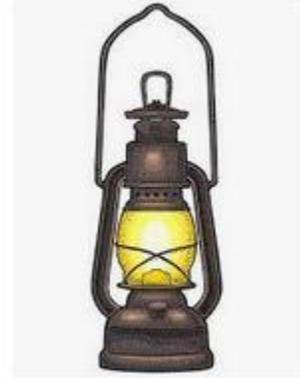


## God Provides A Lamp, Not a Crystal Ball

Your favorite team is playing a big game on TV, and yet you are scheduled to attend an important community event. So, you record the game on the DVR and fulfill your civic obligation.

Throughout the evening you resist the temptation to check the score on your cell phone or listen to anyone who seems to be looking at their cell phones for updates. When you get home later that evening you will experience the game in “real time,” so you can feel the emotions, ebbs and flows of the game. This pattern is actually the opposite of how many of us want to experience life. It is human nature to wish we knew the ending before it even happens.



While we know that we can have eternal life because of our belief, we still wish we would know the details before they happen. That is not how God works. God gives us what we need at the moment – Grace for the Moment. We can rely on Him to help us through what we face. *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).*

Take life one step at a time. God promises to guide you through life, not guarantee the finish line that you have imagined. In actuality, we wish we knew the ending so we could make adjustments that would manipulate the ending to fit our needs. God, in His infinite wisdom promises you a lamp to guide you, not a crystal ball to reveal how it ends.

We know the guide for our life is His Word, given to us through the bible. *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105).* Our everyday life is a journey, not following a pre-planned route. This allows us to grow in our faith. We need God's guidance along the way. There are no shortcuts. Only God has the DVR and knows how things will turn out. (Yet, He still loves us.) If we had the results of the finish line there would be no need to walk the path. The ebbs and flows of life would have no meaning. Just like watching a game for which you know the final score, there would be no anticipation, just a shallow victory. God prepares you to handle what comes your way, providing the Grace needed at the exact time that it is needed.



Live your life according to God's word, one step at a time, and rest assured that God will provide the Grace that you need every step of the way towards your Heavenly destination.

**Question:** Who wins in the end?

**Prayer:** Most gracious Heavenly Father. We trust you to be with us at all times, including the drama of life. We need you beside us each step of the way. Give us the Grace to accept the journey. Amen.