

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## ONE PETAL ROSE

"This is a rose". You have never seen a rose or been told about roses by someone who knows about roses, so how could you know that it is only part of a rose with little resemblance to the actual flower and its beauty? You could not know that roses grow on bushes; there are thorns, various aromas and thousands of varieties of roses. However, having had a conversation with someone who knows about roses through personal experience with roses or read an authoritative book on the subject, you very likely would develop a fuller understanding of and recognise a rose when seeing one for the first time and, with time and growing awareness, come to enjoy and appreciate the many features that make roses such loved and appreciated flowers.

Are you someone who has seen banners with words like, "Jesus is Lord", "Jesus is the way", "Jesus changes everything", "Jesus saves", or "Jesus is risen", and been left with more questions than answers? Jesus is much more and offers much more for your life than these simple catchphrases.

If one had to choose, the essential aspect of understanding the completeness of Jesus is that he is the Son of the living God of love, who, through his sacrifice of love on the cross, brings a restored love relationship for us with his Father, the living and loving God of the Bible. **(Luke 23:34)**

With that forgiveness, Jesus offers the gift of peace between us and his Father and a way of forgiving peace between family members, community members, and nations. **(John 14:27)**

When peace is restored, joy can flourish, and the joy of restored relationships, the joy when family animosities are buried, friendships rebuilt, and caring for the underprivileged becomes essential, and they too can live with joy. **(John 15:11)**

When we allow Jesus and his love to bring these gifts into our lives, we experience another of his gifts. Like a coming together of his many gifts, the gift of a full life with a new purpose. The purpose of loving Him and the people he brings into our daily lives. **(John 10:10)**

There is much more to a rose than one petal. There is much more to Jesus than a few nice-sounding words.

To appreciate and understand a rose, you need to experience all that it is and what it offers. To appreciate and develop a love for Jesus, we must accept all he offers into our lives cheerfully, daily.

Kevin.