

Peace in the storms

Mt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The message of the Bible from cover to cover is that God will never totally desert His people. Often in trying times even the most devout believer will have doubts. There are times when it seems like our prayers are bouncing off the ceiling and God has left us alone.

Along with God always being present with us the Bible teaches us to live like we believe this fact. Even Christ was taunted by the worldly people at the cross with words such as, "Where is your God now?" At one point Christ verbalizes His doubts and asks, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" While this is part of the price (separation from God) that Christ paid for us, it has application here too. It helps us understand that such doubts are part of being human.

We know in whom we have believed and have had confidence in this truth in other times. In places of trial and hurt we must live by the confidence we have in God. This is not denial of the facts but rather the refusing to be overcome by life. A believer may confidently face life and live it to its fullest. If we will take the time to read and understand Romans 5:1-5 we will see what place experience has in our faith and how tribulations strengthen us.

God places no temptation before us He does not also make a way out of. When we face life with this confidence of our faith we come through the storms of life a stronger person with depth of character the rest of the world can only dream about. Adversity builds character and strengthens people. God has never and will never place before us an obstacle to defeat us but rather He enables us to be over comers. Life is set before us as a challenge not an immovable obstacle to our happiness.

This is powerful enabling facts about life. However, note it is an enabling not the doing of things for us. Faith is not an abstract idea but the only way to the abundant life Christ came into the world to impart to God's people. Faith requires more than mere belief, it requires action. The Bible says we live by faith not what we see around us. God is in the details of life and our lack of understanding in no way takes away from His eternal truth.

When the storms of life assail you take refuge in this sure hope we have in Christ. He will see us through no matter what we face. We are told to rejoice always and faith enables us to be happy and face life with confidence.

An old worldly proverb says when things get tough, the tough get going. The Bible says we live consistently the faith God has given to us that we may confront and overcome life in joy. Farfetched? A fairy tale? Look at the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and know the Lord is present always and we can overcome this too. God sets before us the choice, happiness and life in confidence or self pity and failure. By faith we walk and have victory in Jesus Christ!

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