

## **A Promised Presence**

### **Ready:**

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy.” – 1 Peter 1:8

### **Set**

At the start of a marathon, runners line up behind a line. At the fire of a gun, the racers all begin the marathon with the same mission: cross the finish line.

However, they cannot see the finish line from the start. Runners must run in confidence that there is a finish line at the end of the race. Even though they cannot see it, they believe it is there during their entire race. And when they finally cross it, the crowd cheers, “Well done!”

When we look at our faith in Jesus Christ, we see a similar picture of a marathon race. Thankfully, we don’t have to run a marathon every day, or we would be exhausted by day one! However, we read in scripture that God promises to be with us at the start of our life’s race, during the race, and at the end. Every day we live, God tells us He is with us, but we cannot see Him like we can see others beside us. So, what does God tell us to do?

He tells us to have faith. Faith is described in [Hebrews 11:1](#) as “the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” God tells us that even though we cannot see Him, we must run the race of life with confidence that He is beside us, guiding us, strengthening us, and enduring it with us. He promises that no matter what the race of life throws our way, He will use it for our good and His glory.

When the race of life feels lonely; when God feels distant and life feels like it will never get easier, better or lighter; let us have hope and confidence, trusting that God is with us. And when we cross the finish line, He will cheer, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

### **Go**

- Has there ever been a time you didn’t feel God’s presence with you?
- Why is it hard to have faith that God is with us sometimes?
- How can you remind someone today that God is with them?

### **Workout**

[Matthew 25:21](#)

[Matthew 28:20](#)

Hebrews 11:1

## **Overtime**

“God, this race of life can be difficult, dark and lonely. Help me to have faith when I feel like You are far away. Let me feel Your presence and encourage others to believe You are with them. Thank You for always being at my side, even when I don’t deserve it. Amen.”



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