

God Is Near: Be Encouraged Today

His presence is unending and comforting

Matthew 28:19-20- “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

II Corinthians 1:3-5- “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.”

II Timothy 4:16-17- “At my first defense, *no one came to my support*, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. *But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength*, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed...”

Hebrews 13:5- “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, *‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’*”

His peace is all-encompassing

John 14:27- “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 16:33- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And *the peace of God, which transcends all understanding*, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

His perspective offers hope

Romans 8:18- “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

II Corinthians 4:16-18- “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

His promise offers reassurance

John 14:1-3- “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Revelation 21:1,3-5- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

His people provide encouragement and accountability

Hebrews 3:12-13- “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Hebrews 10:24-25- “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”