I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



"Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Matthew 28

He does not promise prosperity.

He does not promise perfect health.

He does not promise a smooth ride.

To those who choose to follow him, Jesus promises one thing:

"I am with you always."

"I am with you day and night."

"I am with you when things go well"

"I am with you when you walk through smoke, fire and ashes."

"I am with you."

If we are focused on following him, his promise applies to us in four ways....

"I am with you when I speak to you."



The most important words we will ever hear are the words that come from the mouth of our Lord.

We hear his words in the gospels and in scripture.

We hear his words as his Spirit speaks to our hearts.

Sometimes the words of a stranger have the ring of his voice.

Our world is awash in voices. But the voice of our Master has the ring of truth as no other.

"My sheep hear my voice."

When we hear that voice we are sustained by its power.

"<u>I am with you when you speak to me.</u>"

By his Spirit our Lord visits a million places at once. He is with each of us wherever we are as surely as we breathe.

So we talk to him.

"Lord Jesus, where am I missing the boat?"

"Lord I just don't know which way to go."

"Lord, help me!"

"Thank you Lord! Thank you!"

"Lead me Lord. Make your way plain before my face!"

"Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

John 14

"I am with you as we walk together in the Father's will."

We walk with the Lord in the places where he always goes.

Good news for the poor.

Deliverance for the captive.

Sight for the blind.

Freedom for the oppressed.

Truth in a world of lies.

Love that brings help in a wilderness of despair.

We do not expect the Lord to go with us when we veer off into arguments over doctrine or politics.

Nor do we expect his approval when we take our talent and bury it.

But Jesus never fails to be at our side as we walk in his light.



"<u>I am with you as you gather in my name.</u>"

"Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18

When Jesus is the center of our worship, he is there.

When we're "doing church" he lets us do our thing, until we learn what it means to gather in his name.

Two friends praying together on the phone.

A handful sitting under a tree, calling on his name.

A vast cathedral or a country chapel where hearts are fixed on Jesus only.

A cluster of believers meeting secretly, in a land where his worship is forbidden.

A modern Samaritan turning aside to help a stranger.

The Master never fails to come with power when his followers join their hearts in his name.

What more do we need?

He does not promise prosperity.

He does not promise perfect health.

He does not promise a smooth ride.

To those who choose to follow him, Jesus promises one thing:

"I am with you always."



What more do we need?

Prayer: Yes Lord, what more do we need? "I am with you always" ... This promise brings us the greatest of all comforts and lifts us from the deepest despair. May we continue walking in your light so we hear you speaking them to us. As we face each day, may "I am with you always" embolden and empower us. As we go forth with the gifts you have given us ...as we lift our hearts in prayer... as we seek you in the Scriptures... as we turn to you with our brothers and sisters...as we interact with those who have yet to know you... and as we face disappointment, loss, fear, hurt, shame, and sorrow may we carry them. Even as we breathe our last and enter into the unknown... may we know you are with us. What hope, what unfathomable love, to have you ever with us. What more could we ever need? As an offering of thanks, love, and worship... may we never forget it, may we hold this precious gift close and may we thrive in it. MM

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