

May The Force Be With You *Lessons from The Last Jedi Movie Quotes*

By now many of us have seen the latest Star Wars movie: The Last Jedi. During the earlier Star Wars movies we were taken back and forth through time and space as the rebel resistance fought against the mighty evil forces of the dark side.



Watching The Last Jedi I began to take note of some memorable lines that bring to mind possible faith lessons. Without giving away too much of the movie plot I want to highlight lines from the script that broadened my thinking from the fictional movie plot to faith lessons for real life. Please forgive me for turning a SciFi adventure movie into a faith lesson, but I see faith applications from many contemporary life events. Highlighting faith lessons from everyday life is my personal ministry.

In The Last Jedi movie Ren is a descendant of one of the “good guy” families but has defected to The First Order – the dark side. Their unmerciful attacks have wiped out all but a small band of the good guys, who have formed the Resistance. Having captured one of the Resistance, the Dark Side’s Supreme Leader Snoke says to Ren, “Fulfill your destiny.” In other words, killing a good guy is Ren’s chance to prove his allegiance to the dark side of the force. What is your destiny? Does it lead to good or does a bad decision start you

on a path towards darkness?

Early in the movie, Rey (the next generation of the Resistance) seeks to equip herself to battle against the evil forces. She wants to become a Jedi warrior, and goes to Luke Skywalker for training. She says to Luke, “Something inside me has always been there, but now it’s awake and I need help. I need someone to show me my place in all this.” We all should seek our place in making this a better world, even if it means fighting for what we believe. Rey was seeking “hope and a purpose” to her life. How about you? God is always with you and is waiting for you to fine tune your faith for His plan for your life. Walking in step with God will give you hope and purpose for your life.

As Christians we face a constant struggle of good vs. evil. Our world is in chaos and, similar to this point in the Star Wars movie, it seems the evil forces are winning. Even though God created all the galaxies – including the “far-away galaxy” and created “a long time ago,” detractors of the faith look at us as if we are the resistance. Yet, our faith teaches us that we have hope because of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our strength and our redeemer. He brings us through the trials of life and, we know from scripture, He is the eventual victor. We are reminded in the movie, “As long as he lives, hope lives.” That is also true with our faith. We know that Jesus Christ has conquered death and lives eternally. So, hope lives for believers eternally.

In our quest to win the war we can’t win every battle. There will be times when we are disappointed with the results. The wise Jedi Master, Yoda, said to Luke: “Pass on what you have learned. Strength, mastery. But weakness, folly, failure also. Yes, failure most of all. The greatest teacher, failure is.” Not every day in your life will be victorious, but we can learn from life experiences. Wisdom comes from learning from our mistakes and the challenges of life. And then we can be the teachers that pass on wisdom to enable others.

The foundation of our faith is a not-so-secret weapon: love. A new Star Wars character, Rose Tico, says it best as she goes into battle against the dark side: “That’s how we’re gonna win. Not fighting what we hate but saving what we love.” And she proves it in a dramatic battle scene as she saves the life of her love interest. Rose says to Finn, “I saved you. You save the people you love.” That is how God works. He loves all of His creation, and those who

choose to follow Him are saved. Instead of fighting because of hate, we should seek to help others because of God's love shining through us.

What is your role in all this? Just as Rey was trying to determine her place in her world, we have a purpose, too. Our purpose goes beyond us to those we help. The Resistance leader Poe Dameron said: "We are the spark that'll light the fire." In our part of the galaxy, here on earth, we can be the spark that helps others see the light of Christ, and ignite their faith.

We do have a destiny, and it is a bright future. Because of our faith, the destiny God plans for us is to help others see the light. Feel God's strength – His force -- as you seek to follow His path. With it you will be able to accomplish anything in His name (Philippians 4:13). "May the force be with you." Be energized and empowered by the hope we all have because of Jesus Christ. As long as He lives, hope lives.

Question: What is your destiny? Do you seek the hope of a life fulfilled because of your faith?

Scripture Reading on Hope: *The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love (Psalm 147:11)*

Scripture Reading about Courage: *Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight" (Joshua 10:25).*

Selected Scripture Reading About Dealing With Evil: *Do not repay anyone evil for evil (Romans 12: 17).*

... Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"¹ says the Lord (Romans 12:19).

... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

(Please note: I understand Romans 12:17-21 has a much broader application than what fits the storyline of this devotion. However, these selected key parts of the reading zero in on a single dimension for this devotional lesson.)

Scripture Reading about utilizing God's Power: *I can do all things through Christ⁴ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).*

Prayer: Dear Lord. Because you live, we may also live. While the struggle against evil is never ending we can be the spark that helps others ignite their faith. Be the force in our life that leads us also to the victory that Jesus has won for us. Amen.

