

NEVER ALONE

August 4, 2019 | Pastor Piet Van Waarde

Sometimes we can find ourselves in places where we have difficulty sensing the closeness of God – the ancients refer to this as ‘the dark night of the soul’. It is in those seasons where Christian brothers/sisters can become the manifestation of love of God to us. And it is our investment in these spiritual friendships (before we need them) that is at the heart of what we are trying to encourage and develop around the church.

READ | Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:5; 1 Kings 8:57; Hebrews 13:5

The God of the universe says you matter so much to Him that He will never let you out of His sight. He will not abandon you. He will be with you, no matter what you are going through. No matter what you are facing.

READ | Daniel 3:16-17

Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego’s boldness infuriated the king so much so that he made the fire three times hotter. Yet, despite their impending doom, the three did not flinch and once they were in the fire a fourth person appeared with them and they were not burned – not even a hint of smoke upon them. They were rescued just as they hoped. A glorious story; forever etched in Biblical history as a sign/signal that God IS our ever-present time in our hour of need. He does come through.

READ | Daniel 3:18

God is our rescuer. Always! But, he doesn’t always rescue us in the way we prefer. The line uttered by the Hebrew men (v.18 ‘even if He doesn’t’), reflects the proper measure of humility where God always determines how/when to intervene. But, those moments create a dilemma for us – in times where He ‘doesn’t’: where do we find our comfort? The lack of an experience doesn’t change our confession. It doesn’t cause us to abandon our trust in God. It doesn’t move us off our confidence that God is still here and he is still at work for our ultimate good. Even if He doesn’t, it doesn’t change a thing...

REFLECT | Have you experienced a time when God did not rescue you? How did you find comfort?

This is what the development of community is really all about! We are there for each other in those “even when he doesn’t” stretches of life. A connection to God and others is THE way people survive at life. But, you have to see the need for it and you have to do something about it. And what makes that so difficult (for so many people) is that you have to make the investment in it, way before you ever really feel the need for it...

REFLECT | Do you have some solid Christian friends that you can talk to and pray with about what you are going through?

SUMMARY | Experience the love of God whenever you can glean bits and pieces of it – in worship, in nature, from the Bible, in your prayers, in your ministry to others... And then invest in deep and meaningful relationships for those seasons of your life, where things get really hard and God seems far away. It’s how we survive in life. It’s the best way to navigate the obstacles and know in the deepest places of your soul that you will never/ever be alone.

PRAYER | Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.