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With God by Your Side ...You Never Have to Be Alone¹

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. – Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

In the journey of life, difficult times and obstacles appear when we least expect them. Circumstances change; plans and dreams fail; people we care about may be taken away from us. Suddenly the road we've been traveling with such confidence and hope turns in a direction we never anticipated, or even disappears altogether. We simultaneously struggle to find the meaning behind these events and look for a way beyond them. As we search for answers, we may feel hurt, confused, and lost... but we never have to feel alone or abandoned, as long as we remember that God is walking with us.

But the beautiful message and compelling reminder today is: no matter how great our challenges may be or what our days hold, we can always turn to and rely on God for support, comfort, healing, and unconditional love. He may make His presence known to us in many different ways. He may be in our hearts – in the small, quiet voice that guides us when complex choices present themselves and we're questioning our direction in life. We may find Him in the help and concern given to us by special people in our lives. But He is always there, and He always cares. Even the greatest problems we face are a part of God's plan for our lives. **With His help, there is no difficulty we cannot overcome;** within every disappointment lies the seed of a great victory, if only we keep our faith strong, our hearts hopeful, and our souls open to His guidance. For God is forever beside us.

Amen.

¹ *With God by Your Side*, Blue Mountain Press 1999

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

