

*I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.*

*Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.*

Psalm 34:4–5 (NRSV)

A RADIANT HOPE

*Hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured out into our hearts.*

Romans 5:5 (NIV)



The whole world seeks to make you ashamed—of who you are, of what you have done, of all you have not done.

Shame is the leverage of hell. It is the cruelest kind of condemnation because it begins inside your own heart. All your life, shame has stalked you.

Shame is fear wearing a righteous mask. It would have no power over you if you were not afraid. You are afraid to be seen as naked, so you cover yourself. You are afraid to be seen as weak, so you work till you bleed to show how strong you are. You are afraid—not to be poor, but to be seen as poor; not to be alone, but to be seen as lonely; not to die, but for others to see you dying.

You know me so well.

Hope crushes shame, for hope crushes fear. Love is a radiant hope for those who seek me. All along the way that leads east from Eden, there are stories of the One who chose weakness, who embraced poverty, who walked through the streets stripped naked by the cruelty of the world, all uncovered, all laid bare, and yet all radiant.

And all hopeful.

And all unashamed.

You can join him. You can know what it is for shame to be crushed by radiance.



*Lord, shame does not come from you. Let your perfect love in Jesus
cast out all my fear. Help me reject shame to see myself as you see me. Amen.*