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**God Will Take Care of You**

*Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.*

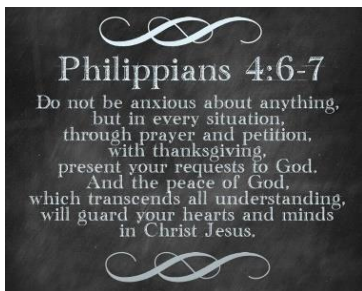
*Thru days of toil when heart doth fail  
God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you.*

*All you may need He will provide,  
God will take care of you;  
Nothing you ask will be denied,  
God will take care of you.*

*No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,  
God will take care of you.*

**Chorus:**  
*God will take care of you,  
Thru ev'ry day, O'er all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you!*

Words: Civilla D. Martin (1904)  
Music: W. Stillman Martin (1904)



**GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU**

On a Sunday over a decade ago in 1904, Civilla Martin was in Lestershire, New York, where her husband, Walter was compiling a collection of hymns for the Practical Bible Training School. They were planning to travel to another town that day, as Martin had a preaching assignment, but Civilla woke up sick. Their young child heard that Martin was going to cancel his plans, and said, "Oh Daddy, you don't have to stay home because of mother – God will take care of us."

Martin went on and fulfilled his preaching appointment. When he returned Civilla handed him the words of "God Will Take Care of You," which she had written in his absence. Martin then composed the music, and it was first published in the songbook he was compiling for the school.

A quarter of a century later, J. C. Penney was establishing a successful career when the Great Depression threw him into crisis. His business deals turned sour, and he became overwhelmed with anxiety and insomnia. Developing a painful case of the shingles, he was hospitalized. He was given tranquilizers and drugs, but that only made things worse. He later said "I was broken, filled with despair, unable to see even a ray of hope. I had nothing to live for. I felt I hadn't a friend left in the world, and that even my family had turned against me."



But one morning he heard singing coming from the hospital chapel. The words of the song said, "Be not dismayed whate'er betide / God will take care of you."

Entering the chapel, he listened to the song, to the Scripture reading, and to the prayer. “Suddenly something happened. I can’t explain it. I felt as if I had been instantly lifted out of the darkness of a dungeon into warm, brilliant sunlight.” All worry left him as he realized more fully than he had ever imagined just how much the Lord Jesus Christ cared for him. From that day J. C. Penney was never plagued with worry, and he later recalled those moments in the chapel as the most dramatic and glorious twenty minutes of his life. He later became one of America’s greatest retail merchants.

Sally Shank  
West Virginia



### LEAN ON HIS ARM

It was a terrible nightmare, and I woke up in a cold sweat, gasping for breath. As usual, my dream was somewhat fuzzy as to details, but one detail was vivid—I was being swept away in muddy flood waters.

My daddy’s way of keeping us from playing in or near water as children was to plant fear—stay out of the water until you know how to swim. At the time, I didn’t realize how simplistic and illogical that bit of wisdom was; but it did the job, and I have never been comfortable around water.

Now many years later, I had this frightful nightmare. When I woke up, I snuggled close to my husband; and he put his arm around me. The words to the gospel song,

For I, the Lord your God,  
hold your right hand; it  
is I who say to you, “Fear  
not, I am the one who  
helps you.”  
Isaiah 41:13 ESV

“Lean on His Arm,” came to mind. Even though my husband’s arm was not the arm of the Lord, it brought me a feeling of comfort and security while I mentally sang

through the words of the song. No doubt, that song will have deeper meaning for me from now on!

The first verse of “Lean on His Arm” says:

*Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus,*

*Hide in the hollow of His land;*

*’Neath His protecting wings abide you,*

*Firm on the Rock of Ages stand.*

In my dream, I could find no footing at all, much less a firm footing; but even though there was nothing to stand on in the flood waters, I was safe and protected in Jesus.

What great comfort Christians have in belonging to Him! Sometimes the trials of life threaten to “sweep us away,” but He will see us through those times just as He sees us through the good times. As I thought of God watching over me, even in the midst of a nightmare, I began to drift off to sleep again. I was safely leaning on the arm of Jesus.



Evelyn Waite  
Rolla, MO



### THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

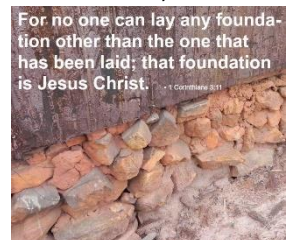
*The gospel (good news) and the message of the cross: the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.*

I Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Christ’s willing, selfless sacrifice (His death):** Matthew 26:52-54 But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18 Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”



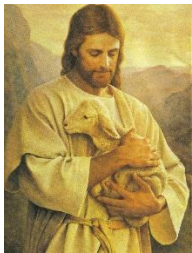
Romans 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Coming to know God and our faithful belief calls for our willing selfless sacrifice (our death to self):** I Corinthians

1:22 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 10:14-16 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

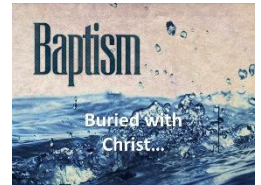


John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

**His burial:** Mark 15:42-46 Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

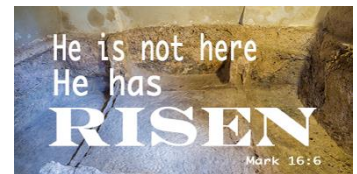
**Our burial and rebirth:** John 3:3-6 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.



Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**His resurrection:** Mark 16:1-7 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”



**Our resurrection and calling:** Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

brings a new day. "...And God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.'

Chuck Hicks, Searcy, AR  
Via Facebook

John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Conclusion:** I Corinthians 15:57-58: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing



that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 1:22-25 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

*I could not have said it better.*

*Assembled by Kathy Webber  
Rolla, Missouri*

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### THINGS THAT BRING HOPE

I sat in the darkness on the front steps of my home and watched as the black slowly turned to gray. As the edge of the horizon began to glow, I sensed the powerful



reminder that darkness often precedes light, confusion precedes clarity, pain precedes relief, questions precede answers, failure

precedes success, and sorrow precedes happiness. These are things that bring hope, just as the sunrise

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I AM  
I was regretting the past  
And fearing the future.  
Suddenly I heard God Speak,  
My name is I Am.

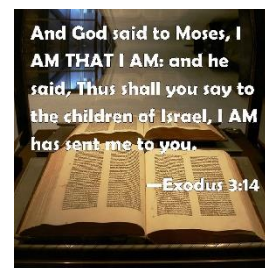
He paused, I waited.  
He said when you live in the past,  
With its mistakes and regrets,  
It is hard for I am not there.  
My name is not I Was.

When you live in the future  
With its problems and fears,  
It is hard for I am not there.  
My name is not I Will Be.

When you live in this moment,  
It is not hard for I am here  
For my name is I Am.

Author Unknown

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*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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