

God For a Lifetime – June 8, 2022

We look for lifetime people. Not everyone is. Leave in difficulties.

God is different. **God promises to be God** – not just w/us - **for our lifetimes.**

He will go the distance. Not quit, walk out. Active Helper.

Isaiah 46:4– “I will be your God throughout your lifetime— until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.”

Berean Study Bible - “Even to your old age, **I will be the same**, and I will bear you up when you turn gray.”

Heb 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

- No worries that He'll change. . . Stop loving you.
- God is there - when **hair** turns gray... don't have **strength** we used to have ... **mind** becomes confused & forgetful - **we have the promise of God to care for us in this season of life.**

Here are 4 Specific Promises to Know:

1 – I Made You. – God was with us in the beginning. In the womb.

Jer. 1:5 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

He designed a future for us, just like Jeremiah. He knows us intimately.

Matt. 10:30 – Jesus: “even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

He knows all the days of our lives.

Psalms 139:16 – “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

God is with us from cradle to grave. Doesn't leave when hard or ugly.

2 – I will Care for you. – He’s not just an observer. Cares for us.

God looks out for us, prepares the way for us.

Ever care for someone with a walker? You move things. God does, too.

Isa. 45:2 – “I will go before you and make the crooked places straight”

Means: God makes it better; and yes, easier.

- When leaving Egypt, God **went ahead** (pillar cloud/fire) to guide them.
- God led them **around** the desert, a longer route – because the shorter route was Philistine county; face war and quit. (Ex. 14)
- **His care is there, but not always what we expect:**
 - o We sometimes face a Red Sea - know God is w/us and at work.
- He **provides** for our needs.
 - o **Psalm 37:25** – “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”
 - o God provided manna – created it! – to meet needs.
 - Are we complaining or in awe of the miracle?
- His care doesn’t mean no pain. Awake from **surgery**... feel awful. But – the long term result is good. God has **long term** plans for us.
- **God has a higher purpose for us than immediate pleasure.**
 - o “our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” – **2 Cor. 4:17**

3 - I will carry you along.

God is like a parent who carries a child too tired to walk any more.

Isa. 40:11 – “[God] tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart”

When we don’t have the strength, God does.

Deut. 1:30-31 – “The Lord your God, who goes before you, will fight for you, just as you saw Him do for you in Egypt & in the wilderness, where the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way by which you traveled until you reached this place.”

*One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene, I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were 2 sets of footprints, other times there was 1 set of
footprints.*

*This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life,
When I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set
of footprints in the sand.*

*I said to the Lord, "You promised me, Lord, that if I followed you, you would
walk with me always.*

*But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have
only been one set of footprints in the sand.*

Why, when I needed You the most, have You not been there for me?"

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you.
The times when you have seen only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*

God promises to carry us along. To get us to our destiny. Fulfill His plan..
That doesn't mean we won't have problems.

- Thorn in Paul's side – **2 Cor. 12:8-10** – "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for My power is perfected in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

- God gives us strength for challenges; carries us when too weak.

4 – I will save you. This has double meaning.

First – God is there for every battle of life. Close the lion’s mouth.

He is there in the fire with us. He rescues us.

- Don’t be angry about the Red Sea... wait for the miracle.
- Don’t curse God because you’re in the fire... be amazed you’re safe!
- Don’t walk away from your faith b/c you face trouble – you are created to be an Overcomer. You must overcome ...
 - Jesus was hated; crucified. But Love conquered hate.

Second – God saves us from our sin; gives us grace. Heaven.

We don’t have to save ourselves. In fact, we can’t.

- Heaven is a gift. It’s based on His love, not **our actions**
- We are saved from death, given eternal life.

[Song of the week](#) – “He Will Carry Me” by Mark Shultz