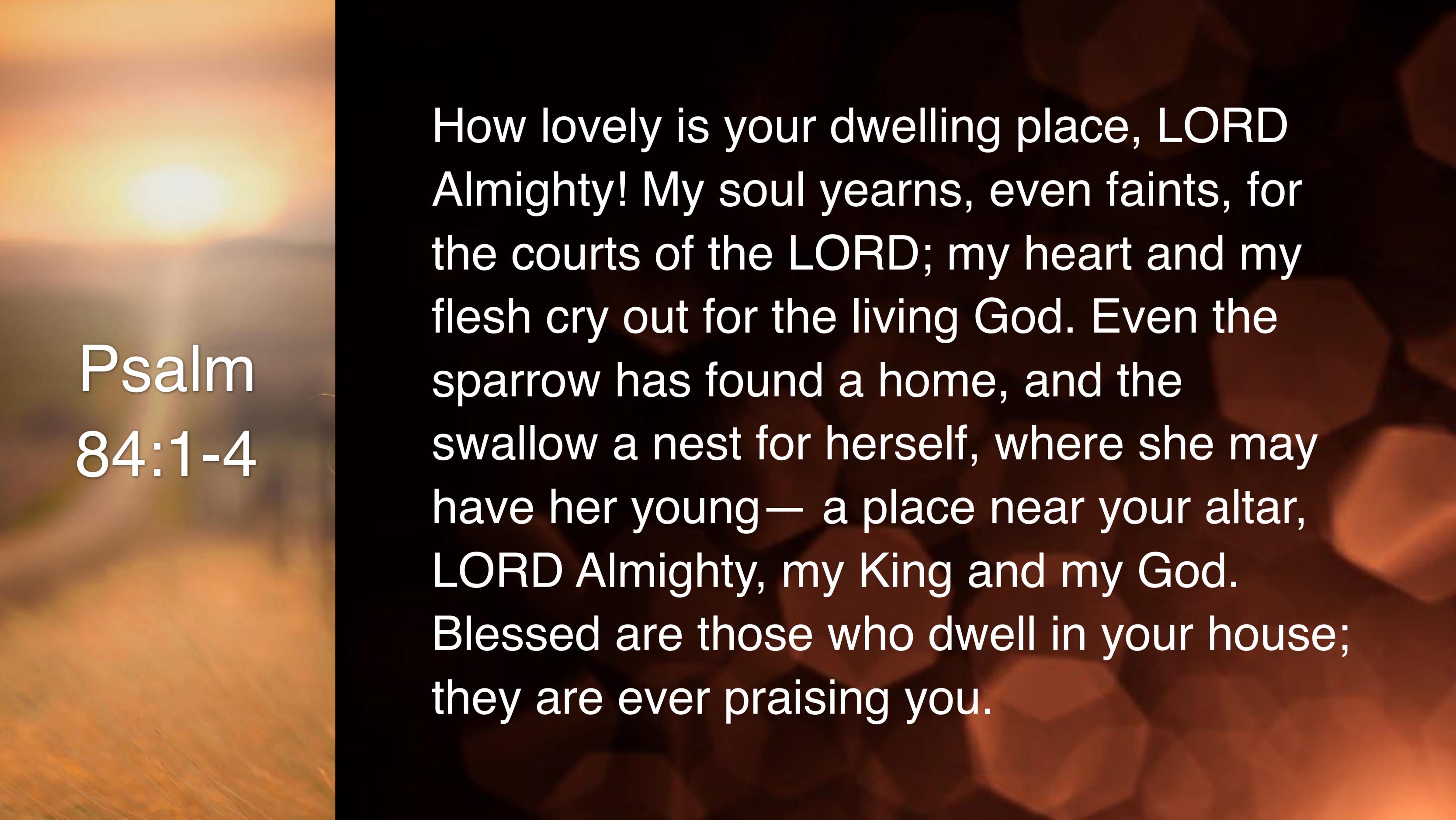


We can never truly find  
our way home until we  
find our way back to  
God.



## Psalm 23:1-4

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

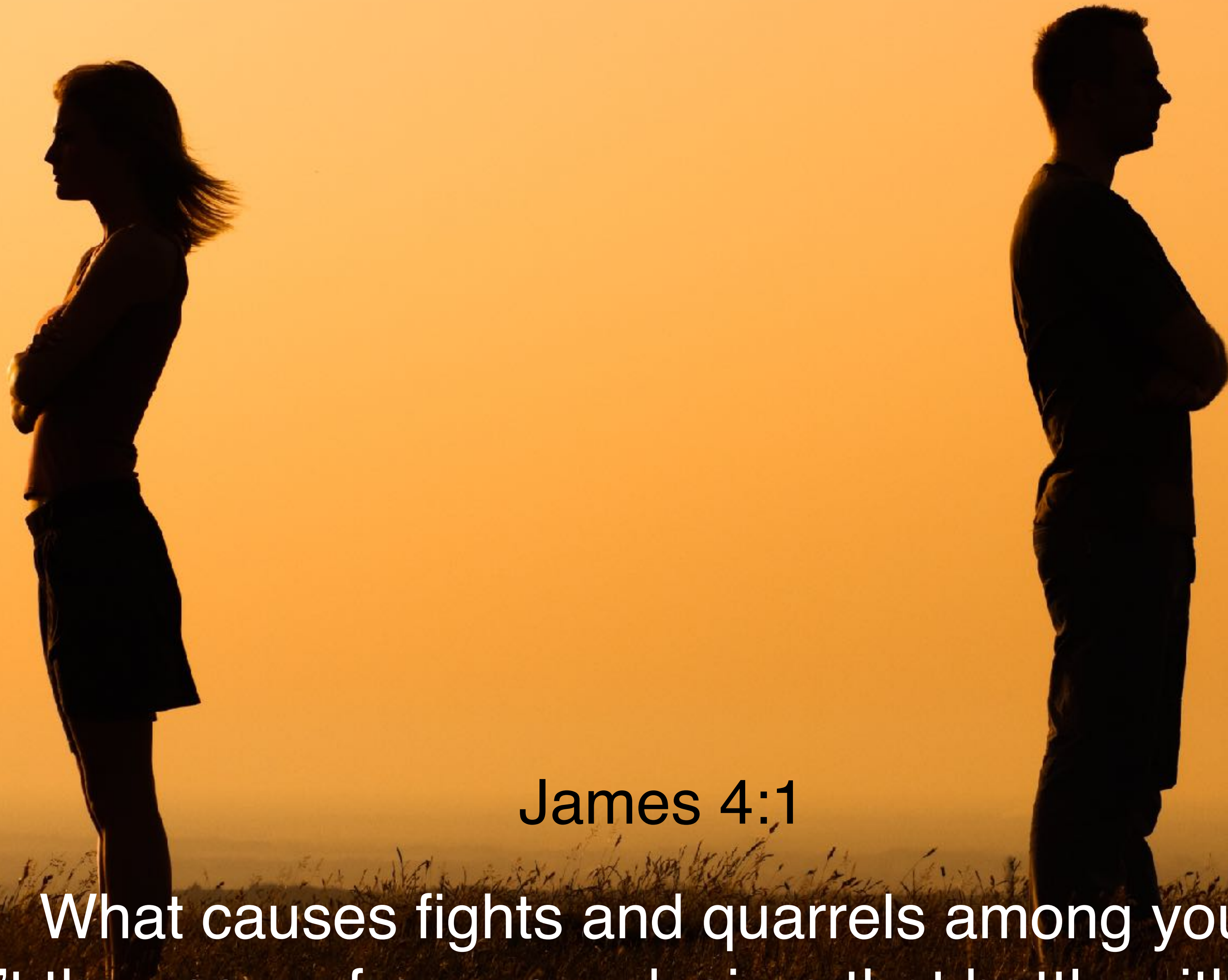


Psalm  
84:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young — a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.







James 4:1

What causes fights and quarrels among you?  
Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?



Tim Keller

All the mini-exoduses and mini-homecomings of the Bible failed in the end to deliver the final and full homecoming the prophets promised and everyone longed for. Why? One reason was the brokenness within human beings. Israel in particular and the human race in general was still mired in selfishness, pride, and sin.

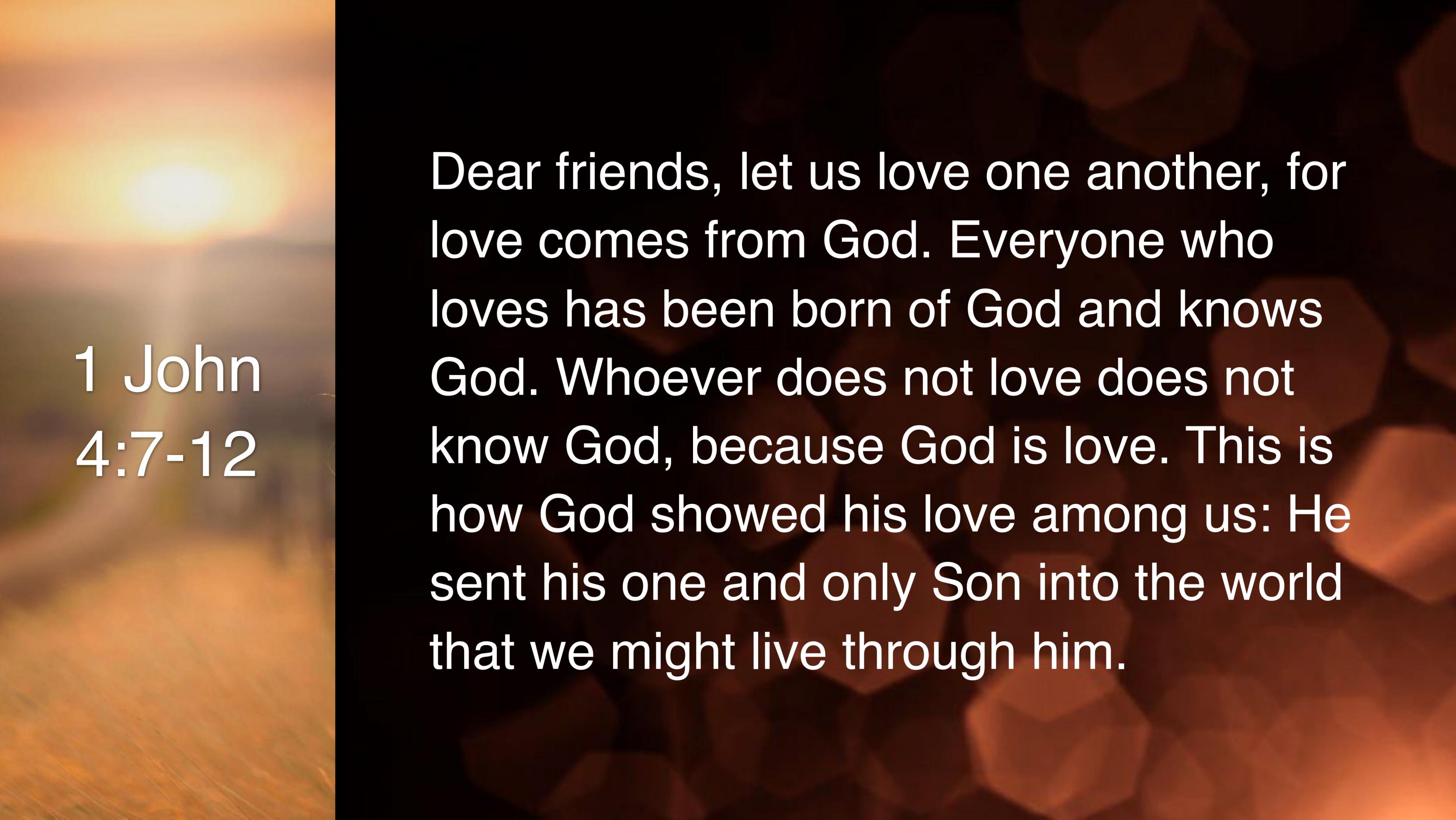


Tim Keller

We are oppressed by conflicts  
within our own hearts ...

We need a radical change in our  
very nature.

When God saves us, he  
also changes us, making us  
people who can create a  
home for others.



1 John  
4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.



1 John  
4:7-12

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



Edith  
Schaeffer

Time spent in yelling for what is not possible means it is lost for the use of what is possible. ... When people insist on perfection or nothing, they get nothing. When people insist on having what they daydream as a perfect relationship, they will end up in having no relationship at all.



Edith  
Schaeffer

When people waste the time they could have—by screaming for more—they will have no time at all. The waste of what could be, by demanding what cannot be, is something we all have lived through in certain periods of our lives, but which we need to put behind us with resolve.



Tim Keller

Home ... is a powerful but elusive concept. The strong feelings that surround it reveal some deep longing within us for a place that absolutely fits and suits us, where we can be, or perhaps find, our true selves. Yet it seems that no real place or actual family ever satisfies these yearnings, though many situations arouse them.



C. S.  
Lewis

These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself. ... Our life-long nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation.



Matthew  
8:19-20

Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”





John  
14:1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

As I sat in the waiting room reflecting on all this, my thoughts drifted to Judah whom I held in my arms, and who would probably never have the same kind of identification with America as I do. Though he is technically a U.S. citizen, would he ever truly consider America his home? Would he ever have the same visceral experience of homecoming as we did entering a US embassy? What label best describes my children?



Korean-Kenyan? American-Kenyan?  
Korean-American-Kenyan?

Many recent books have explored the identity struggles of missionary kids, often labeled “third culture kids” because many cannot integrate fully into either their parent’s culture or the culture of the mission field in which they grew up. Having wrestled with identity issues as a Korean immigrant in America, I wondered



how much more my children would struggle trying to figure out who they are, when they are old enough to care about such questions. What will they go through when they return to the U.S. for their college education? Will they look back to Kenya as their home? Will they one day embrace America as their true home? What will their reaction be to the Korean-American community? As a parent my heart



was heavy contemplating my children's future and the potential struggle they may endure seeking acceptance and identification within a larger community.

But as I was lifting a prayer for my children regarding all this, it struck me that there is something beautifully biblical about the struggle of "third culture kids." What if this wrestling to find a sense of home in this world is a



blessing in disguise? What if the real problem is that the rest of us are too comfortable and at home in this present world? Perhaps missionary kids are the ones who understand better than anyone else what Peter meant when he told the church that we are “aliens and strangers in the world.”

So many whose lives are recorded in Scripture seem to have lived like aliens and strangers in their



generation. Until the end of his life, we are told that Abraham died as a wanderer living in tents. And so too was the testimony of many others in the Bible who followed after God's promises. Their faith set them apart and set them on a journey—home would never seem the same again. As the writer of Hebrews tells us, "All these faithful ones died without receiving what God had promised them, but they saw it all



from a distance and welcomed the promises of God. They agreed that they were no more than foreigners and nomads here on earth. And obviously people who talk like that are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had meant the country they came from, they would have found a way to go back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to



be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them.” (Hebrews 11:13-16)

I don't know how Joy, Noelle, Luke, Bethany, and Judah will each struggle with these identity issues as they grow older. But my prayer for my children is that in their journey to find belonging, they will find the ultimate comfort in knowing that their heavenly Father is busy preparing a place for them, and that one day they will know what it truly means to be home.



