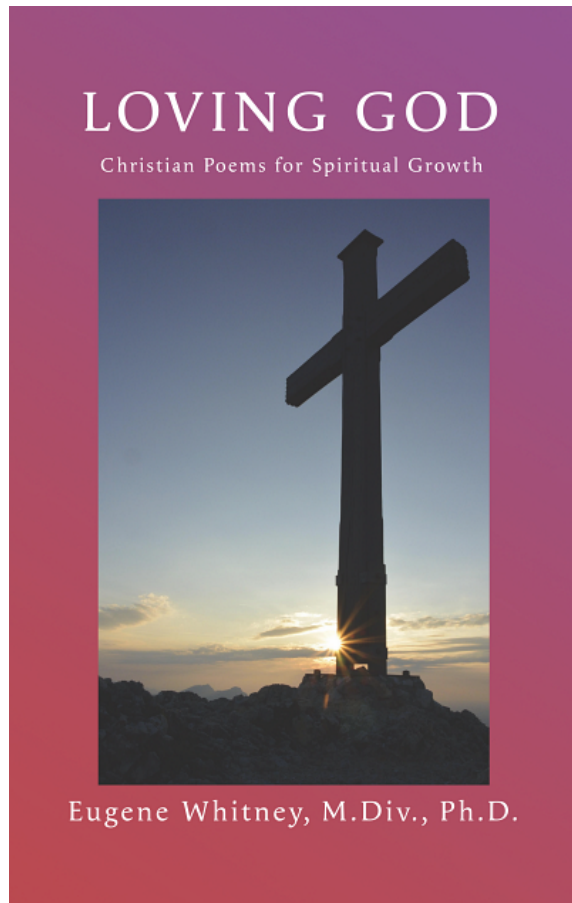




Loving God is a book of Christian poems to support the reader in their spiritual growth. Three sections explore loving God, loving our neighbor, and loving ourselves.

Loving God
By Eugene Whitney MDiv PhD

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LOVING GOD

Christian Poems for Spiritual Growth



Eugene Whitney, M.Div., Ph.D.

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LIVING BY FAITH

Our Christian faith is confidence
God loves and does forgive.
This motivates believers to
love others as they live.

Our faith can overcome concerns
and give us inner peace,
As we trust in our God and pray,
we feel our tensions cease.

Believer's faith can help them heal
in God's amazing ways.
Their prayers are answered in God's time,
his power he displays.

Our faith is most important when
God seems so far away.
In darkness, pain, and suffering,
faith gives us hope today.

Our faith does motivate each one
to trust God and obey.
To live with love and gratitude
are how we live his way.

The righteous know God's faithfulness,
his promises embraced.
Since we can't know what God will do,
the just shall live by faith.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a loving gift
that we can offer as we live,
but without pain and suffering,
there's really nothing to forgive.

Forgiveness is, in fact, a pain
that shows how deep our love can be.
So, suffering for someone else
is love's great opportunity.

When we embrace the pain we feel
and offer our forgiving heart,
we show the love that Christ bestows
can give us all a fresh, new start.

LOVE SHINES

Our deepest love fears not the dark
because it shines so bright.
And even when we suffer pain
our love can share God's light.

Our caring for another's needs
when at our own expense,
sheds light into their troubled life.
God's love, we trust they'll sense.

Forgiveness heals relationships
no matter what went wrong.
Restoring what was meant to be
lets both know they belong.

Frustration with another soul
when they're insensitive,
calls for a patient, kind response
that shows what love can give.

Some people have a way to shame
that makes us feel so small,
but kind responses are the way
that both can still stand tall.

We sometimes have to face the dark
when we are called to love,
but darkness lets our love shine bright,
just like the stars above.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

We're all united in this way,
God's creatures from above.
We're here to serve each other's needs,
And represent God's love.

What God has given each of us,
we must not hold too tight.
We all should do what 'er we can
to make one's burdens light.

When we don't take the time to help
a lonely heart feel seen,
we miss an opportunity
to kindly intervene.

If we don't offer help to those
whose burdens are too much,
we miss serving a child of God
whose life we fail to touch.

When we speak poorly of someone
with no thought how they feel,
we shame this precious child of God,
their blessing we do steal.

Jesus once said to all of us
these words to help us see,
"How you have treated all of these,
is how you're treating me."

TRUE BELIEF

Christ Jesus came to show the way
to gain eternal life,
with God the father up above,
where there will be no strife.

Believing this must be our choice
that goes beyond mere thought.
It's something that we demonstrate
through acts of love we're taught.

For those who choose to follow him
and live the Jesus way,
we let our lives display his love,
as we live day to day.

Deny ourself, take up our cross,
and follow Christ in deed,
and show our faith by how we act
and helping those in need.

Believing in God's love for us
will give our souls relief.
But how we live and act each day
reveals our true belief.

WHY WE PRAY

Not everyone can understand
the reason for a prayer.
Without belief it's simply bland,
just words without real care.

A covenant that God has made
with those who do believe
are promises that do not fade,
for blessings we receive.

That we surrender to God's will,
our attitude must be.
Requests that we seek him to fill
we ask on bended knee.

God helps us know ourselves in prayer
as we commune with him.
He guides our thoughts with loving care
and makes our worries dim.

Our prayer leads us to holiness
and moral purity.
Through prayer we straighten out the mess
our lives have come to be.

We pray to intercede for all
the needs that we do know,
so that we faithfully stand tall
through times when we feel low.

continued

FREEDOM

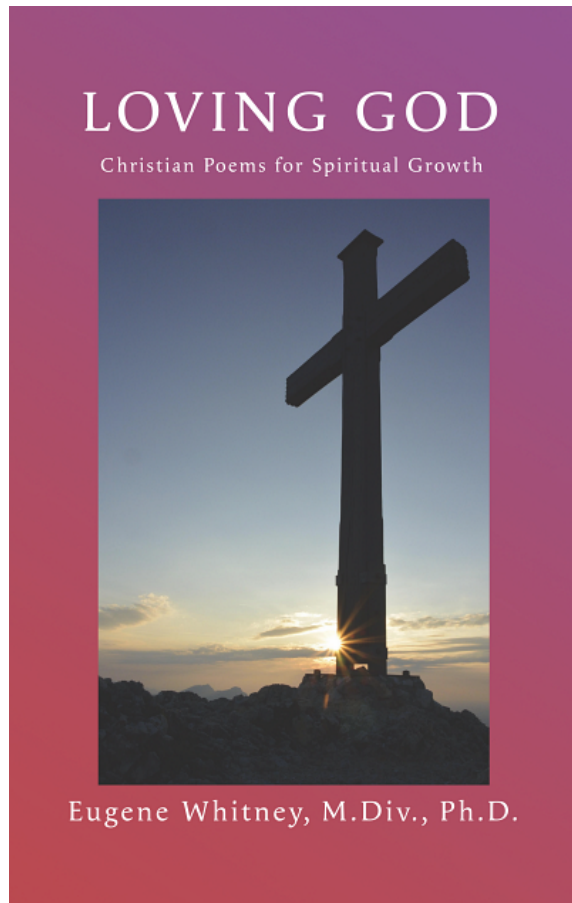
God gives us his commandments,
though many fail to see
how these commands can really help
to make us all be free.

When we focus on godly things
our worldly interests wane.
Pleasure, power, status and wealth
no longer seen as gain.

Instead of seeking our pleasure
we're more willing to mourn.
Instead of boosting our status
humility is born.

Instead of riches and great wealth
we give to those in need.
Our quest for power will yield to
vulnerability.

Yes, God can free each one of us
from superficial ways,
for freedom to do loving things,
a real freedom that stays.



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