

25 Days Before Easter: Jesus Loved to Laugh

Of course Christianity should be taken seriously, Christian author and pastor Jamie Buckingham says. But shouldn't we be able to laugh like Jesus did?

"If God is really in control, we might as well enjoy life instead of taking it so seriously," Buckingham says. "Jesus had a humorous and free way of teaching. He loved to laugh and poke fun at people and events."

Why can't we do the same? For the rest of Jamie's teaching, watch this video devotional:

Cheap Grace: Have We Watered Down the Blood He Shed?

Shortly after my brother, Kevin, led me to the Lord in 1989, he introduced me to the music of Steve Camp.

There were many other great Christian pop artists at the time—like Mylon Le Fevre, White Heart, Michael W. Smith, Larnelle Harris, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Margaret Becker, Carman, Geoff Moore and the Distance (Am I taking anyone down memory lane?)—but, I believe there was a hidden purpose for my introduction to Steve Camp.

Steve had a raspy voice, and his songs certainly weren't as beautiful as some of those from Keith Green, Andrae Crouch, Sandi Patti or Twila Paris. But there was something about

Steve's music that captivated me, enough for me to go out and buy his cassettes. I wanted to listen to his music over and over again, especially the cassette *One on One*, released in 1986.

Steve wrote or co-wrote 21 No. 1 singles and sold more than a million albums. Kevin once told me something about Steve Camp that has stuck with me to this day. He said, "A lot of people don't like him because he's straightforward and to the point about the gospel. He tells it like it is."

One read of the lyrics from his song, "Cheap Grace," will show you why:

*I feel sick when I look at the sin in my life
I can't take it any longer
All along I've known what to do what is right
But my heart wasn't stronger*

Why do I do the things I don't want to do?
Do you ever feel the same way?
Like sin has got its hold over you
You try to stop but you just can't walk away

Why do I listen to the teaching that tickles my ears?
How they play on my emotions
How can they laugh at the truth in tears?
There's no call for my devotion

Am I man enough to face the truth?
Do you ever feel the same way?
Like the world has got its hold on you
You try to stop but you just can't walk away

Cheap grace, we've watered down the blood He shed
We say we've given all
But we have hardly bled

Cheap grace, you know it cost Him everything

It's easy to abuse
What you think is for free

And then there is "Hell Is Burning While the Church Is Asleep":

*Oh we're stuck in our pews as they're dying in our streets.
You know, hell is burning while the church is asleep.*

So why do you think that those lyrics would resonate with someone who had just come to know the Lord? Could it be that was exactly the kind of life I was living? Our salvation cost Jesus His life in a brutal way. We abuse it because we think it is for free; many times we tend to take the cross for granted, don't we?

It took many, many years to straighten my life out—a lot of wasted years I could have been diligently serving Him. But then that's what the grace of the cross is all about—it's never too late (unless you've died) to repent, ask for His forgiveness and come back to your heavenly Father.

One song that particularly resonated with me is Steve's song "Stranger to Holiness." One verse reads:

*Looks like the boy's in trouble again
Living much too close to the edge of sin
Now he finds himself where he should not have been
Oh, God, why is Your peace so hard to find
And the answer to the questions that haunt my mind?*

To me, Steve Camp was an artist ahead of his time. The cultural commentaries he made through his music, I believe, would ring even more true today. Take, for instance, these lyrics from "The Great American Novel":

*We are far across the ocean, in a war that's not our own
And while you're winning theirs, we're gonna lose the one at home*

Do you really think the only way to bring about the peace
Is to sacrifice your children, and kill all your enemies?

The politicians all make speeches, while the news men all take
notes

And they exaggerate the issues, as they shove them down our
throats

Is it really up to them whether this country sinks or floats
Well, I wonder who would lead us, if none of us would vote."

Not only did Steve make cultural commentaries, but he also
sang of the power of the cross and God's saving grace. In his
song "He's All You Need," he wrote:

*When you give in, to that familiar sin
He is all you need
Guilt has you paralyzed, it slowly eats you alive
He is all you need*

*He'll be faithful to you, though your heart is untrue
And your love's grown cold
His forgiveness is real
It'll comfort and heal
Your sin-weary soul*

*God loves you so
He'll never let you go
He is all you need.*

To me, that's all powerful stuff—relevant cultural commentary,
the meaning of grace and the reality of God's forgiveness.
Wow.

Through the past 27 years, I would say that I haven't gone
more than a month or two where I haven't listened to some of
his music. I owe that to my brother, and I'm grateful for it.

I invite you to listen to some of Steve's songs and see if
they resonate with you. You can buy them on Amazon or on

iTunes. I'd like to know what you think. I believe they will bless you. Who knows? They might, with the Holy Spirit's help, even convict you.

And as I always like to say, "there is that." {eoa}

26 Days Before Easter: 'Who Touched Me?'

In Luke chapter 8, the story is told of a woman "having a hemorrhage" for 12 years that could not be healed by physicians. The woman thought to herself that if she only touched the fringe of Jesus' garment, she would be healed.

Of course, she was. Jesus told her, "Daughter, be of good cheer. Your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

In this video devotional, Christian pastor and author Jamie Buckingham tells us that, if we are sick, suffering or hurting, we too can be healed if we simply reach out in prayer and "touch the hem of Jesus' garment." Today, He is still healing those who touch Him with their hearts.

For the rest of Jamie's teaching, watch this video:

How You Can Send the Wrong

Signals to Your Kids

I like things clean. Specifically, clutter kills me.

There's nothing that's worse for me than trying to walk across a room and having to watch my step. One of my biggest reoccurring challenges greets me at the front door. We have a basket that houses our kids most often used shoes. It's there so we can move quickly when we are on the go without having to do a massive shoe search.

As adamant and consistent as I am in reminding our kids to put their shoes in the basket, it seems like it is unlearnable. The living room is typically littered with shoes like a driving range green is filled with golf balls.

One night before bed as we were doing our nightly cleanup, I became fed up with the shoes. I said, "You guys have to start putting your shoes away. I'm tired of seeing them all over the floor." That's when my son said, "Dad, how come you get to leave your shoes in the middle of the room and we don't?" He enforced his argument by pointing to my shoes. There they were, a hypocritical pair of leather violators.

Even worse, I realized at that moment that I leave them there all the time. I wanted to reply, "Because I'm an adult. I can do what I want!" But I was violating my own rules and expecting my kids to maintain a standard I was failing to reach. What is a hypocrite dad? I was and needed to change. I started to notice other areas where I was being hypocritical. Here are my top areas where I have sent the wrong signals to my kids.

1. Yelling at my kids because they are being too loud or fighting – There's something about loud noise that gives me anxiety. Ironically and hypocritically, that anxiety often comes out of me loudly. I am a repeat offender at this one, particularly in the car. While I do need to raise my voice so

they hear me, I tend to continue yelling long after I have gotten their full attention. It's tough after that to teach them how to resolve their issues calmly. As I have changed my approach, I've noticed that when I am controlled with a lower voice they are more apt to listen and obey.

2. Spanking my kids for hitting. I know this one can be controversial. There are many views on spanking and good arguments both for and against. We have used this method of discipline in our house and I am not against it. However, I did this once when my son had hit his sister and it felt a little off. I do believe that there is a big difference between hitting and disciplinary spanking and I think kids can tell that difference. However, I personally found it hard to tell him that we don't hit one another afterward. I ended up only using it for the worst non-hitting offenses and have even moved away from it altogether.

3. My messy room. This one is similar to the shoe one. Every night, I have my kids clean their rooms. One night, I went in to see if my son had cleaned his and saw several things were not in their place. I made him come back in and finish the job. Then I took the opportunity to teach about doing things with excellence and the consequences of cutting corners. After we finished, I passed by my own bedroom which looked like a tornado hit it with my stuff. My wife's side looked great. I later showed my son that I needed to follow my own advice.

4. Being a sore loser. My son is super competitive and when he loses, he throws a fit. I have had a number of conversations about it being OK to be competitive and wanting to win. It's fine to be a little upset after losing, I would tell him; but, it's important to be a good sport and maintain a proper perspective. Then I noticed my response to my favorite football team losing on Sundays which this year has been a lot. I was so emotionally involved, it would ruin my entire day and that would affect the rest of the family.

These have been humbling revelations. If I don't model what I am saying, I will lose the trust of my kids. I have been honest with them and apologized when I have missed the mark. I've given them permission to call me out when they feel like I am not being consistent. Fortunately, they have been gracious with me—probably more gracious than I have been with them, which once again, has me thinking.

BJ Foster is the content manager for All Pro Dad and a married father of two. For the original article, visit [.](#)

World Changers for Christ Don't Need a Pedigree

The most impactful leaders of this world and in the kingdom of God are not world-changing leaders due to an Ivy League education; nor are they exemplary leaders due to family heritage or prestigious titles. The honorable leaders of any generation are not necessarily men and women with money in their pockets or verbosity on their tongues.

The most life-changing leaders that have ever lived are quite simply men and women who live well. True leadership embodies the will and the commitment to choose a lifestyle that is not tainted by mediocrity, substandard living or by trifling distractions.

A commendable leader, either male or female, has determined to live with the ever-present knowledge that what one chooses to do in the mundane of life matters.

It matters how you treat those who serve you. It matters that you esteem waiters, waitresses, postal workers, cashiers,

Sunday school teachers, valet parking attendants, secretaries and aides as more important than yourself.

“Let nothing be done out of strife or conceit, but in humility let each esteem the other better than himself” (Phil. 2:3, MEV).

Leadership is not won at the polls, it is not decided in the boardrooms, nor is it determined by resumes. Leadership is revealed in the muddy trenches of life. Leadership is determined in the quietness of a man or a woman’s soul when faced with compromising positions, unfair treatment and political exchange.

Leaders treat the people in their homes and under their charge with honor and with unconditional love. A godly leader will say, “No,” to the prestigious in order to say, “Yes,” to the valuable.

A genuine leader will exhibit kindness when no one is watching and will give sincerely when there is no self-benefit in the gift.

An honorable leader will be slow to accuse, reluctant to criticize and only use his or her words for the purpose of encouragement and construction.

A leader with laudable character will never engage in mockery or in sarcasm as a way of making his or her point. A leader knows that innuendo, whether good or bad, has a way of living beyond the day that it is implied.

Leaders are certainly not perfect specimens of humanity, but when faced with their own failures, they ask for forgiveness and endeavor to change their behavior from compromising to honorable. Leaders never cover up the sins of their past but use those shortcomings as a springboard for greater and for finer living.

Many weak followers merely pretend to be leaders and place the nameplate on the door, the diploma on the wall and the bravado on the resume. However, do not be fooled. Leadership cannot be bought or sold. Leadership is earned one honorable decision at a time. {eoa}

Carol McLeod is an author and popular speaker at women's conferences and retreats, where she teaches the Word of God with great joy and enthusiasm. Carol encourages and empowers women with passionate and practical biblical messages mixed with her own special brand of hope and humor. She has written five books, including *No More Ordinary, Holy Estrogen!*, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart* and *Defiant Joy!* Her most recent book, *Refined: Finding Joy in the Midst of the Fire*, was released last August. Her teaching DVD *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart* won the Telly Award, a prestigious industry award for excellence in religious programming. You can also listen to Carol's "A Jolt of Joy" program daily on the Charisma Podcast Network. Connect with Carol at .

14 Next-Generation Challenges to the Apostolic Movement

The so-called millennium generation has seemed to develop certain presuppositions that are presently a huge challenge that can hinder the continuation of the present apostolic reformation in North America and beyond.

The new apostolic reformation was a phrase coined by Dr. Peter Wagner in the early 2000s to describe the new wave of visionary leaders in the global church with apostolic gifts, who lead (nondenominational) networks of churches.

As a part of this movement in the USA since the late 1980s, I founded an apostolic church (Resurrection church of New York in Sunset Park, Brooklyn), a regional apostolic network of apostolic leaders in the church and marketplace (Christ Covenant Coalition), and am presently the national convener of the United States Coalition of Apostolic Leaders. Related to all of this, I have worked with many apostolic leaders globally.

That being said, I have also observed some of the ways many apostolic leaders function that are a challenge to the present mindset of millennial leaders in the body of Christ. Whether one agrees with these young people or not, it is a challenge apostolic leaders must overcome if they are going to successfully perpetuate apostolic vision into the next generation—especially in developed nations and among the educated in developing nations. (Irrespective of what nation a young person lives in, the more educated, the more they tend to think the way I have illustrated it in this missive.)

To help overcome this challenge, we have formed “The Futures Alliance” to connect and converge with the top leaders in our nation under 40. They continually give me and others input so we can understand how they think and ways we could work together for the kingdom.

My statements in this article are meant to be very general. Hence there are exceptions to every one of my points, as I have also met many young people who do not espouse every one of the views I am setting forth.

The following are some of the challenges next-generation leaders have with the apostolic reformation:

1. Next-generation leaders do not like vestiges of authority and power. Several very smart young people I have spoken to (including my two biological sons) tell me how they are turned off by symbols of authority in the church services. Things

such as elders sitting on a platform, pastors preaching from a platform, the minister wearing clergy attire, and the like are often complete turnoffs. (The use of clergy attire is more in use among apostolic leaders in the more episcopal traditions—for instance, those who use the term bishop instead of pastor.)

2. Next-generation leaders are casual in their appearance.

While many apostolic leaders dress formally, young people (especially among Caucasian young people) are extremely casual and may be turned off by pastors and attendees in church services dressing formally. (Of course, my first point related to clergy attire can also fit here, but I used it in the previous point because it comports with vestiges of ecclesial authority, not merely formality in dress.)

3. Next-generation leaders are not religious.

Many apostolic leaders continue to use the same expressions they used in church 20-30 years ago. Young people are turned off by excessive religious language in church services like the continual use of the words “amen”, “hallelujah” and “praise the Lord.” Also, the intense shaking, shouting, and physical gyrations are viewed as unnatural and weird. (I am speaking more about religious behavior and tradition than a spontaneous response to the undeniable presence and move of God in a church service.)

4. Next-generation leaders are looking for authentic relationships more than ministry.

Apostolic leaders and visionaries are often focused more on accomplishing the mission than building relationally with the people. Young people long for a church culture where relationships are deepened in addition to having a strong sense of purpose and mission.

5. Next-generation leaders work from the bottom up, not the top down.

Often, especially in developing nations and among certain contexts in North America, apostolic leaders function

autocratically and lead from the top down. Young people are egalitarian and want to be respected and treated more like peers, not like some mindless followers. I have also found that the more educated and empowered a congregation is (irrespective of age) the more they have learned critical thinking skills and shy away from leadership styles that are demanding, dogmatic and dictatorial.

6. Next-generation leaders shy away from the culture wars.

While many apostolic leaders have been front and center in the culture wars, young people are weary of the right versus left culture war tussle. Unfortunately, many young leaders have gone too far and moved away from taking a position in their churches when it comes to serious moral issues such as abortion, marriage and sexual ethics. While I agree with their concern about the Christian right and left going too far interweaving the gospel with politics, I also believe the gospel is irrevocably connected to morality and societal ethics, which should result in maintaining certain standards. Those who refuse to take a stand will eventually find their churches overrun with confusion related to sexual identity, immorality and a progressive humanism that runs counter to the authority of Scripture.

7. Next-generation leaders advocate for social justice.

While many apostolic leaders have been very vocal regarding socially moral issues, young people have been invigorated to fight against the sex slave industry, racism, economic injustice and the like. They are sick and tired of focusing on what the church is “against” and want to focus on what the church “is for”! Any church that has a vision to love and empower humanity irrespective of race, gender and economic status will have an easier time garnering the attention of young people. While I realize that the term “social justice” is an old mantra for socialism, its meaning has also been expanded to include things that can coincide with the gospel.

8. Next-generation leaders focus on serving the community.

Whereas many in the apostolic movement want to transform nations politically, many young people are not as interested in “reforming society.” However, they feel more compelled to meet the practical needs of their community. Reaching others through art, music, mentoring and befriending the lost and lonely are things for which they have passion. Hence, many apostolic leaders have been “macro” and young people “micro” in their approach to seeing the renewal of all things on earth.

9. Next-generation leaders primarily focus on their parish, not their region. Many apostolic leaders and centers have a vision for reaching their region and beyond, while many young people focus more on reaching their immediate community. The difference in methodology is the apostolic regional church versus the parish church model. Young leaders tend to focus more on developing church campuses with each campus adopting a parish model in regards to concentrating on their own local community.

10. Next-generation leaders connect together using social media. Older, apostolic leaders are utilizing social media and texting more and more, but young people have been born into this technological age and are as accustomed to connecting through social media as a fish is used to living underwater. Apostolic leaders need to continue to grow in their use of social media if they are going to connect with millennials, and millennials have to develop their interpersonal skills if they want to be more balanced.

11. Next-generation leaders are mobile. While most apostolic leaders have been located in the same region for decades, many young people who are constantly in geographic transition create a culture depending on where they have the best opportunity. (Even young pastors have a tendency to move geographically more frequently than the past generation who often made a commitment to one community for decades.)

12. Next-generation leaders are not hierarchical but relational. While many apostolic leaders use ecclesiastical titles like “apostle” and “bishop,” young people are uncomfortable with titles and anything hierarchical. They would much rather relate to other people on a first name basis.

13. Next generation leaders are uncomfortable with the prosperity gospel. While many apostolic leaders are visionaries with amazing fund raising skills, many young people connote a strong appeal for finances with the so-called prosperity gospel. Many even shy away from utilizing the scriptures that speak about God rewarding faithful tithers and instead focus on giving to God purely out of love and generosity. Of course, the legitimate apostolic leaders I partner with are also uncomfortable with the notion of turning the church into a fund-raising machine and or the use of God for personal gain and prosperity. The truth is, God does reward financial faithfulness and generously gives back more than we can ever sow into His kingdom, but our motives have to be pure before God as we are called to seek first His kingdom.

14. Next-generation leaders are entrepreneurial. One primary thing both apostolic leaders and millennial leaders have in common is, by nature, they both tend to be entrepreneurial. Apostolic leaders who understand this should focus on empowering the creativity in young people. They need to realize that this is a generation with more knowledge, technology and opportunity to be self-employed than any recent generation. Apostolic leaders who treat millennials like stationary employees (like the factory workers and unionized workers of their own era), will miss a great opportunity to connect the next generation with the present apostolic reformation. {eoa}

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York. He is also serving as the United States ambassador for the International Coalition of Apostles and as one of the founding presiding bishops of the International Communion of Evangelical Churches.

27 Days Before Easter: ‘God Does Not Need More Caesars’

In Jesus’ day, Caesars came and Caesars went. When they passed on, the Roman kings, one by one, were soon forgotten as another one took their place.

But Jesus, who suffered a horrible death at the hands of the Romans, lives on, empowering people through His spirit to spread the kingdom throughout the world. His influence is more evident today than ever before.

“God does not need more Caesars,” Christian author and pastor Jamie Buckingham says in this video devotional. “He needs good men and women who will not deny His Son when faced with the Lions of this world.”

Watch the rest of Jamie’s teaching here:

How to Help Your Young Adult

Build Their Own Life

You know that fatherhood doesn't end when a child turns 20, right?

We recently heard from a distraught mom. She and her husband have a son in college who lives at home, and he basically takes the approach that since he's an "adult" now, he can pretty much do what he wants. And he isn't doing much, which makes things very tense.

This son is lazy and sloppy and doesn't show any respect when his dad asks him to help out around the house. Mom and Dad don't want to upset him or make things worse, so they pretty much put up with it. This mom says she cleans up after her son because she wants her home to be orderly for the rest of the family.

These are such difficult situations because all parents want their children to be happy. But sometimes doing what's *best* for them will cause some discomfort and unhappiness, at least for a while. But bottom line, parents can't let their adult children wreck their households. When they are irresponsible and living at home, it puts strain on everyone. They should not be allowed to act like children when they need to be transitioning to adulthood. If a child in his 20s isn't forced to take on more responsibility for his own life, there's no motivation for him to become an independent, self-reliant adult who can handle the "real world."

If he's disrespecting his parents along with it, there definitely needs to be a change. He needs some motivation to step up and take on responsibility.

How does that look, exactly? Well, let me warn you: The ideas I have might sound a lot like "tough love," which can leave a child angry and upset for a time. In some scenarios, he may leave and say he never wants to see you again, and you might

not hear from him for weeks. But chances are good that eventually he'll come around, and maybe even thank you for giving him the "kick" he needed to get going.

Think about birds teaching their young to fly. Often they nudge them out of the nest. And in some cases, that's how it is with young adult kids.

So how can parents handle this? One suggestion is to draw up an agreement with your young-adult child *in writing*. The details depend on the specifics of the situation, but a good general rule comes from the authors of the *Love and Logic* books. It's called the "good neighbor policy."

If a friendly neighbor needed a place to stay for a while, you'd probably help him out. But if he wanted to stay longer, you would likely draw up an agreement. He'd need to obey your house rules and pay something for room and board—*on time, each month*. Of course, if he didn't like the rent amount or the rules, he'd be free to find another situation.

If necessary, you would take action to move him out of your home. (Read more about how this can apply to teenagers in this article.)

That might sound cruel. Maybe you could never imagine doing that to your own child. But that might be exactly what he needs to get his life on track.

Let me quickly add, while pushing, it's important to communicate in several different ways, "We love you, and we want you to learn to be responsible, independent and content." That could include encouraging words, regular invitations for home-cooked meals back home and financial help related to the transition itself. For example, you may want to help cover the security deposit on an apartment lease. Or something like a gift certificate to a men's clothing store for your son to pick out a new interview suit.

Also, understand that even a bird doesn't do this until the young one is ready. So, not all situations call for the same approach.

But if you're in this situation, get with your wife and do some research, maybe talk with other parents, and figure out an approach you both believe in. You need to be on the same page and not let any issues with your child come between the two of you.

Surely some other parents have been through this. What advice do you have for these tough situations with young adults? Please share them in the comments below.

Carey Casey is the CEO of the National Center for Fathering (NCF), as well as a husband, father and grandfather. He is author of *Championship Fathering*, co-author of *It's Great Being a Dad*, and general editor of *The 21-Day Dad's Challenge*. See more about Carey [here](#).

A New Door Opens for Brain Cancer Treatment

For the first time, researchers have been able to convert skin cells into cancer-killing stem cells—opening the door to new treatments for brain cancer.

The advance, by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pharmacy researchers, is being hailed as a breakthrough in stem-cell research and cancer treatment.

The technique, reported in *Nature Communications*, could offer the first new line of treatment for the brain cancer known as

glioblastoma in more than 30 years, and holds the promise of being the most effective therapy against the often-fatal disease.

“Patients desperately need a better standard of care,” said Shawn Hingtgen, an assistant professor in the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Care Center and who led the study.

The work builds on a Nobel Prize-winning technology, which allows researchers to turn skin cells into embryonic-like stem cells.

Only about 30 percent of glioblastoma patients live more than two years after diagnosis because it is so difficult to treat. Even when such tumors can be removed surgically, the invasive, cancerous tendrils that spread deeper into the brain are usually impossible to reach.

As a result, most patients die within a year and a half of their diagnosis.

But Hingtgen and his team have developed a new personalized treatment for glioblastoma that starts with a patient’s own skin cells, with the goal of getting rid of the cancerous tendrils and effectively killing the glioblastoma.

The technique involves reprogramming skin cells known as fibroblasts to become brain stem cells. Working with mice, Hingtgen’s team showed that these neural stem cells can hone in on cancer cells and kill them.

The researchers now plan to focus on human stem cells and test more effective anti-cancer drugs that can be loaded into the tumor-seeking neural stem cells.

“Our work represents the newest evolution of the stem-cell technology that won the Nobel Prize in 2012,” Hingtgen said. “We wanted to find out if these induced neural stem cells

would home in on cancer cells and whether they could be used to deliver a therapeutic agent. This is the first time this direct reprogramming technology has been used to treat cancer.” {eoa}

For the original article, visit .

Why God Doesn't Want Us to Fear the Unknown

Fear is something that can paralyze even the bravest and strongest of individuals. It's that displeasing feeling inside of you that causes one to sometimes doubt themselves or the wonderful opportunities that come your way, cause you to second-guess your capabilities, and silence you when you know that you should be speaking up.

Whether it be the biblical story of Joshua, who prayed an audacious prayer for the sun to stand still amid the battle against the Amorites (Josh. 10:12), Moses parting the massive beauty of the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21), or Noah building the gigantic piece of artistic wonder known as the ark (Gen. 5-10); God constantly came in the clutch and took care of His people. There was no need to fear. There was no need to worry. He was there.

And although these magnificent experiences of God's presence took place thousands of years ago, we must understand that the foundational truth of God's support and assistance is still alive and true today. God isn't just alongside you for this journey called life; He's leading the front lines.

God has already been there.

“The Lord, He goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear, nor be dismayed” (Deut. 31:8, MEV).

The powerful truth found in Deuteronomy 31:8 is both assuring and comforting. We must realize that we have no need to worry about the present or future due to the reality that God, who is outside of time itself, has already been where we are going and will be in the future. He’s all-powerful, all-knowing and all-forgiving. God is the essence of time itself, aware of anything and everything that will take place in our lives.

When we put our lives in God’s hands, there is space for us to relax, knowing that He has everything under His control. This doesn’t mean that fear will be absent from our thoughts or that we are no longer allowed to fear, but instead that fear no longer needs to control the way we live, dream, speak and act. Fear sits under the colossal majesty of God.

Don’t fear the unknown, the future or the present. God has already been there, and He’s letting you know that he alone has got you immersed by his perfect, protective and all-consuming love.

Jarrid Wilson is a husband to Juli, dad to Finch, pastor, author, blogger, founder of Cause Roast. He’s helping people live a better story. For the original article, visit .

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