Jesus Walks Beside Us!

#3123 0324 24A Comfort Message

During any time of loss in our church family, we are given the privilege of helping by being there for them; to encourage; support; and to pray for them about what they are going through reminding them of God's promises.

We all feel the loss, so we all seek God's peace. NKJV 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

When a loved one who meant so much to us, who did so much for us, and who was such a big part of our church family—when they are no longer with us, we need to be reminded of some things about our heavenly Father—He is compassionate; He loves us all with the same divine love; He knows the sadness in our heart; and He has promised to never leave us alone.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you, "AV John14:18.

That is God's Word and promise, so we accept it by faith and walk with our Savior every day through any trial or loss—walking in faith until He returns to reunite us with all who have gone before—all who were steadfast in their faith in God.

Good-bye is just until Jesus returns to reunite us with all who believed and trusted Him.

Although saddened in spirit, we are assured by the Word that God is in control; that Jesus

guide us in the coming days. All God wants us to do is to be strong in the

walks beside us; and that His Holy Spirit will

faith in Him; to believe His promises to comfort and sustain us; and to be confident of receiving His gift of Eternal Life.

Jesus understands and He knows more about our sorrow and loss than anyone else-since He knows our heart, then He can comfort us when we feel alone.

AV John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life."

We have *heard* the Word, and we *believe* in Jesus, so we are assured of possessing eternal life as we stay the course and keep the faith.

As we do that, we cross over from the wide road of destruction, to the narrow path toward Paradise. [lyrics] Let us not grow weary in the struggle of it all, Jesus will help us when on His name we call—Reach Out to Jesus.

Whenever a trial or a loss comes our way, the devil wants us to doubt God's presence; to not have His peace; and to have us feel burdened and alone—but:

Jesus Walks Beside Us—He is always there; hearing every prayer, faithful and true. Walking by our side, in His love we hide, all the day through—we just need to remind ourselves that He is right by our side.

Regardless of what we are going through, God is preparing us for something so much better and lasting forever.

God created much beauty in the world, but the glory of Heaven is beyond anything on earth.

Eternity in Heaven is continual *praise* and *worship* and wonder.

The apostle looked AV Revelation 4:1 "And, behold, a door was opened in heaven." He was able to see God. The elders were worshipping and saying NKJV Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

This life is brief—no one can afford to waste time to get ready—we must allow God to prepare us by believing, trusting, and enduring in faith in the Blood of Christ through every trial or loss.

WEY James 1:12 "Blessed is he who patiently endures trials; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the victor's crown—even the crown of Life—which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

God will prepare anyone who is committed to trust Him for everything in life.

The world has rejected the Word of God and ignores the Son of God. Very few repent of sins and even less are willing to give up idols. "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the *earth?* " Luke 18:8 NIV.

Every believer can *claim* God's comfort when it is needed, and they can ask for divine guidance when facing difficult times.

We hold to God's Word and His promise of seeing our loved ones again. AV 1 Thessalonians 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

During any tough time, questions can come to mind—we want to understand the Why and the Wherefore of it all.

NIV 1 Corinthians 13:12 "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully."

Just before the crucifixion, the disciples were anxious and fearful—they needed hope and assurance so Jesus said, Av John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." He added Av Luke 12:32 "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Satan wants us to think that God is far away, and he wants us to feel alone—but we are never alone when we have Jesus walking beside us every step of the way.

God is concerned about us—He knows our *need* and understands our *loss*—so He offers the gift of His Spirit to guide us through.

NKJV **Psalm 139:7** "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? NIV **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."

Satan tries to cause fear and doubt, but we *claim* God's peace and keep *trusting in faith* on the promises of His Word.

Jesus said AV John 5:24 "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life."

Through every trial, temptation, or loss, we need to press on in the strength that God gives—as He *prepares* us and *leads* us to His kingdom.

Life often brings *change*—circumstances beyond our control—but our *faith* should *not*

change as we continue to ask God to prepare us for His kingdom.

Change is just another turn on the road that leads to the place Jesus is preparing. We just continue straight ahead on the path of believing trust. Jesus is *the resurrection and the life* NKJV **John** 11:25, and "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

With every trial met, we are given a choice—to keep hope alive or allow doubts to cloud the promise the Lord Jesus gives us Av John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

He meets us in the *valleys* as well as on the *mountains*. He is waiting to take our hand as we allow Him to lead us through the shadows. Jesus walks beside us when we follow His leading.

Heaven is promised to the faithful in Christ—that is why we do *not* mourn; we do *not* lose heart; and we *keep* our trust on God. We have a living hope of living forever in a paradise kingdom with those who have gone before.

We may be sad in *spirit*, but we are confident in *heart* that God will lead us to better times, happier days, and to Eternal Life—as we trust Him in faith to fulfill every promise given.

AV **John 14:3** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." We believe that, and we accept that as a fact!

Let us thank God for the many opportunities He has given to prove His love and faithfulness.

Let us thank Him for the numerous times He has been right beside us to guide us concerning the need of the moment—Jesus walks beside us.

God has enabled us many times to prove that He will *not* forsake us, and He will *never* let us walk alone—we just call on His name and know He is beside us.

AV **Psalm 9:9** "They that **know** thy name will put their **trust** in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

The good times we shared with our loved ones have become part of our *permanent memory*—nothing can take those precious *memories* away from us. The *memory* of precious *moments* with a loved one is a gift and blessing from God.

Although saddened in *spirit* we are steadfast in *faith* that God will do what He promised.

AV John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 I go to prepare a place for you."

Let us be fully assured that we *and* our loved ones will live again in another place with our Lord and Savior. He promised—it *has* to be true.

NIV **John 14:3** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be **with me** that you also may be where I am."

And God will bring with Jesus NIV 1 Thessalonians 4:14 "Those who have fallen asleep in him."

Good-bye is just until Jesus *returns* to *reunite* us with all who have gone before us in the faith.

The Bible promise from Jesus Himself assures us we will Av 1 Thessalonians 4:17 "Ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one anotherwith these words."

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