

# Help! I'm near the end of the Rope!

*"Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous!  
Do not tremble or be dismayed,  
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

One night when our son was very young we could not get his temperature down. As young parents, we had tried everything we knew to do. We had given him the medicine the doctor had prescribed. We had put cool compresses on him. We were at the end of our rope! We had done everything we knew to do as young parents. Only then, we decided to pray. An hour later the temperature broke. Many times after that I have realized that I can't do it. I don't have that capability whether as a parent, a teacher, a friend, a co-worker or just another individual. But, when we give our problems to God, He provides.

How often we think we can handle something, and then, as they say, the bottom falls out. We think we have reached the end of our rope. Where is God when we need him so desperately? According to the first Beatitude that is what has to happen often before we

realize that we can handle it with God's help. Then things are fine. But we must get to that point when we let Him rule. At these times when our spirit is low we are depending on ourselves too much. A fairly new translation of the Bible called The Message by Eugene Peterson puts this beatitude this way "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule."

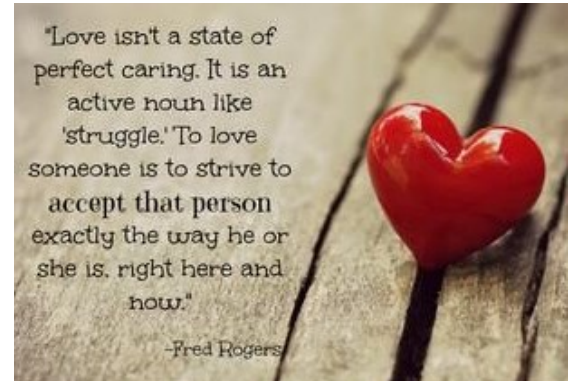
## Be Happy

Enjoy every moment  
of your life.  
Life is too short to  
waste on grudges.  
Laugh when you can.  
Apologize when you  
should. And let go  
of what you can't  
change.



I read a calligraphy once "I'll put it in God's hands tonight, and tomorrow I'll take it back and settle it." I think that is true of us so many times, and many times we don't even realize. We are poor in spirit until we get to the end of the rope, and realize that God has been there all the time.

Sometimes talking things over with a friend can be a big help. God can work through other people in our lives. Sometimes we feel so alone, but we aren't. Solomon was a unique person. He was wise in some things, and looking back he was so foolish in other



things he did during his lifetime. Solomon is given credit for writing the following with inspiration from God.

*"A right time for birth and another for death,  
A right time to plant and another to reap,  
A right time to kill and another to heal,  
A right time to destroy and another to construct,  
A right time to cry and another to laugh,  
A right time to lament and another to cheer,  
A right time to make love and another to abstain,  
A right time to embrace and another to part,  
A right time to search and another to count your losses,  
A right time to hold on and another to let go,  
A right time to rip out and another to mend,  
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,  
A right time to love and another to hate,*

***"When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way."***

**From The World According To Mister Rogers**

*A right time to wage war and another to make peace."*

These verses have been paraphrased many times, but the message is always the same. God has a plan for you. God is with us even when we think we are on our own. We are all important to Him. He carries us even when we don't stop to realize He is there.

If you have problems, don't hesitate to talk with God. It doesn't have to be a fancy prayer. No one needs to be around to listen. You and God can have a private conversation any time of the night or day. As the old saying goes "He's only a prayer away."

Sometimes we have to feel we are at the end of the rope before we realize that God has promised us so many blessings. He is always there for each one of us. He is with the young child or the old person. He is with us through the

rough teen years and through the years of plenty. We have wonderful blessings every day.

*"Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage."*

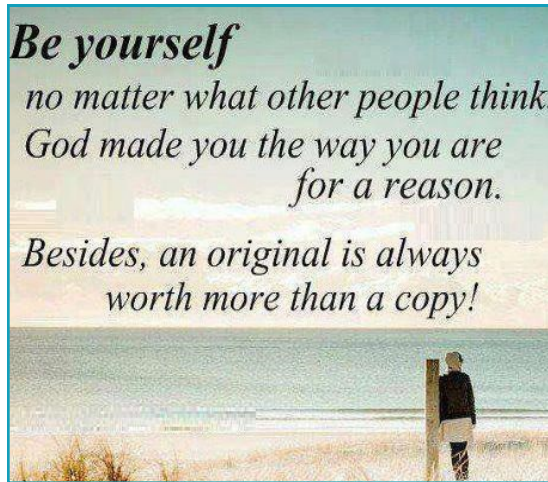
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

The wisest, most loving, and well-rounded people have probably known misery, known defeat, known the heartbreak of losing something or someone they loved, and have found their way through these hard times through prayer and trying. God is there to help, but we as individuals have to do our part by realizing we are here for a reason, and that reason can be the help we need to get us through the loneliness and heartbreak of a loss. We may not know the reason we are here, but God does.

***Be yourself***

*no matter what other people think.  
God made you the way you are  
for a reason.*

*Besides, an original is always  
worth more than a copy!*



Prayer: God, You gave the blind man his sight. You saved a thief who was being hanged. You made the lame to walk and gave peace to the sinner. Today we approach you as a sinner. Please help us to realize the many blessings you give to us each day and bless others through your gifts to us. Amen

1. Have you ever felt like you were at the end of a rope?
2. What circumstances have led you to prayer?
3. When have you felt God carrying you?
4. How can you share that love with others in your life?

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info@rgscripts.com

**Too often we underestimate the power of touch. A smile. A kind word. A listening ear. An honest compliment. Or the smallest act of caring. All of which have the potential to turn a life around.**

**Leo Buscaglia**