

Comforting Scripture Passages

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Psalms

PSALM: 23:1-6

ESV

With the Lord as our Shepherd, we have everything we need!

- L: The LORD is my shepherd;
C: I shall not want.
L: He makes me lie down in green pastures.
C: He leads me beside still waters.
L: He restores my soul.
C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
C: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
C: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

PSALM: 46:1-11

NIV

God is our ever-present help in trouble.

- L: God is our refuge and strength,
C: an ever-present help in trouble.
L: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
C: and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
L: though its waters roar and foam
C: and the mountains quake with their surging.
L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
C: the holy place where the Most High dwells.
L: God is within her, she will not fall;
C: God will help her at break of day.
L: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
C: he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
L: The LORD Almighty is with us;
C: the God of Jacob is our fortress.
L: Come and see the works of the LORD,
C: the desolations he has brought on the earth.
L: He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
C: he burns the shields with fire.
L: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,

C: I will be exalted in the earth."

- L: The LORD Almighty is with us;
C: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

PSALM: 112:1-7

NIV

All who fear the LORD ♦ have godly sorrow, ♦ trust in Jesus for heaven, and ♦ are not shaken!

- L: Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
C: who finds great delight in his commands.
L: His children will be mighty in the land;
C: the generation of the upright will be blessed.
L: Wealth and riches are in his house,
C: and his righteousness endures forever.
L: Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
C: for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.
L: Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely,
C: who conducts his affairs with justice.
L: Surely he will never be shaken;
C: a righteous man will be remembered forever.
L: He will have no fear of bad news;
C: his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

PSALM: 121:1-8

NIV

Confession and assurance.

- L: I lift up my eyes to the hills—
C: where does my help come from?
L: My help comes from the LORD,
C: the Maker of heaven and earth.
L: He will not let your foot slip—
C: he who watches over you will not slumber;
L: indeed, he who watches over Israel
C: will neither slumber nor sleep.
L: The LORD watches over you—
C: the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
L: the sun will not harm you by day,
C: nor the moon by night.
L: The LORD will keep you from all harm—
C: he will watch over your life;
L: the LORD will watch over your coming and going
C: both now and forevermore.

The Lord invites us to repent and trust Him for forgiveness and help!

- L: Out of the depths
C: I cry to you, O LORD;
 L: O Lord, hear my voice.
C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
 L: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,
C: O Lord, who could stand?
 L: But with you there is forgiveness;
C: therefore you are feared.
 L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C: and in his word I put my hope.
 L: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
C: more than watchmen wait for the morning.
 L: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
C: for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.
 L: He himself will redeem Israel
C: from all their sins.

The Lord made us, knows us, and loves us.

- L: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
C: You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
 L: You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
C: Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.
 L: You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

- C: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

- L: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
C: If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
 L: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
C: even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
 L: If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
C: even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
 L: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
C: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
 L: My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
C: your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
 L: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
C: Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.
 L: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
C: See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Old Testament Readings

A beautiful picture of heaven!

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Only in the Lord are we truly strong!

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 53:2-6 NIV

A prophecy of Jesus' life and suffering to save us!

² He [Jesus] grew up before him [God the Father] like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed [honored] him not.

⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities [illnesses] and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken [tormented] by God, smitten [struck hard] by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity [sin, evil, wickedness] of us all.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 57:1-2 NIV

The blessings that belong to all who die in Jesus!

¹ The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. ² Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 60:19-20 NIV

Those who die in the LORD are forever blessed!

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV

The Prophet Isaiah looks ahead to the glorious coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Epistle Readings

EPISTLE: Romans 3:20-22 NIV

Since we are unable to keep God's law perfectly, God offers us His gift of righteousness through faith in Jesus!

²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe....

EPISTLE: Romans 8:31-39 NIV

Paul reminds us of the awesome love that God has demonstrated toward us in Jesus!

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

NIV

Paul notes the key aspects of Jesus' saving work!

¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me...

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

NIV

Paul tells us what will happen when Jesus returns!

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

NIV

Those who die in Jesus will not be forgotten!

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to

meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

EPISTLE: Titus 3:3-7

NIV

God is working by the Holy Spirit through the Bible to save all people through faith in Jesus!

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 2:14-18

NIV

The Son of God became like us to save us from our sins!

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Peter emphasizes some of the many benefits of faith!

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

We are God's very children by grace through faith in Jesus as our Savior!

¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

John gives us a blessed glimpse of heaven!

⁹ After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Holy Gospel Readings

Jesus calls His followers to live with trust and without worry!

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his

splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

Jesus wants all people to ►be His followers, ►live His teachings, and ►rejoice in His constant presence!

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:13-16 NIV

Jesus emphasizes His love for children and the great necessity of a child-like faith!

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42 NIV

Seeing the difference between Mary and Martha, let us put Jesus first in our daily Christian lives!

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 20:37-38 NIV

To God "all are alive."

³⁷ "...in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:29 NIV

Jesus sacrificed Himself for our eternal benefit!

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:37-40 NIV

Jesus assures us that we have eternal life through faith in Him!

³⁷ "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:21-27 NIV

Jesus offers great words of comfort and hope to all who believe in Him!

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-6 NIV

Jesus is the only way to the Father who is in heaven!

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And 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. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Some Helpful Brochures:

- [Knowing Is Peace](#)
- [Trade With God](#)
- [Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven?](#)

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