

Blessings Remembered

God's Word, various images and occasional history as presented on this devotional website page will hopefully prompt memories of many personal blessings from God in your lives. May you always trust in God's promised blessings, past, present, future and for all eternity.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

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Photo: Bill Van Nostrand

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26

In the midst of an unexpected snowfall, a rose struggles to bloom. Often, quirks of nature can be much like our own struggles in life, sudden, harsh, and unpredictable.

We frequently find ourselves struggling in the midst of adversity of one sort or another. Our troubles may even bring us to the point of giving up. Things seem hopeless. We find that we have nothing within us to continue. On our own, sin has

the upper hand and robs us of our true strength, the strength of a right, or righteous, relationship with our Creator.

"But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!"

Psalm 22:19

It's January of a new year. For the retail businesses, it's estimated that, people will return almost 10% of Christmas purchases. Wouldn't it be great if we could somehow exchange our bad years for better ones. If we could only take them back, as easily as we use this time after Christmas to exchange gifts we have received. "Lord, give me a better year. I sure would like to make an exchange for this past one that I received." "It was the pits."

Such words express our weariness, frustration, even despair. Yet, like the rose pictured above, even in unexpected and seemingly impossible situations, there is strength given to us. The Psalms urge us to remember the true source of strength.

"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!" Psalm 105:4

God Himself gives us the strength necessary to face troubles and hardships, only He overcomes the hopelessness of our struggles with sin. God personally gives His promise of strength, through faith in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; ***"For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? - the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless."***

Psalm 18:31 – 32

God's Word expresses, so well, the promised strength we receive from Him, strength to "bloom" so to speak, even in the midst of difficult times. ***"May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!"***

Psalm 29:11

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

Salvation, God's forgiveness, strength and eternal life, is freely and loving given to each person through faith in Jesus. This is a promise God made long ago, an eternal

promise that always remains for us. This promise from God is a living promise, ours only through the life of Jesus Christ. God says of Jesus; ***"And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace."*** Micah 5:4 - 5

In response to God's gracious love and mercy toward us in Jesus, the Apostle Paul wrote; ***"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*** Philippians 4:13

This doesn't mean that we are protected from all harm. Also, it doesn't mean that we will be spared from harsh and unexpected times of adversity or struggle. It doesn't mean all our new years will be thoroughly happy. No, Paul meant that in all we face, especially the struggles, God has promised that He is with us, never to leave us or forsake us. Therefore, during our struggles, The Lord's strength sees us through.

A life of faith in the Lord is a life that declares; ***"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."*** Psalm 28:7

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Revelation 7:12

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."
Isaiah 40:8

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All Scripture quoted from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016) Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.