

# A Highland Welcome!



Welcome to the Highlands of Scotland where there is warm hospitality, magnificent scenery and wildlife everywhere – and that includes the people!

But even though there may be stories throughout history of wild Highlanders fighting their way through battles and skirmishes there is one thing that you can be sure of: a genuine Highland welcome is a warm welcome, even though the weather can be cold.

What do I mean? Well, the Highlands of Scotland are in the far north of the United Kingdom. They are well provided with high hills and large mountains. The temperatures on these mountains

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can drop drastically overnight, particularly in the winter. But the warm welcome is often referred to as a hundred thousand welcomes or ‘Ceud Mile Failte’ – the traditional Gaelic greeting.

Now don’t get concerned. Highlanders don’t have to stand there saying, ‘Welcome,’ a hundred thousand times. It’s just a way of saying ‘We are very glad that you have come to visit our land.’ It’s a descriptive turn of phrase that shows you how overjoyed people are in the Highlands to have visitors from all corners of the globe.

Descriptive turns of phrase like this are something that God often uses in his word, the Bible. One that comes to mind is when Jesus was with the disciples one day. Peter came up to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’

Now Jesus wasn’t saying to Peter count out every time your brother is mean to you and then when you hit 490 that’s it – he’s finished. No. Instead Jesus was saying to always be ready to forgive

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– don't stop. Seventy times seven was a phrase that Jesus used to show Peter that forgiveness is not something you give grudgingly – it's something you give willingly. Just as God willingly forgives the sins of all those who trust in him. When we forgive someone our forgiveness is small compared to the forgiveness of God.

When a Highlander welcomes you that is a small welcome compared to God's welcome to sinners who are seeking his forgiveness. In Luke 15:10 it says, 'I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

If you love and trust in the Lord Jesus, one day Jesus himself will welcome you into heaven, 'Come ye blessed of my father,' he will say to you, 'My good and faithful servant.'