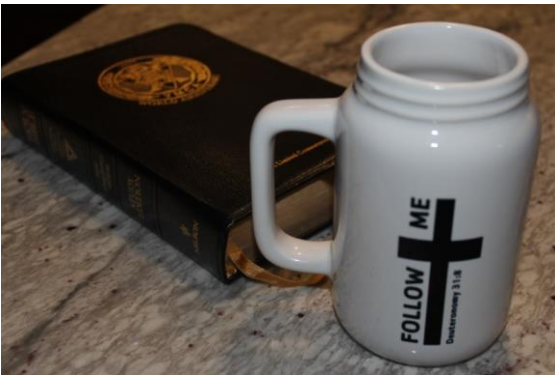


Follow Me

A friend of mine gave me a coffee mug she received at a YMCA conference. The mug had a theme of “Follow Me” and showed a cross and Deuteronomy 31:8. I looked up the verse in the Bible. It said *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.* What a great reassurance!



The book of Deuteronomy contains three sermons from Moses to the Israelites. The Lord guided Moses during the 40 years he led the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. Now Moses was encouraging Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. As many Biblical characters are when asked by God to do something, Joshua was uneasy about this new role. He was scared.

How often are you nervous or even scared when beginning a new project? New projects often take us out of our comfort zone. We fear failure. We can rest assured; however, if it is part of the Lord’s work, God will be with us and we do not need to be afraid. The Bible passage tells us that God is not only with us, but He goes before us to pave the way. That is not only comforting but it enables our success.

In just a few weeks I will begin a new venture. My entire adult life has been spent in non-profit management, but now I have the opportunity to take on a new civic responsibility. This week I was elected to the Board of Aldermen, the governing body in my community. There will be a learning curve and there will be people with differing points of view. I won’t be able to please everyone, but if I can please the Lord, I will have done my job.

So, how do I decide what is the right thing to do? As did young Solomon, I have prayed for wisdom and a discerning heart to make the right choices for the right reasons. *So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” (1 Kings 3:9).* God will guide me if I ask for His direction. I know I can count on the Lord to give me strength. And, I know the Lord is going *before me* to show me the way. It is not all on me.

You may also have a new venture in front of you. Perhaps it is a new job, a new relationship or a new volunteer role in the community. Have you asked God to be with you and to lead the way? If so, there is nothing to fear. God will not only be with you but He will go before you to show the path He wants you to take. Trust the Lord to help you and then proceed with confidence.

Keep in mind that God has equipped you for the new venture, even if you doubt your own abilities. Draw upon Him for strength and wisdom. The situations you have come through in your life are part of the preparation for your new venture. When we encourage others we often say, “You got this.” In reality, it is God who has given us what we need so, because of God’s enabling power, we’ve “got this.” Go forward with confidence that God is with you. From out in front the Lord says, “Follow me.”

Scripture Verses:

- *So 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).*
- *For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).*
- *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).*

Question: How has God helped you through a new venture? What did you ask Him for to help you through this new venture?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We need you to lead, guide and direct us at all times, but especially when we tackle something new. Go before us to pave the way and then help us to stay on your path. Amen.