Life isn't Linear, but God's Presence is Consistent

In four days, we will look at seven different passages in the Bible that point to God's consistent presence and reminds us that God is ALWAYS with us.

DAY 1: God was present before the world was created.

Growing up, I believed that as I got older, life would get easier and my problems would get smaller (HA!). It's not that life has gotten harder, it's just that life isn't a linear line that goes up on the easy scale with each passing day. Some days are wonderful, while others are wildly challenging. In fact one minute might be incredible, and the very next minute could be incredibly tough. Although life isn't linear day to day or even minute to minute, God is consistent in every moment, and that is a truth that can carry us through life's many ups and downs.

God is ALWAYS present, and He is never-changing. Regardless of if we're experiencing a tough moment or a terrific one; He is always with us, and is always the same God. In other words, God is consistent. We know this, because He shows us in the bible. Starting at the very beginning, God is there. Let's go to the Word to find God's consistent presence.

Today let's focus on God's presence in the very beginning.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, _____ created the heavens and the earth.

God created the heavens and the earth, meaning God was present before ANYTHING else, even before the universe was created.

John 1:1-2

In the beginning _____, and the _____, and the Word _____. He was_____ in the beginning.

The Word is another name for Jesus, the son of God, a part of the trinity. This verse in John tells us that Jesus has been present since the beginning, even before creation.

Genesis 1:2

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the _____ was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Even in the beginning, God wasn't just present in the physical sense, but the Spirit of God was also present, hanging in the atmosphere. Because of the fall, (Adam and Eve sinning in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 3:1-24) we cannot see God in the physical, however we can feel Him in the spiritual. The same Spirit of God that was present in the beginning, is still present with us today.

Reflection Time

How does knowing that the same God who was present before creation is the same God present in your life right now impact your perspective when you're faced with difficult moments and situations?

Prayer

DAY 2: God is present even on our worst days.

Genesis 3:8-9

Then the man and his wife _____ in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God _____ and said to him, "Where are you?"

Adam and Eve could hear God walking in the garden, which means God was with them in the physical. God talks with Adam and Eve, which is another indicator that God was present physically.

Not only does this show us that God was physically present with Adam and Eve, it also shows us that God is present even on our worst days. Adam and Eve had just committed the first sin against God, yet God never left them. He was angry for sure. There were consequences. But despite that, God still showed up for them. This gives us hope that God WILL show up for us even when we mess up or are going through a difficult time.

Reflection Time

In Genesis 3:8-9, God showed up for Adam and Eve even though they disobeyed his commandment. There were consequences for their actions, yet God did not abandon them. What does this say about God?

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Going Deeper

Read Genesis 3:1-24, the story of Satan's deception that led to Adam and Eve's temptation and sin. Within this passage, find specific moments where God shows up for Adam and Eve despite their sinful actions. List the different ways God shows up:

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DAY 3: God is present when we feel ill-equipped and fearful.

Exodus 3:12

He [The Lord] answered, "_____ be with you..."

Here God is talking to Moses about His plans to use Moses to free the Israelites from slavery. Moses doesn't believe that he is qualified to carry out God's plan, and God responds with, "I will certainly be with you". This is a promise from God, and God ALWAYS keeps His promises, which means that this promise of His presence is extended to us as well. We can take heart during moments when we don't feel equipped, because God will certainly be with us.

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, _____; do not be afraid,_____ .
I will strengthen you, I will help you; _____ with my righteous right hand.

The promise of God's presence is here again. In the moments that we feel fearful or weak, God is there. We can let go of our fears and trust that God will give us strength and support, because He tells us that He is with us and will hold on to us.

Reflection Time

Reflect on a time when you felt like God was calling you to something you didn't feel qualified or equipped for. Did you rely on God's presence to carry you through? When this happens again (because God WILL call you again if you're willing to hear Him!), how will you respond now that you have these passages tucked away in your heart?

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Going Deeper

Take some time to read through Exodus chapters 1-14, the story of God using Moses to free the Israelites from slavery. How does God show up and provide for Moses even when Moses feels unequipped and unqualified?

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DAY4: God is present when we share the gospel.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, And remember, _____, to the _____ _____ .

After Jesus died and was resurrected, He appeared to His disciples and spoke these words over them. After He instructed them to share the good news of the gospel to all nations, He left them with the promise of His presence. He reassured them that He would be with them always, to the end of the age.

For those of us who consider ourselves disciples of Christ, we know that He is also talking to us through this passage, telling us that He is always with us as we embark on the journey to share the good news of the gospel with the people in our lives. Let's face it, sometimes sharing the gospel with others can be hard, because we don't know how they might react. However, we can step into those situations with confidence and love, knowing that God is with us and going before us in these moments, guiding our words and actions.

Reflection Time

How does the promise that God is always with you as you share the gospel with others (Matthew 28:19-20) encourage you to live out your faith, especially when you don't know how others might respond?

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Going Deeper

What other stories/passages in the Bible that you've read or heard before make you think of God's consistent and dependable presence?

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Wrap Up

These passages in the Bible offer us such SWEET CERTAINTY that God is consistent, God is dependable, and God is always present. Life is nothing if not a roller coaster of good moments and hard ones; and sometimes the good and the bad coexist in the same moment. Thankfully, we can rely on God to be present with us at all times, because He's shown us that He is there over and over again.

What practical things can you do this week to remind yourself that God is present with you?

Dear Lord God,

I am so thankful for your consistent presence. Thank you for showing me through your Word, the Bible, that you are present at all times. Thank you for being dependable and unwavering when life is uncertain. Thank you for being with me in my moments of joy, and my moments of hurt. You are a strong, loving, faithful father. I pray that when I face problems in my day, I will draw on your promise to me that you are right there with me, just as you said in Exodus 3:12. Regardless of if I mess up, feel unqualified, have fear, or feel ready and excited to carry out the great commission and share the good news with others, thank you for being with me through it all. I love you!