

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

FREELY RECEIVE, FREELY GIVE

Life has a way of getting our attention. As we proceed through life, tragedies befall us and we find ourselves facing circumstances and events that are devastating. Severe illness, sudden loss of a family member, loss of a job, and broken relationships are some examples. Such events send us reeling emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It can feel like our lives have exploded and we are left trying to put all the pieces back together. We wonder if we will ever recover from the knock-out blow that we have just endured.



No matter how hard we may try to prevent such things, being human makes it inevitable that eventually we will be facing a life-altering event and its aftermath. The good news is that we need not face these things alone. God has made a promise that is available to anyone who will choose to receive that promise.

“I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU”

It may feel like He has abandoned you and is nowhere to be found in the midst of your crisis, or the aftermath of a life-altering event. The reality is that He has not left, but is right there with you through it all. It has been my experience in life that when events or circumstances come crashing upon me and it feels like I will never make it through, at some point, the dust settles, it gets quiet, and then there is a still small voice that ministers what I need. In the darkest times of my life, when I felt like I couldn't go on, when everything was out of control, emotions running all over the place, God showed up and gave me exactly what I needed. He reassured me that His presence and His words were enough to get me through to the other side and begin the process of putting the pieces back together again. He promised to stay with me no matter how long the situation I was in lasted.

Below are some passages from the Bible that deal with God's promise to be

- What are some examples of life altering events that people go through?
- What are some examples of such events in your own life or the lives of those close to you?
- How would you describe the effects of such events on your life or the lives of those close to you?

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there for us amidst life's difficulties as well as examples of what that looked like in various peoples lives.

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

1 Kings 19:1-18

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Psalms 46

Psalms 23

Romans 8:28-39

It is important that we recognize that Jesus is our constant companion in life. He is with us wherever we go, in whatever we face. He knows exactly what we need before we even put words to it. We can rely on Him to give us what we need; to speak what we need to hear at exactly the right time. All we need to do is be still and listen for His voice.

There is more to God speaking to us and helping us than just what it does for us. His speaking and acting on our behalf will always bless us, enable us to make it through the tough times of life, and even flourish as a result of life's difficulties. But there is more. His plan is that we would take that which He has given us, that which was and is so helpful, and share it with others. As Jesus was preparing His disciples to go out amongst the people to meet their various needs, He said:

“FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE.”

He would say the same to us today. That which He has freely given to us in our moment of need was never meant to be kept to ourselves. There are so many people around who are suffering, hurting, reeling from the troubles of life who need to hear and receive the very things God has given us in our time of need.

Let us all look to God and listen for His voice in the tough times. But, let us also take those treasured words and insights which He has graciously bestowed upon us in our darkest times and freely give them to others in their times of need.

Below are a few more Bible passages that speak of or illustrate giving away the helpful things God has given us.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Luke 8:26-39
- Acts 3:1-10
- Matthew 5:13-16
- The whole book of Esther