

## Daily Devotional: April 15, 2020 Do Not Fear

How often have you heard someone say, “God doesn’t give you more than you can handle?”, as if that is supposed to soothe our anxiety and make everything better. Does that mean that God gave us anxiety because God thought we could handle it? Does that mean that God allows pandemics to break out because, although the consequences are severe, even life threatening, we are allowed to suffer because God thought we could handle it—maybe even make us stronger? Of course not.

Let me change the phrase just a bit. “God goes with you through everything you’re given.” Does that have a better ring to it? When we hear it this way, it sounds as if we are being told that God sees that we are struggling, and God gets in stride right alongside of us. In fact, God was there well before our struggles began. And our greatest assurance is that God won’t ever leave us alone.

Please don’t hang your head or beat yourself up because you think you are weak. Others may suggest that to you, probably because they have gone through similar experiences and therefore think that we all respond to troubling situations in the same manner. No one else is you and, therefore, they cannot determine your strength. You are resilient. You are fearless. You are God’s handiwork. And God loves God’s creation enough to be with it every stage of the progression. That means every second of our lives.

We need not fear because God is with us, God has established a relationship with us, and God gives us assurance of God’s strength, help, and victory over sin and even death. Have you realized all the ways God has helped You? Start counting all the ways and give God praise!

*Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**Prayer:** Sovereign God, you tell me that You will never leave me. How did I get so lucky to have a God that could love me so much? Please open my eyes and allow me to see that You have been walking with me all along. That You never leave me. Help me to feel the peace of knowing that you are always by my side. Let me feel comfort in knowing that you don’t think that I am weak. Lord, thank you so much for caring for each one of us as if we were the only one you have created. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.