

**I am
with
you.**

**I am
listening
to you.**

**I care
about
you.**

**I am
praying
for you.**

WHEN GOD ENCOURAGES

There are times when you will be pushed out or pushed aside. You can be on the right road and still find yourself in a situation that is so severe that you cannot survive it on your own. Mark it down: You are not exempt from times of suffering, rejection, or disappointment. And you will need others who will warm you up when life leaves you in the cold. You will need the friendship, support, encouragement, intercession, and generosity of others to warm you up when life leaves you in the cold.

A very successful business owner nearing the end of his life was asked, “What would you do differently now?” His answer, “I would have praised people more.”

- **Hebrews 3:13 NIV** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.
 - Encourage = come to the side of, to comfort, to lift up

John 14:26 NIV But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- Advocate or Counselor = Is a variation of the word encourage
- He encourages us by using God's encouraging Word
- This is one of the reasons we study the Bible, not to just tell us how to live, but to encourage us with what God provides

When you study you give the Holy Spirit ammunition to use when we need warmed up when life leave us cold

- **Luke 22:43 NLT** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.
- The word strengthened is the same word as encouraged
- We are going to look at a few of God's encouragement scripture this evening and try to warm you up when life leaves you cold.

Isaiah 41:10 NLT Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

- Fear is a normal human emotional response when life gets cold
- It is not a sin to be fearful unless you let it rule your life
- The sharpest response to fear was given to Joshua as he was about to take over for Moses

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- **Joshua 1:9 NIV** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. I have told you what I will do and what you will accomplish so...Be strong in me and my word

Isaiah 41:10 NLT Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

- The greatest things to grasp when life gets cold
 - God is still with you, even when he is silent (Remember the Garden of Gethsemane)
 - When discouragement strikes remember – God is still your God

Isaiah 41:10 NLT Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

- The greatest things to grasp when life gets cold
 - When you feel weak in body and spirit – God will not only strengthen you but hold you up with His omnipotent

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- The greatest things to grasp when life gets cold
 - **Psalms 56:3-4 NLT** 3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. 4 I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?."

Isaiah 41:10 NLT Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

- The greatest things to grasp when life gets cold
 - For those who have made up their mind ahead of time
 - **Isaiah 12:2 NLT** See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.”

Exodus 15:2 NLT The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him—my father's God, and I will exalt him!

- As the nation of Israel watched as God destroyed the Egyptians army in a sea, they had just walked through on dry ground they pinned this song
- In their hopelessness God was their strength and the voice of praise was in their hearts and on their lips
- Think of armies of old that would sing as they marched to war

Exodus 15:2 NLT The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him—my father's God, and I will exalt him!

- There was a declaration of faith – This is my God – more than just words
- They went all the way back to Abraham remembering his faith
- Their desire was to exalt or lift up mightily the name of Jehovah

Exodus 15:2 NLT The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him—my father's God, and I will exalt him!

- Remember what God has done in your life, in the lives of those who have gone before
- Remember, He is the same God who rescued the Israelites and He will ultimately rescue you

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- The Bible is very practical – in this world you will have trouble
- **Psalms 34:19 ESV** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- Jesus tell us this ahead of time so as not to be tripped up when it happens

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- Our peace is not in our circumstances, doctors, employer, government
 - These are all fickle without complete knowledge

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- True peace is only found in the person of Jesus Christ
- In me you can be encouraged – Why?
- I have overcome everything and anything this world can throw at you, when life gets cold

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- **Matthew 11:28-30 NLT** 28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- The yoke is the Word of God and Jesus is pulling with you
- But we must pay attention to what Jesus says. In just a little while the disciples will be tested beyond their abilities when they see Jesus on the cross then in the tomb

John 16:33 NIV “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.”

- Yet He had told them it was going to happen and in three days he would arise, but it was too great and different for them to grasp
- They didn't get in the yoke with Jesus, thus they were pulling in a different direction

2nd Timothy 1:7 NLT For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- **KJV** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
 - God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power; of love; of a sound mind and godly judgment.
- The new nature given us at salvation has no fear in it

2nd Timothy 1:7 NLT For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- It has the eternal power and love of God that will flow out into your circumstances
- When we grasp the love God has for us we will be less likely to crave an understanding when one is not available
- There will be times you just wish you had more answers when decisions need to be made

2nd Timothy 1:7 NLT For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- Though the Holy Spirit he has given us a mind that is sound and strong, and it will lead us to godly judgement when godly judgement as needed
- Yes, even when we do not seem to have all the necessary answers

2nd Timothy 1:7 NLT For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- When you have fed your mind on the truths of God's word you can rest in the decisions made through trust in the Holy Spirit

Philippians 4:13 NIV I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- I can endure, stand strong, be free, not fear, love
- Only through Jesus who give me strength to do so
- Not everything I necessary want to do
- But every circumstance that God allows to come our way, when life get cold
- We can do this together

Philippians 4:13 NIV I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- **Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 NLT** 10 I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. 11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

Philippians 4:13 NIV I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- **CJB (Common Jewish Bible)** He has made everything suited to its time; also, he has given human beings an awareness of eternity; but in such a way that they can't fully comprehend, from beginning to end, the things God does.

Philippians 4:13 NIV I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- **GNT (Good News Translation)** He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does.

8 Ways to Lose Your Peace by Elisabeth Elliot

- Resent God's ways
- Worry as much as possible
- Pray only about things you can't manage by yourself
- Refuse to accept what God gives
- Look for peace elsewhere than in Him
- Try to rule your own life
- Doubt God's word
- Carry all your cares

1st Peter 5:7 NLT Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

- **NEB (New English Bible)** “Cast all your cares on him for you are his charge”

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