

God's Guaranteed Victory

If you are in your 60s or 70s, you probably remember the hype before Super Bowl III. The year was 1969. "Broadway" Joe Namath guaranteed a New York Jets victory over the Baltimore Colts. As a young football fan, I favored the humble Colts over the brash, showy Joe Namath. The Colts were favored by 18 points, coming in with a 15-2 record, while the Jets were 13-3. It shouldn't have mattered that Earl Morrall had replaced the injured Johnny Unitas for most of the season and would be under center for the Super Bowl. The Jets were an American Football Conference team, and no AFC team had ever won the Super Bowl.



Even though the Colts recovered a fumble on the 12-yard line, a tipped pass led to a Jet's interception early in the game, stifling the Colt's attempt to score. The game went downhill, with the Jets eventually taking a 16-0 lead. The Colts scored a late touchdown, but the Jets completed the upset with a 16-7 final score. Namath walked off the field, proudly showing the #1 with his index finger. He had delivered on his promise. A special spirit gave Joe Namath the confidence to do what he said he would do.

While the world scoffed when Namath guaranteed victory before the game, Broadway Joe seemed "made for that moment." We are, too. God has made each of us for a special purpose. God equips us in different ways and places us where we need to be to make a difference in this world. God gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us in pursuing our purpose. Our purpose is to use whatever skills we have to point others to Jesus. What is at stake? The victory of eternal life for all who believe. Our Heavenly Father guarantees victory to those who follow Him. *And this is what he promised us—eternal life. (1 John 2:25)*

I recently read this thought about the concept of a "guarantee." Look at the guarantee of something in your house—perhaps an appliance, the family car, or expensive equipment. All of these devices had a sheet with the "fine print" - written statements listing conditions that the manufacturer can use to void the warranty and avoid replacing the item. It is not a guarantee, after all. Over time, the word "warranty" has replaced "guarantee." The word "warranty" provides an escape clause because it implies living up to the terms *only* if the manufacturer is at fault. The word guarantee is much broader, attesting to the item's quality and that it will do exactly what it is intended to do. God knows we will mess up, but He forgives us anyway if we repent. God's guarantee isn't voided because we are human and far from perfect. There is no fine print.

God makes good on all His promises, including the guarantee of salvation for those who declare Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Bible Says: *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13*

Question: If someone you trusted guaranteed something to you, would you be confident that it would happen?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We are confident in the guarantee of eternal life for all believers. You are our Lord and Savior. We look forward to being in your eternal presence. Amen.