

## "Further Proof that God Cares"

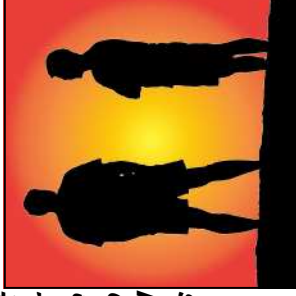
Throughout the Bible God's people have questioned His character and whether He is on their side. Moses told Israel, **"God is not a man, that he should lie...hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19)**. Unlike human beings, God never lies to us and never fails to carry through on His best plans for us.

In the time of Jeremiah, when Israel was suffering at the hands of her enemies, God reminded them, **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11)**. Israel's problems were caused by their own rebellion and unfaithfulness toward God, but even then He wanted to let them know that He didn't harbor evil thoughts about them. He wanted them to have a good outcome.

God does correct His disobedient children because He loves them (Hebrews 12:5-15). Often when He corrects our sinful attitudes or behaviors His ways can seem intense and relentless. The Bible encourages us to avoid greater discipline by responding quickly to the corrective actions of God (Psalm 51; Isaiah 1:15-20; James 4:4-10 and 1 John 1:5-10). We need to be very careful when going through a period of discipline to not accuse God of not caring or having abandoned us, **"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5b)**. His correction demonstrates that He is on our side building our character.

## "Parting Thoughts"

The Apostle Paul uses this summation in his letter to the Romans, **"What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32)**.



When we question

whether God is on our side, we have to consider all the Biblical evidence concerning the unchanging character of God. And we have to evaluate our personal experiences like David who concluded, **"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side..." (Psalm 124)**. David realized that things could have been so much worse had the Lord not intervened on his behalf. He humbly realized that **"our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."**

The most convincing proof for God being on our side is Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross of Calvary. Instead of leaving us struggling in our sins, He came to earth sent by the love of the Father to save us (John 3:16). The cross is our greatest assurance that God is truly on our side!

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**"The God who is  
on Our Side"**



**By Pastor Curt Carter**

## ***The God who is on Our Side***

***"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."***

*- Joshua 1:9 New King James*

***"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord takes my part with those who help me..."***

*-Psalm 118: 6-7a King James*

The photo on the cover of this pamphlet is of a "Joshua Tree" which only grows in the Mojave Desert of southwest California, Utah, Nevada and Arizona. It was named by the American pioneers as they moved westward. They felt it was like the prophet Joshua urging them to move beyond the arid desert in search of the fertile promised land of the western coast. Truly Joshua did know about the fears and apprehensions of moving beyond the familiar



into the territory of uncertainty. But God knew his heart and came to encourage him. He reminded Joshua that ***"wherever you go"*** He would be with him. I'm sure that God's promise to Joshua gave him the courage he needed. It is so comforting to

know that God is traveling with us. But can we always count on Him to be by our side?

## ***Biblical Promises Stand on God's Character***

From my personal experience of working with new Christians, learning to trust God wholeheartedly often presents a challenge. To be fair, the Bible never says that trust will be immediate and unconditional but is rather something that is learned over a period of time. In human relationships it takes quite a while to start trusting someone with important and intimate details about ourselves and even then there can be occasional setbacks on the path to deeper trust.

Often in our relationship with God, the death of a loved one, a lost job, family issues or a serious report from the doctor might threaten our level of trust as we mentally work through all our emotional questions. We wonder if the God that we have learned to love really cares about the details, small and great, of our everyday lives. Sometimes the promises we read in the Bible seem just too good to be true. We might think that they only work for certain favored people and are not directed toward us.

However, the promises in the Bible are given to every believer and receive their authenticity from the unchanging character of God. The more we begin to understand the distinctive qualities of God the easier it becomes to trust Him with all the details of our lives. And even when things don't turn out the way we planned, we are willing to trust God with the outcome because His way is best. The more deeply we come to know God the stronger our trust becomes. Let's consider the divine character of God.

## ***"Divine Qualities"***

Some of our struggles with believing that God is on our side come from the human failures that we have experienced. Most of us feel that we have been betrayed or hurt by someone we trusted and it



is easy to think of God in the same way. But He has none of our human character flaws. The Apostle John reveals to us, ***"This, then, is the message which we heard of him [Jesus], and declare unto you, that God is light, and in***

***him is no darkness at all"*** (1 John 1:5). God has no ulterior motives, no wicked intentions, no envy, no hidden resentments, no darkness of any kind. Jesus wanted His disciples to know absolutely that only positive characteristics emanated from God the Father and nothing "dark" existed within Him.

James adds, ***"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning"*** (James 1:17). God is absolutely reliable because He does not "vary" in the expression of His unfailing love towards us. He is as dependable as the rising and setting of the sun. And the light that He sheds falls on everyone because there is no dark, shadowy side with God. He consistently loves every one of His sons and daughters and wants to let them know that He is on their side. Our fears and apprehensions fade in the steadfast light of God's enduring love.