

# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,  
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!  
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." –Matthew 28:20

My father was approaching the end of his life. His body was no longer responding to treatment. I made a large poster in a bright color and taped it to the wall of his hospital room, so that he could see it at all times. “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” (Isaiah 41:10, NIV). He told me how much this sign meant to him, reassuring him of God’s presence with him during his final days.

God’s presence is the most encouraging promise we have on our earthly journey. God promises to be with us on good and bad days, in sickness and in health, in comfort and in want. Matthew highlights God’s presence with us both at the beginning and at the end of his Gospel. In Matthew 1:23 we are told that Jesus is Immanuel, which means “God with us.” And at the conclusion of this Gospel, Jesus Himself reminds us that He is with us until the end! (Matthew 28:20). In the original Greek, the verse reads in this order: “I with you (I) am all the days until the completion of the age.” In Greek, the emphasis is found in the middle of the sentence; “all the days” is found at the center of His assurance. I am comforted by the constancy of God’s presence with me each and every day, and all the days until this world is no more. In the Old Testament, God’s presence was promised to His people to empower them for a particular task or endeavor. When Moses was overwhelmed with his commission, he asked God “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11). God answered: “Certainly I will be with you” (verse 12). The same promise is given to Joshua, because he was to lead Israel into the Promised Land (see Joshua 1:5). And the promise is given directly by the risen Jesus to His disciples, following the Great Commission. He who has conquered death and possesses authority over all things in heaven and on earth, is the same One who promises: I am with you all the days until the end. Be assured, my friend, for the eternal God and Savior is with you!