

He Is There

Psalms 139: Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in the grave, behold, You are there.

God is everywhere. Isn't that a comforting truth? We never have to feel alone or shaken by our surrounding circumstances. We are never alone no matter how hard the road may seem.

Where do you turn when life is extreme at times? You turn to the ever-present God. He will guide you and direct you and He will make you feel safe and secure in Him. Trust Him right now for your trials and for your life. He is not so far away that He can't hear you. Speak to Him about your daily troubles and expect an answer when you call upon His name. Today, you can experience the Almighty's power and presence in your life. Look up and behold His name and when you feel down, He is right there to pick you up. Where can you go from His presence? Nowhere!

The Surrendered Life

Jesus was persecuted and it cost Him everything. The crowd demanded His life, and He gave it. Why did He do that? It was for you and for me. God more than likely is not asking you to die for Him, but He is asking you to live for Him.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Are you willing to do that? Are you willing to do whatever He requires of you? Willing to surrender your life to Him completely, with certainty and confidence no matter what is going on right now? With Christ in your life, your future embraces eternity.

You can thank the Father right now that he has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. When we look at the past, knowing what Christians have faced, we look to the future knowing that there are going to be some hard times. We can't face those times successfully without settling in our hearts that we want God to be the Lord of our lives. He can be that right now in your heart. He can flood your life with peace now and keep you through any challenges that the future may bring. We can thank God that beyond the difficulties we can look for a future that is positive until Jesus comes back to take us home. If He has you now, He will have you then. Ask Him right now to take you and make you His forever through the persecutions, until He returns.

I Never Knew You

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Many will have to hear, in the end that sad and eternal words from Jesus, “I never knew you.” Works today and being a good person is displayed in the eyes of the world as a sure means of entering into heaven. But Jesus said not everyone who calls Him Lord or do the works they do in His name, will enter those beautiful gates.

As true believers of Christ, how can that not be you today? The bible has warned as many who will read, listen, and follow the true ways of Christ, how to get to Him. Today, God’s people should choose a side and stay on it no matter what. It is hard to see others going down the wrong path. Staying in a lukewarm, on the fence position won’t get you into heaven. There are many things in this world that challenge us to stay in neutral. But with Christ you are either for Him or against Him. Make sure that what you are following or who you are following are on the right side, which is righteousness, which is Christ. If not, well, you don’t want to hear those dreadful and eternal words from Christ, for you and them, “Depart from me, I never knew you.”

Spiritually Blind

How did God deal with difficult people? **Matthew 23:26-27 - “Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”**

He looked within the heart of their actions and revealed the truth. They were spiritually blind. Could it be that many today are the same who walk this Christian journey? A tomb is how Jesus described their hearts. Whitewashed, because He knew that underneath all the outward beauty was a life that was living a lie.

The truth is very important when we attempt to help others, even though what we see may hurt. We are to help and correct in love, with the patience of Jesus. It can help your walk knowing that many are blind when it comes to the things of God. When you are faced with spiritual blindness when dealing with others, go to God in prayer on their behalf and seek and partner with Him on the direction you should take for them. How did Jesus deal with the difficult? He died for them.

Is God with You?

There are times when you think that things are not going well, but in reality, things are rolling along just as God wants. An example of this was when the children of Israel were captured in Egypt and God delivered them miraculously. But how did it feel on their way out of Egypt? In fact, it is a wonderful story of their escape.

Exodus 14:22 says, “So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”

Can you imagine having walls of water on your right hand and on your left? Faith may have said we can cross the Red Sea, but there is a good chance fear may have said, we are just moments away from our death. And as foreign as this experience may have felt, God was with them. It

may not always feel comfortable, but **when your faith is in God, then God is with you**. Trust Him today and know that He is not after your comfort, but after your diligence to hang on in there with Him by your side. Can you give Him what He wants today? He wants your trust in Him and that is good enough for Him.

The Devil Hasn't Changed

In Matthew 4 Jesus is tempted by the devil after fasting for forty days. Satan was determined to lure Jesus into sin and therefore triumph over Jesus. And then He would claim the world as His own. Notice the third temptation that He tried on Jesus, that He would show Jesus the kingdom of the world. The devil said this in **Matthew 4:9 – “All these things will I give you if you will fall down and worship me.”**

Notice that Satan was seeking worship. And was attempting to sell to Jesus His what He already owned, hoping He would doubt that He was the Son of God. He was seeking the worship of Jesus and His intentions haven't changed today. In the book of Revelation, the big test at the end of time will be centered around worship. The bible goes so far as to say that all the world will worship Him, with the exception of relatively a small group.

Settle in your heart today that you will worship God only and put Him first in all that you do. The devil hasn't changed and what He tried with Jesus He is trying with you. He wants you to doubt in whom you belong. You belong to Jesus. No, the devil hasn't changed, but have you? If you include Jesus in all the small stuff, you will seek Him when Satan attacks you with overwhelming challenges. Follow Jesus today and you won't be misled now or in the end.

Harmless as Doves

When Jesus commissioned His followers to go out as evangelists, He gave them some very good advice. He said in **Matthew 10:16 – Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.**

It is so easy to cause others to be offended when we share what we believe about our Lord. Now, there are some who just take offence anyway, but there are some who represent Jesus in an offensive way. They are uncaring, abrupt, cold and unsympathetic when sharing about the Lord. But you will never find Jesus being this way. He may have spoken directly to some of the spiritual leaders that day, and yet He still died for them too. But He spoke in love, not with malice. And never did He speak without sympathy.

As true believers of God, we want to come alongside people and show we care about them and what they may be going through. No one was ever pressured and treated coldly in an invite to know Jesus. Jesus offered to the people His Father's love, and He did it tactfully. When we take on the same example as Jesus did, our witness will be more effective. Yes, it

is wonderful to witness about Jesus, but it is even greater when our witness is done in true love.

Hold Fast

As Israel travel from Egypt to the Promised Land spending 40 years in the wilderness, the devil did everything He could do to prevent Israel from achieving their God-given destiny. They complained about giants in the land. They also complained that there wasn't any water. In a place called Baal Peor, Satan succeeded in dragging many in Israel into immorality. And as a consequence, many of those people were destroyed.

God said in **Deuteronomy 4:4 - "But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you."** We learn the wages of sin is death. But temptation will overcome you if you are not vigilant and if you don't remain connected with God. Those who cleaved to God were ok and they lived and entered the Promised Land.

Today, if you cling to God and hold on to Him real tight, for every detail of your life, you will be alright. But if we don't, let Israel's history shows us what the results will be for us. We will be destroyed by everything Satan throws our way. Won't you hold fast to Him right now for every facet of your life? If you do, you will be ok.

Fake News

You know it was the devil that invented fake news. Way back in the garden, He brought a false report to Eve and He has been lying ever since. Jesus called the devil a liar and the Father of it.

God has made it very well known in His word how much He loves us and how much He is with us to help us with all of our problems. Do you believe that what God says that no one can change it?

Isaiah 43:13 - Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

Your God is not able, fake news! Your God does not care about you, fake news! God won't forgive me, fake news! It will always be this way for you, more fake news! All of this is false and fake. And all of it comes from the devil. You don't have to listen to Him when He whispers doubt in your ears. You have a choice. You can listen to God and His word or Satan and His lies. Make the right choice today and have faith in God, no matter what anyone says.

Every Word

During the 1500's, Christianity had become bogged down in tradition of teachings that had no basis in the bible. The bible is God's authority and should be the all-sufficient means of faith in a person's life.

Now, today there are a lot of people who believe the bible to be solely God's true word. But for many years it was not that way. This principle of truth is still disputed today as well, by many. Remember the words of Jesus when He was tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:4 - But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

When you read the bible and connect with God, you recognize quickly the uselessness of adopting any other guide for your life. Stay clear of the world and all those who lure you away from God's word, no matter who they are. Let God's word speak to you and let it be enough for you today. Let it guide you. Let it be your standard for how you live. And even when His word cuts, yield your will to God. And He will change your heart to match His word. Follow God's plan for your life today and you will be truly happy and blessed.