

# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## I Will Not Forsake You

God's promise of unwavering fidelity is an anchor that keeps us strong through the storms of life. But it is important that we understand what that means—and what it does *not* mean.

*“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Deut. 31:6).*

*“The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you” (2 Chron. 15:2).*



Few disappointments in life are more painful than being forsaken by someone in whom we have placed our trust. When a friend deserts us, it tears out a piece of our soul. The loyal wife who is dumped by her husband for another woman; the business partner who is left holding the bag by an unscrupulous associate; the foster child who is forever scarred by the knowledge that he was abandoned by parents who didn't want him—all these know the deep stab of pain that is inflicted when we are repudiated by a friend.

The consistent message of the Bible is that God is the one person who will *never* forsake us. He is a steadfast companion who will help us navigate the

worst that life throws at us—including the treachery of others. He will never leave us in the lurch or stab us in the back. With God always standing behind us, we can face life with courage.

But in practical terms, what does that mean?

For starters, it *doesn't* mean that God will never allow anything unpleasant to happen to us. “The discipline of the Lord” (Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5-11) is a major component of the training by which He teaches us strength and wisdom. The hard times are not a sign of God's treachery, but of His love. He is preparing us for something better. If we expect God's fidelity to shield us from every discomfort, we have a shallow view of God—and of life in general.

Neither does it mean that God is obligated to remain in an abusive relationship with us. Some argue that once we enter a covenant relationship with God, our salvation cannot be revoked (“once saved, always saved”). Too many people have embraced this irresponsible vision of God, inflicting enormous damage on God's image in the process.

God's promise of loyalty comes with a caveat. As the prophet warned King Asa, “If you forsake Him, He will forsake you.” God will bear with patience the sincere believer who loves Him and is making a good-faith effort to grow. But if we treat Him with careless indifference or deliberate contempt, He will allow us to go our own way—and reap the consequences. It's only fair.

So how is God's loyalty to us manifested? First, there is the daily providential evidence of His constancy. Those who strive to serve God will generally receive the practical benefits of a godly life in a thousand small ways. The cumulative effect of these gifts will be a life that, while not perfect, will be far better than the alternative.

More importantly, we have the glorious promise of something far better that awaits us at the end of the road. Through the resurrection of His own Son, God has given guarantee that someday our struggles will all be worth it. Nothing we face in this life—*nothing*—can threaten that hope. If we cling to Him, He will *never* forsake us.

– David King