

AUTOPSY • Week 5: Probability or Promise?

Daily Briefing • Day 5 of 5 • What God Has Actually Promised You in This Life

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

This week has been honest about what God does not promise in this life. Today we close with equal honesty about what He does. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, it is so easy for me to focus on what I do not have while neglecting all that I do have. Help me to see what You have promised in this life for my current journey and my current mission. Grow gratitude in me for what I do have, and wilt my frustration over all that I think I lack. I ask these things humbly in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

Sunday's sermon was honest that following God produces the probability of earthly flourishing, but not the guarantee. This week has been equally honest about the exceptions, the misuse of that principle, what to do when the storm comes anyway, and how to measure a well-lived life by a more comprehensive set of standards. Today we close with what the week would be incomplete without: a clear-eyed look at what God does actually promise to every believer in this life before the resurrection. He has not left us empty-handed in the present.

Think of an ambassador on assignment in a foreign country. They do not get a guarantee of a comfortable tour. But they get three things that make the mission possible: the constant presence and authority of the home government behind them, protection from being permanently removed from their post, and provision sufficient to carry out the work they were sent to do. These are not luxury benefits. They are the minimum requirements for the assignment to succeed. That is the structure of what God promises every believer in this life. Three categories. Each one real, specific, and available right now.

Presence is the promise that God will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) and will be with us always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Protection is the promise that no one can snatch the believer from His hand (John 10:28-29) and that no temptation will exceed what we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). Provision is the promise that God will supply every need according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19) and that those who seek His Kingdom first will have what they need added to them (Matthew 6:33). One qualifier runs through all three: these promises cover what is needed to complete the mission. The ambassador gets what is required for the work, not a personal wish list. That is not a limitation. It is a description of how faithful the King is to those He has sent.

READ & MEDITATE

Presence

Hebrews 13:5b

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Matthew 28:20b

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Protection

John 10:28–29

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Provision

Philippians 4:19

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Read through all six passages. For each category, identify what is being promised and what is not being promised. Notice what the qualifier is in the provision passages specifically.

REFLECT

God's promise of presence is not a general spiritual awareness. It is a specific, personal commitment: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

What does it do to the way you carry your current circumstances to know that God has made that specific commitment to you personally? Where do you most need the weight of that promise right now? This might look like a season of isolation where no one seems to be showing up, a period of confusion where no answers are coming, or a loss that has left you feeling genuinely alone. Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

God's promise of protection is not exemption from difficulty. It is a specific commitment that the difficulty will not demand that you forfeit your faith even though it may cost comfort, convenience, achievement, or even your life.

Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 10:13:

"God is _____, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your _____, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of _____, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

*These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.

What is one specific pressure, temptation, or difficulty you are currently facing that feels like it might be exceeding what you can handle? What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 say specifically about that experience?

Philippians 4:19 promises that God will supply every need. The qualifier in Matthew 6:33 is that the need is connected to seeking His kingdom first. An American analogy might be that our military does not provide every need to civilians that are not even in the fight. Professional sports teams provide training, nutrition, and equipment for the players on the field, not for the fans in the stands. Provision is tied to mission.

What is the difference between what you genuinely need to fulfill God's calling on your life right now and what you want? Where is the gap, and what do the provision promises say into that gap specifically?

MY "I WILL" STATEMENT

Sample: *This week I will identify which of the three promises, presence, protection, or provision, I most need to hold front and center right now. I will write that specific promise somewhere I will see it every morning and preach it to myself before I assess my challenging circumstances.*

This week, because of what God has shown me in His Word, I will:

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Galatians 6:9 from memory:
