

Climbing Unseen Mountains

Isaiah 43:2 says, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you."*

Remember years ago when they were getting ready for Y2K? Look at the uproar and stress that it caused and one wonders just how much money was taken from worried people about something that never came to pass? They were trying to climb a mountain that wasn't there

The fact is, Most everything we worry about is related to the future. RIGHT?? Although we don't need to worry, people have many worries and most of those worries about the future can be categorized in one of five categories. Lets look at them and at some promises that will help remove some stress until or if the mountains actually becomes a reality.

Thought: *The good news is that worry is an optional misery. We don't have to worry. It's not forced on us. Every time we worry, we're choosing to do it.*

Lets look at some things Christians and other people worry about

I. Mountain # One is that we will be left alone, deserted, having to face the future on your own.

The promise is, God will be with me even when I'm distressed. Regardless of what we go through in the future, we won't go through it alone. There is never a time in our life when God is not with us. There are times though when we may not sense His presence, but even if we don't sense his presence, it doesn't mean he is not there.

Remember what David wrote in Psalm 139:7-10 *Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute— you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!" It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.*

Thought: God is wherever I could possibly be, anywhere in all realms of the universe. So whenever we feel alone, afraid, forsaken, or abandoned "God is with us. And He will give us the strength to make it through those tough times."

Isaiah 43:2 *"When you go through deep waters and great troubles, I will be with you." When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you go through fires of*

oppression, you will not be burned up. (Notice you go through them. You don't stay in them.) And the flames will not consume you."

John 16:33 *"In the world, you will have trouble, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."* **The point is:** When Jesus is near, we can lose our fear. Worry is really practical atheism. It's acting as if there is no God and He hasn't promised to take care of us. Jesus, in Matthew. 6:32 says *"Your heavenly Father knows what you need. What are you going to worry about? He will take care of you."*

II. Mountain # Two The fear that we won't know what to do when we get to the future because it's going to be all new, and it's going to be different. Actually, the rest of our life is all uncharted territory and nobody (*Except God*) has been there. BUT

The promise is, God will watch over me when I'm confused. Psalm 32:8 *"The Lord says, I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."*

Thought: Whenever we finally get to the point in the future that God wants us to be, we can rest safely because it is at that point, and that point alone, that he will guide us on the next step

Proverbs 28:26 *"Those who use God's wisdom are safe."* We don't have to know everything right now, all we have to know is where to go to get answers. And that's from God and His word.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way."*

Now, There's a promise. He says I'll be with you when you're distressed, watch over you when you're confused, and show you the right way." when you think you have lost yours

III. Mountain # Three We won't have what we need in the future, the resources or the talent or whatever.

The promise is, He will go before me when I'm afraid. Deuteronomy 31:8 *"The Lord Himself will go before you. He will not leave you or forget you so don't be afraid and don't worry."*

God guided the Israelites with the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night to show them that He was with them and that He would lead them where they needed to go. God does that in our lives. He goes ahead of us because He knows our needs.

Isaiah 65:24 *"I will provide their needs before they ask. I will help them while they are still asking for help."*

If we admit that fact, we don't need to worry. God knows what I need, when I need it, and He will take care of me in those times. **We can say**, You have my needs figured out and the answers ready for me, long before I even know I have a need.

I don't have to be afraid of the future because you are there waiting for me, ready to walk beside me, or even carry me if need be, in every difficult or painful or stressful moment. You, don't stay behind. You will lead the way.

IV. Mountain # Four is the fear that I am going to be hurt by other people in the future

The truth is, we are!!! But there is another truth and that is we will do our own share of hurting others. What do you do when you feel like you're under attack?

This promise is, God says "I will fight for you." God will fight for me when I am attacked. That means He will handle those who hurt me. What we need to do when people hurt us is **Remember who's in charge**. Psalm 118:6 *"The Lord is for me so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"*

Thought: Did you know that one plus God equals a majority.

The fact is, Some people are never going to give us their approval. But so what? So we have to go on in spite of it. We need to basically say, "I like me and God likes me. So if you don't like me, that's your problem. Let God defend you. Don't ever waste any time trying to get even. Romans 12:19 *"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. 'I will repay those that deserve it,' says the Lord."*

God is very aware of what people do to you. He will be your best defense. Psalm 18:17-18 *"He delivered me from powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. They attacked me at a moment when I was weakest, but the Lord upheld me."*

Here's what you do when you're criticized. If it's true, you listen and learn from it. If it's untrue, you ignore it and forget it. If God is for me, the Bible says, who can be against me? God says don't be intimidated by this. He says, "I will help you." *"I will fight for you."*

V. Mountain # Five is the worry that you won't have the strength to make it in the future

The promise is God will work in me until I'm completed. Philippians 1:6 "God began doing a good work in you and I am sure He will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again."

God is working on our salvation. Sometimes people get scared and think, "I won't be able to hold out. What if someday I just blow it so badly and I'm not a Christian any more." ? You don't have

to worry about that. It was God who began the work on your character and salvation, and it is God who will finish that work when He takes you to be with Himself.

John 10:28 (Jesus is speaking) *"I give the real and eternal life. They are protected from the destroyer for good. No one can steal them out of my hand."*

1 Peter 1:5 says , *our salvation is kept in heaven, safe and secure, and nothing can touch it.*

So God's power will take your salvation from where He started with you, until the day He comes back for you. God will finish the work that He has begun in your life. That should ease some stress and help you not to climb any unseen mountains

In closing: We've just looked at five helpful promises that God has made regarding our future. They are guaranteed. You can take it to the bank! It's going to happen. God is faithful and He has promised over and over and over again to care for you.

When we get that concept down in our lives, it's going to change us and we'll have no reason to worry thus lowering our stress level. Isaiah 46:3-5 says *"Listen! I have upheld you since you were conceived and I have taken care of you from your birth. Even when you are old, I will be the same. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. I made you and will take care of you. I will carry you and save you. Can you compare Me to anyone? No one is equal to Me or like Me!"*

Here my friend are the benefits of your salvation.

The promise of His presence

The promise of His peace

The promise of His provision

The promise of His protection

The promise of His power

Thought: If you want to stop worrying about your future, you need to do three things:

A. Admit "God, I worry even though it changes nothing, and is a waste of energy and it makes me miserable.

B. Ask God to give you the strength to trust Him one day at a time. God has graciously seen fit that life doesn't pile in on you all at once. Mt. 6 *"Don't worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

C. Expect Him to keep His promises. "God, You have said You will be with me, You will watch over me, You'll go before me, You'll fight for me, and You'll work in me. So by faith I'm holding You to it, God.

Remember dear friend; Worry is like a rocking chair-it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere.