

# Confidence in God's Embrace

Have you ever imagined God greeting you with a warm embrace? That's how the father in Jesus' famous parable greeted his prodigal son. For many of us, however, it can be a challenge to believe in a God who is eager and ready to meet us wherever we find ourselves.

Maybe that's because we tend to focus on our shortcomings and sins and wonder how the all-perfect God can love us just as we are. We may have experienced conditional love in our past and can't imagine that God will love us when we fail. Yet what we find hard to believe is actually true: God is head-over-heels in love with us! In fact, we delight him and give him pleasure, just because we are his daughters. If we are going to live as confident daughters of our heavenly Father, we first need to be confident in God's unconditional love and limitless mercy.

Sherry had been raised Catholic, but during her turbulent young adult years she left the church. She was glad to be back but was still ashamed of some of the things she had done during the years she had been away. She knew on an intellectual level that God had forgiven her youthful transgressions and that he loved her. Still,

