

CHARLES H. SPURGEON
Revised & Updated by Tim Chester

The
PROMISES
of
GOD

*A New Edition of the Classic Devotional
Based on the English Standard Version*

MARCH 11

This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand
. . . that all this assembly may know that the LORD
saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the
LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.

1 Samuel 17:46–47

Let this point be certain: the battle is the Lord's, and we may be quite sure of the victory. And we may be sure of a victory that will best display the power of God. The Lord is too often forgotten by all people, even by the assemblies of Israel. And when there is an opportunity to make people see that the Great First Cause can achieve his purposes without the power of man, it is a priceless occasion which should not be missed. Even Israel looked too often to the sword and spear. It is a grand thing to have no sword in the hand of David, and yet for David to know that his God will overthrow a whole army of foreigners.

If we are indeed contending for truth and righteousness, let us not wait until we have talent, or wealth, or any other form of visible power at our disposal. Instead, with whatever stones we find in the brook and with our own usual sling, let us run to meet the enemy. If it were our own battle we might not be confident. But if we are standing up for Jesus, and fighting in his strength alone, who can withstand us? Without a trace of hesitation let us face the Philistines. For the Lord of Hosts is with us, and who can be against us?

MARCH 14

As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you.

Isaiah 66:13

A mother's comfort! Ah, this is tenderness itself. How she enters into her child's grief! How she presses him to her chest and tries to take all his sorrow into her own heart! He can tell her everything, and she will sympathize as nobody else can. Of all comforters a child loves his mother the best. It is true even for many full-grown men.

Does the Lord condescend to play the role of a mother? This is goodness indeed. We readily perceive how he is a father. But will he be like a mother as well? Does not this invite us to holy familiarity, to unreserved confidence, to sacred rest? When God himself becomes the Comforter no anguish can long remain. Let us pour out our trouble, even if sobs and sighs should become the language we use. He will not despise us for our tears, just as our mother did not. He will consider our weakness as she did. He will put aside our faults, only in a surer, safer way than our mother could do. We will not try to bear our grief alone—that would be unkind to one so gentle and so kind.

If we begin the day with our loving God, we will finish it in the same company, since mothers do not grow weary of their children.

MARCH 15

Therefore say, “Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.”

Ezekiel 11:16

Banished from the public means of grace, we are not removed from the grace behind the means of grace. The Lord who places his people where they feel like exiles will himself be with them. He will be to them all that they could have had at home in the place of their sacred assemblies. Take this promise as your own if you are called to wander!

God is to his people a place of *refuge*. They find sanctuary with him from every adversary. He is their place of *worship* too. He is with them as he was with Jacob when he slept in the open field and woke, saying, “Surely the LORD is in this place” (Gen. 28:16). To them he will also be a sanctuary of *peace*, like the Most Holy Place, which was the noiseless abode of the Eternal. They will be kept from fear of evil.

God himself, in Christ Jesus, is the sanctuary of *mercy*. The ark of the covenant is the Lord Jesus, and Aaron’s rod, the pot of manna, the tables of the law are in Christ our sanctuary. In God we find the shrine of *holiness* and of *communion*. What more do we need?

Oh Lord, fulfill this promise and always be to us like a little sanctuary!

MARCH 16

What you have learned and received and
heard and seen in me—practice these things,
and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

It is good when a man can be profitably copied so minutely as Paul might have been. Oh, for grace to imitate him this day and every day!

If we, with the help of divine grace, put into practice the teaching of Paul, we may claim this promise. And what a promise it is! God, who loves peace, makes peace, and breathes peace, will be with us. “Peace will be with you” is a sweet blessing. But for the God of peace to be with us is far more. For in God we have the fountain as well as the streams, the sun as well as his beams. If the God of peace be with us, we will enjoy the peace of God that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7), even though outward circumstances threaten to disturb us. If people quarrel, we are certain to be peacemakers, if the Maker of peace is with us.

It is in the way of truth that real peace is found. If we quit the faith or leave the path of righteousness under the notion of promoting peace, we will be greatly mistaken. First pure, then peaceable, is the order of wisdom and of fact. Let us keep to Paul’s line, and we will have the God of peace with us as he was with the apostle.

MARCH 17

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:8

Whenever fear comes in and makes us falter, we are in danger of falling into sin. To be conceited is to be dreaded, but so is cowardice. “Dare to be a Daniel” (Philip B. Bliss). Our great Captain should be served by brave soldiers.

What a reason for bravery there is here! God is with those who are with him. God will never be absent when the hour of struggle comes. Do they threaten you? Who are you that you should be afraid of a man that will die? Will you lose your position? Your God whom you serve will find bread and water for his servants. Can you not trust him? Do they pour ridicule upon you? Will this break your bones or your heart? Bear it for Christ’s sake and even rejoice because of it.

God is with the true, the just, the holy, to deliver them; and he will deliver you. Remember how Daniel came out of the lions’ den, and the three holy children out of the furnace (Daniel 3, 6). Your case is not as desperate as theirs. But even if it were, the Lord would bear you through, and make you more than a conqueror. Fear to fear. Be afraid to be afraid. Your worst enemy is within your own heart. Get to your knees and cry for help, and then rise up saying, “I will trust, and will not be afraid” (Isa. 12:2).