

## **Facing Life's Challenges - Part 2**

### **The Promises of God: Weapons of Victory Against Life's Challenges**

The challenges of life are real. Every one of us has faced, is facing or will face difficulties in health, finances, occupation, family or a hundred and one other areas of this world's imperfect existence. In spite of these challenges, there is One to whom we can go for the strength to endure. As the Psalmist wrote, "The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble." (Psalm 37:39).

Our firm foundation in times of distress is the Bible's record of the hundreds of promises that God has made to those who faithfully walk with Him. These promises hold us up amidst the punishing storms of life because they are made by our God who "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). Even those not specifically directed toward us, such as the land promised to Abraham (Genesis 13:15; Joshua 21:43-45), remind us that God has always been true to His Word.

While it's not possible to list all of God's precious promises in this small space, perhaps just a few examples will help us realize that there is comfort in God's Word in times of distress (I Thessalonians 4:18). If you're feeling discouraged, even to the point of being ready to quit as you bear the weight of life's burdens, consider the following verses. I encourage you to read the entire context of each passage in order to get its full impact.

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39).

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4).

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:55-56).

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalm 27:14).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33).

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:6-7).

"Standing on the Promises" is not just the title of a familiar song. It should also be a way of life for Christians. As we battle the stresses of life (Ephesians 6:11-12), may we commit to heart and mind those "exceeding great and precious promises" (II Peter 1:4) that are found throughout the Word of God.

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