



What does God mean when He says,

“I will be with you always”?

Great question! I mentioned in a recent sermon that it’s easy to think “Well, that means He’ll be there for moral support and a shoulder to cry on.” He certainly will be there for those things, but that’s not the number one reason God promises His Presence.

There are four passages that come to mind when I think about God’s promise of “being there.”

“And God said, ‘I will be with you.’” Exodus 3:12

God said this to Moses when Moses made an excuse that he wasn’t up to the task after God had commissioned him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

(Our discipleship verse for July).

God spoke this to Joshua after choosing him to succeed Moses in leading the people into The Promised Land

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

Jesus spoke this to His Apostles after commissioning them to “As you go, wherever you go, make disciples of all peoples.”

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5

God speaks this through the writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews as He gives some final instructions to followers of Christ at the end of the book.

You could sum up God’s promises to be with people in those passages with this sentence:

“Whatever I’ve called you to do, you can do it - even if it’s difficult - because I will be with you with my power. And remember, NOTHING is impossible for me.”

The common thread running through each of those passages is that there is some action (or attitude) that God has called people to achieve.

It may be obvious, but from these passages we see that we can't count on God to be with us to help us when we're doing things He does not want or hasn't planned for us to do. That really highlights the importance of seeking His will and following it.

So, remember:

"If God calls you to do something - or go through something - He always promises to be with you to help you do it - or get through it."

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net