

LORD God, Your mercy towards us is great. Your truth endures forever.

All that You have promised ~ You will provide. Yes! God ~ You are a Promise Keeper!

Each week the sharing time in our PAL group echoes pain & despair of difficult circumstances. Stolen rings recovered from pawn shops. Desperate trips to emergency rooms. Marriages and relationships crumble and dissolve. Today we stare into the face of drugs - into the face of lies and schemes. Father God, our search for a way out of this nightmare is unending. Fear creeps in as an unwelcomed companion. This is hard!

You tell us to trust in You, Lord, and to seek Your will. Help us do that. We can barely function. So we call out to You to rescue us from our fear and replace it with confidence in our Lord God Almighty. Heal us from this suffocating anxiety. You save us, Lord, so that we can truly be saved! Please guide us out of our dark isolation and onto the path that will honor You. Rescue us, Father ~ rescue us.

Keep our focus on Jesus! Place in us His beautiful Hope that draws praise from deep within.

Jesus, let us rejoice in You always. Again and again.

Let us place all confidence in You and rejoice in Your powerful Name. ~ Amen

In the midst of difficult circumstances, focusing on Christ is neither a natural reaction nor an easy one. Our instinct is to dwell on the situation at hand, searching for solutions or stewing over the pain and difficulty. As a result, troubles look insurmountable and overwhelm us with a sense of failure.

However, fear and defeat can't live long in a heart that trusts the Lord. I'm not saying you will forget what you're going through, but you can choose to dwell on His provision and care instead. He is the Deliverer. He is the Healer. And He is the Guide. The believer who lays claim to divine promises discovers that God pushes back negative emotions. In their place, hope, confidence, and contentment take up residence. You aren't going to be happy about any difficult situation, but you can be satisfied that God is in control and up to something good in the midst of trouble.

The Lord's principles and promises don't change, no matter how severe or painful the situation is. Focus on Christ instead of the circumstance - God will comfort your heart and bring you safely through the trial. Then you will be ready to answer Paul's call to “rejoice in the Lord always.” ~ *Charles Stanley*

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again I will say, rejoice!

~ **Philippians 4:4** ~

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart;
Do not depend on your own understanding;
Seek His will in all you do,
And He will show you which path to take.*

~ **Proverbs 3:5-6** ~

NLT

*And He did rescue us from mortal danger,
and He will rescue us again.
We have placed our confidence in Him,
and He will continue to rescue us.*

~ **2 Corinthians 1:10** ~

NLT

*O LORD, if You heal me, I will be truly healed;
if You save me, I will be truly saved.
My praises are for You alone!*

~ **Jeremiah 17:14** ~