

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

HOPE IN A TIME
OF COVID

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

PSALM 119:105

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND
LIGHT FOR MY PATH.

Strength and Courage

Guiding light. This verse promises God, in Word, to be a guiding light for life's path. The literal Word of God shines before each step of life. Daily, I see this truth.

Many verses from the Bible have served to light my path and carry me through my life's journey. The longest lasting and one of the most impactful Bible verses is the one I selected for my high school graduation. Or perhaps I should say the Word that God placed before me.

Although a few decades ago, the memory is fresh. As a high school senior from a rural community, I struggled with the empty slate of life before me. I felt anxious and uncertain with so many questions no one could answer for me. What kind of job do I want? Which college should I choose? Can I really be eight hours from home? What happens to my friends here? Where will I live when I finish college? Will I have a family?

Within the bewilderment of those questions, I needed to find my graduation Bible verse. God placed the lamp before me in the midst of my high school Old Testament religion class. There it was! Right in front of me, my graduation Bible verse from Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified: do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Reassurance!

Little did I understand how that verse would be my symbol of hope through the years. The same God who came to the teenaged me, in Word and heart, continues to reassure me of His enduring presence. While experiencing great joys in life, I have also found myself frightened, uncertain, and, at times, dreading what lay before me: job and career changes, parenting, life-changing illnesses of friends and family, death of parents and siblings, and social injustices.

Similar to my senior year of high school, these words of God through Joshua keep showing up - in my devotions, in Scripture reading, in sermons, within a card from a friend. Each time, I have been emboldened to be courageous and strong: "God will be with you wherever you go." Reassurance and truth because God was and is indeed with me.

As I write, Advent begins. Again, the path ahead is unknown. Yet, I CAN be strong because God has promised to be with me, as well as you, each step of this Advent journey. His Word of light and life brightens our path, enabling us to take the difficult and easy paths before us. Our path becomes clear. Christmas will come. Christ will come!



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REASSURING GOD,
COME TO US, LIVE WITHIN US.
MAKE US COURAGEOUS AND
STRONG FOR ALL THAT LIES
AHEAD.
AMEN.