

BIBLE

Read it. Live it. Share it.

Biweekly Devotional: Top 10 Scripture For Times Of Uncertainty

Life is full of uncertainties. Thankfully, we can always be certain about the unchanging nature of God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. If you are facing uncertainty, we hope you will take encouragement from these Top 10 Scripture For Times Of Uncertainty. For the next two weeks, we'll look at some of the assurances we have from God and the confidence we can take from each of them.

Day One (#10) I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8

King David had many times of uncertainty in his life. From leaving home to serve King Saul, to facing Goliath, to his many battles, to having to hide from King Saul, his foreign enemies and even his own son. However, as Psalm 16 demonstrates, no matter how low David felt or how threatened he was, he could always turn to God to give him strength. Read Psalm 16:1-11 to see how David dealt with this particular time of uncertainty and where he focused his attention.

- In verse 1, what does David call on God to do for him?
- In verse 2, David immediately moves past his call for help to praise God for all good things. Why do you think he does this?
- Is it important to praise God even in difficult times? Is this hard for you?
- In verse 8, what does David say he will focus on at all times: His problems or the Lord?
- David was confident that no matter what he was going through as long as the Lord was at his right hand, he would not be shaken. Do you have this same confidence? Should you?
- In verse 9, what three things is David able to do because he knows the Lord is at his right hand? Are you able to do these things even in times of uncertainty?
- What situation are you uncertain about today?
- Have you prayed asking God to intervene in this situation or are you trying to handle it yourself?
- Where are your eyes focused: On the Lord or on the situation?

- Can you think of an uncertain situation you faced in the past the God helped you through?

Pray and ask God for help through the time of uncertainty you are facing now. Thank him for his faithfulness in past situations and praise him that as long as he is at your right hand, you will not be shaken.

Day Two (#9) Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Psalm 34:8-10

At one point in David's life, he fled from King Saul who was trying to kill him. To escape him, David went to another country and pretended to be insane so King Achish would allow him to stay hidden out of harm's way. Read Psalm 34:1-22 to see how David was feeling during this time.

- David begins this Psalm by praising God, saying that no matter what he is going through, he will praise the Lord. Are you able to praise God in difficult times? Should you?
- In verse 2, David says he wants those who are in trouble to hear what he has to say and rejoice. Why? Do you get encouragement from hearing how God has helped others through difficult times?
- In verses 4 and 6, David says the Lord delivered him from all of his fears and all of his troubles. However, in verse 7 he puts a condition on who God delivers. What is that condition? Who does David say God delivers?
- In verse 8, David is encouraging the readers to try or test the goodness of the Lord. Why do you suppose he has this much confidence to know the Lord won't disappoint those who trust him? Can you be confident the Lord won't fail you?
- In verses 9-10, David continues the theme of those who fear the Lord. What does it mean to "fear" the Lord? What does David say about them in this verse?
- In verses 11-14, David is intent on teaching young people to fear the Lord and to stay away from evil and do good. Why do you suppose David is so intent on teaching this to others?
- In verse 17, who does David say will be delivered? What makes someone righteous?
- What does David say about troubles in verse 19? Does David suggest we won't have troubles or just that the Lord will be with us and deliver us from them?
- As Christians, should we expect a trouble free life if we fear the Lord? What can we count on?

Pray and thank God that no matter what life brings your way, you can count on him to be with you and deliver you.

Day Three (#8) Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

Today's reading is from the prophet Jeremiah, during a particularly bleak time in Israel's history. Though God had delivered the Promised Land to the Jewish people, they had fallen into sin and turned their backs on God. Eventually, their cities had been captured by their enemies and their people killed or carried away into exile. Read Jeremiah 33:1-26 to learn of the restoration God promised to the people of Israel through his prophet.

- What do we know about Jeremiah's situation from verse 1?
- In verse 2, we are reminded of who the Lord is, his power, and his capabilities. Why would this have been particularly important at that time? Is it important for us to remember the Lord's power and capabilities when we are going through uncertain times as well?
- What does Jeremiah tell people to do in verse 3? How does he say God will respond if we do?
- Does this still apply to us today? Are there any conditions put on this instruction or is it simply that if we call on God, he will answer?
- Do you believe God is capable of showing you things that you could not know otherwise? Do you believe he will?
- Is this something you have ever prayed for before? If not, why not?
- Verses 5 and 6 offer a strong contrast in showing both how God says he will react to wickedness as well as his promise of redemption, peace and security. What does God say he will do in verse 8, before the city will stand as a testimony to God's goodness as described in verse 9?
- In verses 15-18, Jeremiah looks ahead to a more distant future when someone from the line of David will be ruling? Who is he speaking of?
- In verse 16, Jeremiah provides a prophecy of Jesus, what does he call him?

Pray and ask God to show you great and unsearchable things you do not know and cannot know unless he reveals them to you.

Day Four (#7) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7

In the book of 1 Peter, the apostle writes to give encouragement and instruction to the early Christians who had been scattered because of persecution. In the letter, he encourages them to live out their faith in their new homelands where they can be examples if they avoid the sinful lifestyles around them. Read 1 Peter 5:1-11 to learn Peter's teaching to the leaders of the early church and the first believers on the importance of humility and the faithfulness of God.

- To what occupation does Peter compare the church elders to in verse 2?
- Peter is obviously concerned about the manner in which the elders lead the church as well. What two things does he encourage them NOT to do in verses 2 and 3? What two things does he tell them to do?

- Beginning in verse 5, Peter begins to speak to the importance of humility. What is one benefit mentioned in verse 5 of being humble?
- What does Peter say God will do in verse 6 if we humble ourselves?
- In verse 7, what does Peter say we should do with our worries? Why?
- How easy is it for you to cast your anxieties on the Lord?
- Are you able to leave your anxieties there, or do you find yourself continually taking them back and worrying?
- How does it help us to understand that God cares for us? Can you think of a time when God took care of a situation or need you were facing?
- What sober warning does Peter give in verse 8?

Pray and thank God that he loves you and cares for you. Ask him for help to cast all of your cares on him and to leave them there and to trust him to care for you.

Day Five (#6) Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

As we mentioned in days One and Three, although David was greatly blessed, he lived a very stressful life. There were many times he feared for his life and was forced to flee or hide. Psalm 25 is a poem that David wrote asking God to protect him, thanking him for his faithfulness and asking for instruction. Read Psalm 25:1-22, to see how David was feeling during this time and how his thoughts might instruct you.

- How does David begin this Psalm? What declaration does he make right up front?
- What protections then does David ask for in verse 2?
- In verses 4 and 5, David asks God for four things? What are they?
- What two reasons does David give for his faith in God that he will answer?
- If God is your Savior and you hope in him at all times, how confident should you be?
- If God shows you his ways, teaches you the path to follow and guides you with his truth, what flexibility do you think you have in whether or not to follow what he shows you and where he guides you?
- In verses 8-11, David returns to the theme of humility we looked at earlier this week. Why do you suppose humility is so important in following God?
- In verse 12, what does David say God will do for those who fear the Lord?
- What additional benefits does David point out in verses 13 and 14?

Pray and thank God for his faithfulness. Ask him to give you direction and instruction so you can be obedient and do his will.

Weekend Reading: Scripture For Times Of Uncertainty

We were uncertain what to do with these great verses that didn't quite make our list:

- Proverbs 20:24
- Psalm 139:9-10
- Proverbs 2:1-9

Day Six (#5) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

After the death of Moses Joshua was chosen to lead the people of Israel. He had proven to be a faithful source of support to Moses, and more importantly, a faithful follower of God. The Lord told Joshua to prepare to enter the land he had promised Abraham and that no one would be able to stand against him until they finally received the Promised Land. Read Joshua 1:1-11 to see how God instructed and encouraged Joshua so the Jewish people would know that hand of God was on him as it had been on Moses.

- Joshua was chosen to lead the people of Israel after the death of Moses. How do think he might have felt being asked to follow such a great leader?
- Have you ever been asked to take on a significant role you weren't sure if you were ready for? How did it make you feel?
- When you're faced with an intimidating task, how do you prepare?
- How much do you rely on God to be successful on large assignments? Should you also rely on God for help in small assignments? How do you determine when to take your challenges to God?
- Beginning in verse 7, God instructs Joshua to be strong and very courageous. Do you think this is an acknowledgement that God realizes we have to do things that go against our nature which we may not find easy?
- God immediately addressed the importance of obedience to success. How much flexibility does God give Joshua in verse 7 in deciding whether or not to follow God's direction if he wants to be successful?
- In verse 8, what direction does God give Joshua for how to be prosperous and successful?
- What does it mean to "meditate" on God's word? How is that different than just reading it?
- God tells Joshua to do everything written in his word. Are there any instructions in the Bible that you ignore or disregard because you don't really think they matter?
- What three conditions does God place on his promise of prosperity and success in verse 8?

Pray and thank God for the opportunities he gives you to utilize your gifts and to lead. Ask him to teach you how to approach difficult tasks with confidence in him and in his faithfulness. Pray also that he will give you wisdom and strength to achieve the tasks before you.

Day Seven (#4) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8

King David's life was marked by tremendous highs and lows. He had the courage to defeat great armies and mighty warriors, but was still capable of committing adultery and murder. Psalm 32:1-11 gives us a glimpse into how David felt about confessing his sin and the restoration of his relationship with God.

- In verses 1-2, how does David say he feels now that his sins are forgiven?
- In verses 3-4, how does David describe the way he felt when he was not confessing his sin?
- Why do you think David waited to confess his sin?
- Have you ever known you did something wrong but failed to confess it? How did you feel?
- In verse 5, David seems to outline a process whereby he acknowledges his sin, confesses it in full and is forgiven. Is it really that simple?
- David is then so encouraged by how he is feeling, he advises everyone to do the same thing. Do you regularly confess your sins?
- How often do you think we should confess our sins? Should we confess each time we sin? How soon after we sin should we confess?
- In verses 6 and 7, David implies a connection between confession of sin and protection from danger. Do you think the two are connected?
- In verse 8, God says he will instruct David and teach him the way he should go and will advise him as he keeps his loving eye on him. Is this promise just for David? Do you think it applies to us today as well? Are there any conditions we must meet in order for us to have this same relationship with God?

Pray and thank God that he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross in payment for our sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal sin in your life so you can confess it. Then ask God to instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.

Day Eight (#3) If anyone lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5

The Book of James was written by the brother of Jesus who became a great leader of the early church following the death and resurrection of Jesus. His book is plainspoken and easy to understand. Read James 1:1-8 to see what James has to say about the help God will provide for those who ask and believe.

- How does James think we should feel when we are going through difficult times?
- What is the benefit that comes from having our faith tested?
- In verse 4, what does James say is the result when perseverance finishes its work?
- Why would James say "if" anyone lacks wisdom? Don't we all lack wisdom in some ways or at some times? Do you think this could be related to the earlier lesson that we must first humble ourselves?
- In verse 5, James says two important things about God's giving. What are they?
- According to verse 5, if we ask for wisdom, will God give it?

- In verse 6, James says that though God will give us wisdom, we must believe and not doubt. What does he say happens if we lack faith and doubt?
- Why do you think that is the case?
- In verse 7, how does our lack of faith affect what we receive?
- How does James describe the impact this double-mindedness will have on our lives?

Pray and confess that you lack wisdom and then ask God for wisdom to know what to do in the most difficult situation you are facing today. Be sure to have faith that he will provide you with the wisdom you need.

Day Nine (#2) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

In the book of Romans, Paul writes to the believers in Rome who he longs to see. He says he has tried several times to visit them, but has been unable to do so. Perhaps because it has been so long since he saw them, Paul has much to say in this wide ranging book of the New Testament. From words of admonition to words of encouragement, to lessons in biblical history, Romans is a book rich with theology and wisdom for today's Christians. Read Romans 8:1-39 to learn one of the great assurances in all of scripture and the condition that accompanies it which many people ignore.

- Paul begins chapter 8 by explaining that in Christ's death we have the fulfillment of the Old Testament law and forgiveness for our sins. In verse 1, what does Paul say those who are in Christ Jesus are free of?
- In verse 6, what does Paul say are the two outcomes for people who live their lives according to the Holy Spirit?
- Paul points out one clear piece of evidence that lets us know whether we are the children of God. What is it?
- To what does Paul compare to the pains of childbirth in verses 22-24?
- Verses 26-27, offer a great assurance for when we don't even know how to pray? What is it? Can you think of a time when you were so down or confused you didn't even know how you should pray?
- So many people say, "Things always work out for the best." Is that really what verse 28 says? What condition is put on that promise?
- Should we speak up when people are under the impression that all things simply work out for the best for all people?
- What is an example from your life of something that turned out for the good even though it didn't seem that way at the time?
- Does knowing that things do work out for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose help alleviate the pressure of some situations?
- If all things work out for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose, does that mean we don't need to try our best, make good decisions or care about things?

Pray and thank God for the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. Thank him that the Holy Spirit is praying for you according to his will and that all things will work out for your good if you love him and are called according to his purpose.

Day Ten (#1) Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs was written by Solomon, who the Bible tells us is the wisest man who ever lived. Yet his advice in Proverbs 3 is that we should not rely on our own understanding, but submit to God and rely on him for direction. Read Proverbs 3:1-8 to learn how the wisest man to ever live, suggests we live our lives.

- In verse 1, Solomon advises the reader not to forget what he/she is learning because these teaching will produce three benefits listed in verse 2. What are they?
- In verse 3, Solomon advises the reader to bind which two traits around our neck and write them on our heart?
- What does Solomon say this will win you?
- In verses 5-6, Solomon provides a three step process for us to follow if we want God to lead us and guide us. What are the three things we must do?
- How does Solomon's advice to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," compare to James' advice in James 8:5-7?
- Why do you suppose Solomon would advise us to not rely on our understanding? Can you think of a time your understanding of a situation was wrong? Do you feel like you fully understand most situations or is your understanding limited to your knowledge and what you can see and hear?
- How does Solomon's advice to submit to God (verse 6) and not to be wise in our own eyes (verse 7) compare to our earlier lessons on being humble?
- He also advises the reader to fear the Lord in verse 7. How is this similar to what his Father David suggested in Psalm 34?
- Fearing the Lord appears to be one principle Solomon learned from his father, King David. What biblical principles do you want your children to learn from you?
- What additional benefit does Solomon promise in verse 8?

Pray and thank God that you can rely on his wisdom to guide you and that you don't have to depend on your own limited wisdom and knowledge?

See more Bible Top 10 countdowns at www.bibletop10.com.