

A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE

# LIGHT

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

# ***40 Days in the Bible***

- Goliath cursed and yelled for 40 days before being killed by David (1 Samuel 17:16)
- Ishbosheth (Saul's son) was 40 years old when he began his reign (2 Samuel 2:10)
- King David reigned over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
- Elijah had one meal that gave him strength for 40 days (1 Kings 19:8)

A dark blue space background with a starry field. On the left, a large, dark, cratered sphere (the Moon) is partially visible. On the right, a large, blue and white sphere (the Earth) is partially visible. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

***Where it all begins***

***Genesis 1***

In the beginning God created the  
heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

God is not bound by time... Bereshit ("in the beginning") begins time

Then God said, “Let there be **light**”; and there was **light**. Genesis 1:3

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אוֹר

First recorded words spoken by the Creator God are “Yehi Ohr” יְהִי אוֹר .

# ***40 Days of LIGHT***

January 10

Where it all begins

January 17

Learn

January 24

I

January 31

G

February 7

H

February 14

T

First Melissa's passion is to make disciples of Jesus who:

**REACH INTENTIONALLY**  
**CONNECT AUTHENTICALLY**  
**EQUIP**  
**CONTINUOUSLY**  
**LIVE PASSIONATELY**



**Learn**

Jesus said, “This is the judgment, that the Light [φῶς phos] has come into the world, and men loved the darkness [σκότος skotos] rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.” John 3:19

## **Why would people prefer Darkness over Light?**

\*People love darkness not for its own sake but because of what it hides. They want to continue undisturbed in their evil deeds. (Bible Knowledge Commentary)



Jesus said, “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” John 3:20-21

People choose to remain in Darkness in order to hide from the Light, hoping that Darkness will eventually satisfy.

# ***What can we LEARN about Light?***

- **When** does the search begin? When all that life offers still seems dark
- **Where** does the search begin? The place of spiritual humility
- **Where** does the search for Light end? At the cross
- **How** is Light given? By the sacrificial death of the Savior
- **How** is Light received? By receiving new life (being “born again”)
- **Who** can give Light? God, the Creator of Light
- **Who** can receive Light? Those living in darkness looking for Light
- **Why** was Light given? For God so loved the world

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**Initiate**

“Make the world,  
near and far, your  
mission field”

# ***What does it mean to “initiate”?***

- Cause (a process or action) to begin; to start
- “We love, because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19
- If God loved us and called us to love others, how can we **initiate** spiritual conversations with others?

A dark blue space background with a starry field. On the left, a large, dark, cratered moon is visible. On the right, a portion of the Earth is shown, displaying blue oceans and white clouds. The text "John 1" is centered in a bold, white, italicized font.

***John 1***

**In the beginning** was the Word [λόγος logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was **in the beginning** with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 1:1-3

“Creation is a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith. Virtually every other aspect of theology rests upon our understanding of God as the origin of all life and of the role Jesus Christ, the Word, in creation. John could hardly say it more clearly: without him nothing was made that has been made—everything from subatomic particles to galaxies. Only God who created all things can redeem them. Creation is the foundation stone of the gospel. Christ could not have been created, for He created all things. There was a ‘historical Jesus,’ but this terminology refers only to his thirty-three years on earth. His life had no beginning, and it will have no end.” – Kenneth Gangel

In Him [Jesus] was life [ζωή *zoe*], and the life was the Light [φῶς *phos*] of men.

John 1:4

- Jesus Christ the **Creator** provides physical life; Jesus Christ the **Redeemer** provides spiritual life; and Jesus Christ the **Savior** provides eternal life.
- God is always the source of light and life. Christ the Son, the Creator, provides life and light to humanity. He alone is the life-giver and the light-bearer. – Kenneth Gangel



The Light [φῶς phos] shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overcome] it. John 1:5

- Why does it seem like believers and non-believers are speaking different languages?
- The Darkness cannot understand the Light and cannot defeat the Light.

God the Father sent the Light into the world  
and then He sent a person to spread the Light

There came a man sent from God, whose  
name was John. John 1:6

John the Apostle writes about John the Baptist.

Who was John the Baptist?

# ***Who was John the Baptist (Baptizer)?***

- His father, Zacharias, was a priest of the course of Abia (1 Chr. 24:10), and his mother, Elisabeth, was of the daughters of Aaron (Luke 1:5). His birth, which took place six months before that of Jesus, was foretold by an angel. John was a Nazarite from his birth (Luke 1:15; Num. 6:1–12). He spent his early years in the mountainous tract of Judah lying between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (Matt. 3:1–12). (Easton's Bible Dictionary)
- A prophet who came out of the desert to proclaim the advent of the Kingdom of God and issue a call to repentance (Matt. 3:1–12; Mark 1:4–8; Luke 3:1–20). John and Jesus were related (Luke 1:36). He wore a camel-hair cloak with a belt made of leather and dined on locusts and wild honey (Matt. 3:4; Mark 1:6). He baptized those who repented of their sins and announced the coming of one after him who would be greater than he and would baptize with the Spirit. John is cast into a role like Elijah's (Matt. 17:10–13; Mark 9:11–13; Matt. 11:7–15; cf. Mal. 4:5–6); he is the austere one who prepares for and announces the advent of the Messiah (John 1:6–8, 19–36). (Harper's Bible Dictionary)

# ***Who was John the Baptist (Baptizer)?***

- Jesus of Nazareth came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized of John to “fulfil all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15). John’s special office ceased with the baptism of Jesus, who must now “increase” as the King come to His kingdom. John continued, however, for a while to bear testimony to the Messiahship of Jesus. John pointed Jesus out to his disciples, saying, “Behold the Lamb of God.” His public ministry was suddenly (after about six months probably) brought to a close by his being cast into prison by Herod, whom he had reproved for the sin of having taken to himself the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19). He was shut up in the castle of Machaerus, a fortress on the southern extremity of Peraea, 9 miles east of the Dead Sea, and here he was beheaded. His disciples, having consigned the headless body to the grave, went and told Jesus all that had occurred (Matt. 14:3–12).

(Easton’s Bible Dictionary)

He [John the Baptist] came as a witness, to testify about the Light [φῶς phos], so that all might believe through him. John 1:7

What is a witness? What does it mean to testify?

Witness μαρτυρία marturia Noun

Testify μαρτυρέω martureo Verb

# ***Definitions of “Testify”***

μαρτυρέω martureo (verb)

To bear witness to

To make known

To speak seriously about something

# ***Example of Witness Testimony***

## Psalm 40

A good witness does not attract attention to himself but to the person or facts which he represents.

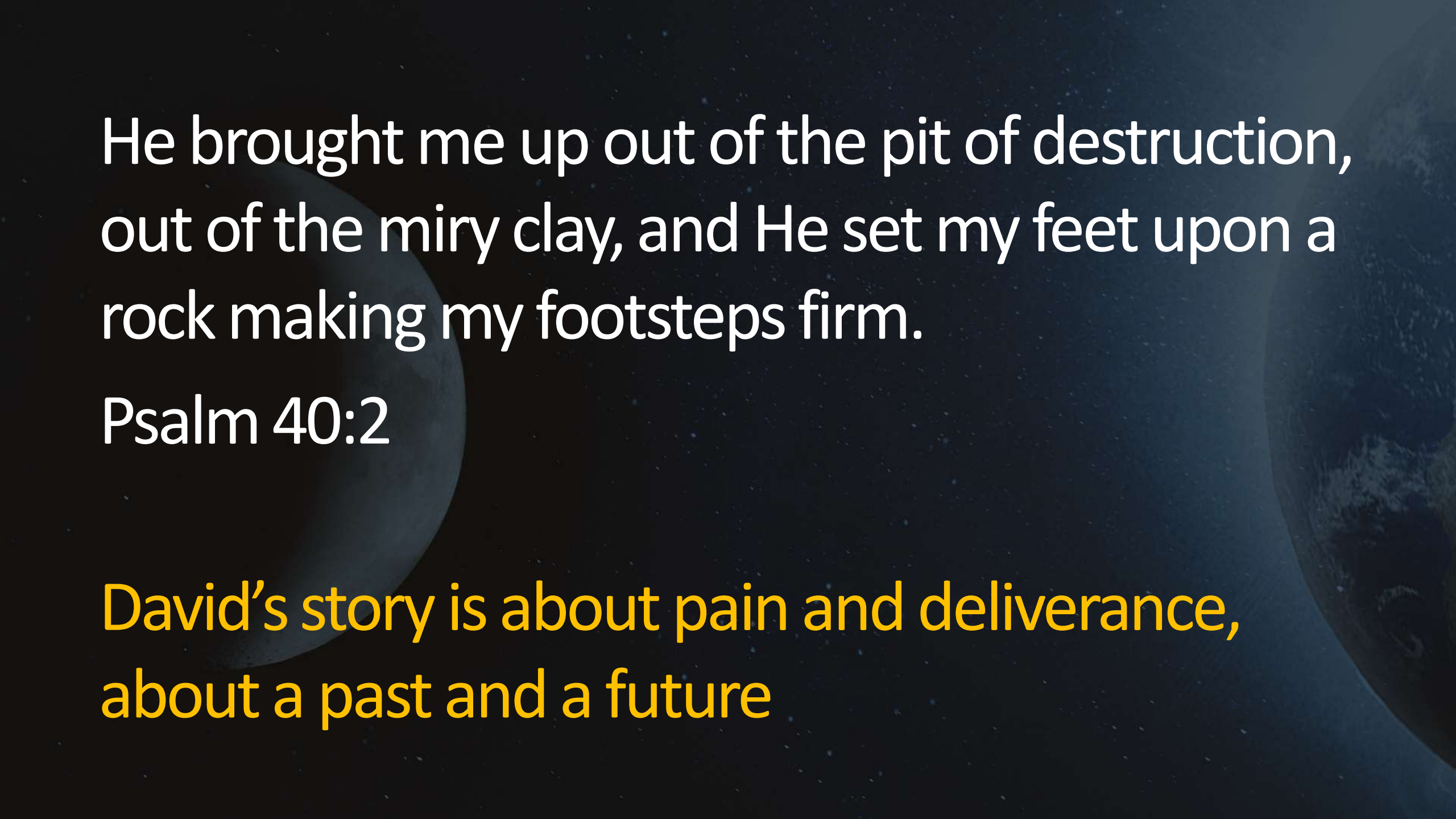
King David writes...

I waited patiently for the Lord (יְהוָה Yahweh);  
and He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1

Could there be a better testimony than...  
“the Almighty God cares about ME”?

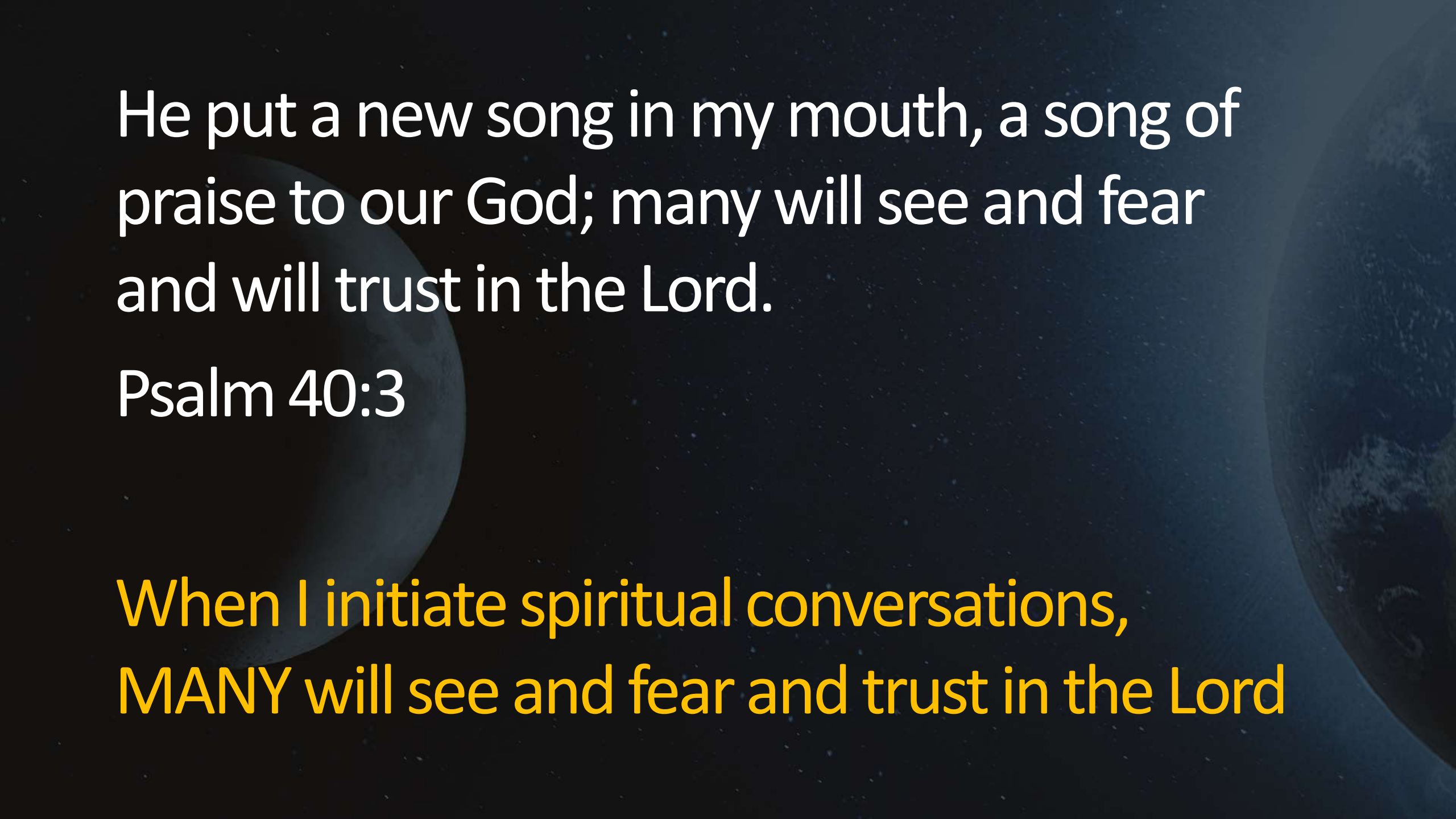




He brought me up out of the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a  
rock making my footsteps firm.

Psalm 40:2

David's story is about pain and deliverance,  
about a past and a future

A dark blue space background featuring a large, partially visible Earth on the right side and a smaller, grey Moon on the left side. The text is overlaid on this background.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of  
praise to our God; many will see and fear  
and will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:3

When I initiate spiritual conversations,  
MANY will see and fear and trust in the Lord

How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

Psalm 40:4

My story is now about trusting in the Lord, NOT my own talents or ideas or strengths

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count. Psalm 40:5

Concerning God's grace in my life...  
I don't have just ONE story to tell

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; my ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

Psalm 40:6-8

My story as a disciple of Jesus is a story of obedience...  
doing God's will out of love NOT guilt

**I have proclaimed** glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; behold, **I will not restrain my lips**, O Lord, You know. **I have not hidden** Your righteousness within my heart; **I have spoken** of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; **I have not concealed** Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.

Psalm 40:9-10

**Are WE ready to initiate conversations about the Light of God?**

He [John the Baptist] came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. John 1:7

Why are Christ-followers called to be witnesses who testify?  
“So that all might believe”

We are not called to defeat the enemies of Jesus, we are called to make disciples of Jesus.

He [John the Baptist] was not the Light,  
but he came to testify about the Light.

John 1:8

As followers of Jesus, we must remember  
what we are and what we are not



# Once we surrender to Jesus as Savior...

1. We are sent from God to testify to this culture
2. We know that we are not the Light
3. We know that there is a true Light
4. We see the world around us searching for Light
5. God calls us to initiate spiritual conversations

There was the true Light which,  
coming into the world, enlightens  
every man. John 1:9

John was a man, Jesus is God; John was a  
witness, Jesus is the Word; John was a servant,  
Jesus is the Son

He [Jesus] was in the world  
[κόσμος kosmos], and the world was  
made through Him, and the world did  
not know Him. John 1:10

How sad is it that our world does not  
even recognize its own Creator?

# Who is Jesus, the Light?

- **For by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16
- God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world**. Hebrews 1:1-2

A dark blue space background featuring the Earth on the right and the Moon on the left. The Earth shows blue oceans and white clouds, while the Moon is a dark grey sphere with visible craters. The text is centered in white.

# Initiate

Where? How? Why? What?

# **Where Should Followers of Jesus Initiate Spiritual Conversations?**

- Social groups
- Work
- School
- Neighborhood
- Family gatherings
- Hobbies/Activities

# **How Can Followers of Jesus Initiate Spiritual Conversations?**

- Pray for hearts to be open
- Invite them to church
  - Social media
  - Text, Email
  - Phone calls
- Meet their real needs
- Encourage and support those who are hurting

# **Why Should Followers of Jesus Initiate Spiritual Conversations?**

- Your life has been changed
- You have found the Light of God
- People around you are hurting
- People around you are looking for the Light
- People around you are waiting to be invited



**What would happen if we  
initiated spiritual conversations?**

7 out of 10 unchurched people  
have never been invited to church  
in their whole lives.

- Back to Church

**What would happen if we  
initiated spiritual conversations?**



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# ***As followers of Jesus...***

- Let's surrender to the Savior
- Let's be a witness
- Let's testify of the Light
- Let's pray
- Let's love
- Let's invite
- Let's see lives changed
- Let's initiate