

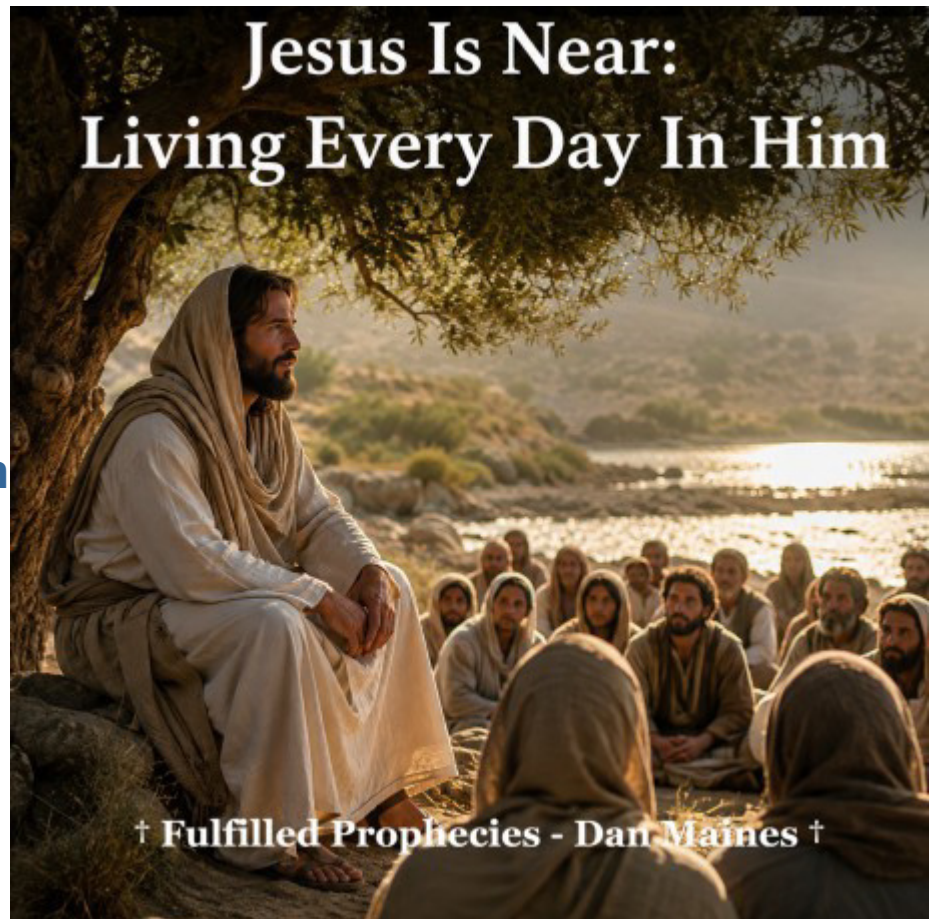
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**Jesus Is Near:
Living Every Day In
Him**



By Dan Maines

Jesus Is Near: Living Every Day In Him

Introduction

† Christianity isn't simply believing facts about Jesus, it's living every day in a real relationship with Him.

† Jesus isn't distant from us. We belong to Him, we live in Him, we pray through Him, we trust Him, and we can bring every part of our lives before Him.

† We can talk to Jesus when we wake up, while we're working, while we're driving, when we're afraid, when we're thankful, and

before we close our eyes at night.

† We don't have to make prayer complicated. We can simply talk to Him from the heart, because He already knows us completely (Matthew 6:8).

† When we need wisdom, we can ask. When we're anxious, we can pray. When we're traveling, we can ask for protection. When we don't know what to do, we can trust Him to guide us through the wisdom He's given us in His Word (James 1:5; Philippians 4:6-7).

† Fulfilled prophecy should make Jesus feel nearer, not farther away. He kept His promises, established His kingdom, and brought His people into the relationship with God that the prophets anticipated (Hebrews 12:22-24).

† Jesus fulfilled what He promised, and because He's faithful, we can trust Him with today, tomorrow, our families, our fears, our decisions, and our entire lives.

John 15:4-5

Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

† Jesus described our relationship with Him as something living and close. A branch doesn't occasionally visit the vine, it lives because it's connected to the vine (John 15:1-8).

† Being in Christ means our lives are rooted in Him. Our strength, hope, identity, and spiritual life aren't separated from Jesus (Colossians 2:6-7).

† This is more than knowing about Jesus. It's trusting Him, depending on Him, walking with Him, and allowing His words to shape the way we live every day (John 15:7).

† There isn't a moment of your day when you have to live as though Jesus has nothing to do with what you're facing. Bring your life to Him.

Matthew 28:20

teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

† Jesus promised His disciples His presence. They weren't being sent into the world abandoned or forgotten (Matthew 28:18-20).

† That same Christ is the One in whom believers live today. His kingdom isn't waiting to begin, and His people aren't waiting for Him to become King (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:5-6).

† When you feel alone, remember who you belong to. Your relationship with Jesus isn't determined by whether you can physically see Him.

† You can speak to Him in the quietest moments of your life, knowing that your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

† Notice the beautiful invitation, in everything we can pray. Nothing in our lives is too ordinary to bring before God.

† Tell Him what's worrying you. Tell Him what you're thankful for. Tell Him where you're going. Tell Him what decision you're struggling with. Ask Him for wisdom, protection, peace, and guidance (James 1:5; 1 Peter 5:7).

† Prayer isn't informing God about something He doesn't know. Prayer is opening our hearts before the One who already knows what we need (Matthew 6:8).

† Sometimes the answer we need isn't an immediate change in circumstances. Sometimes God gives us peace while we're still walking through them.

† Before leaving for a destination, there's nothing wrong with simply praying, Jesus, please watch over us, give us wisdom,

keep us safe, and help us make good decisions along the way.

James 1:5

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

† We don't know everything, and God never expected us to pretend that we do.

† When we need wisdom, we're invited to ask for it. Then we should remain attentive to Scripture, sound judgment, wise counsel, and the opportunities God places before us (Proverbs 11:14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

† Listening for God's wisdom doesn't mean inventing new revelation or claiming that God spoke words He never spoke. God has already given us His revealed Word to teach, correct, and equip us (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

† We pray, we listen, we study, we think, and we trust God to help us walk wisely.

† Sometimes His guidance becomes clear one step at a time. We don't have to understand the entire road before taking the next faithful step.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

† Trust becomes especially important when we can't see what's ahead.

† We can make careful plans while still acknowledging that our understanding is limited. Trusting God doesn't mean refusing to think, it means refusing to make ourselves the final authority over everything.

† We can pray before a trip, before an appointment, before a difficult conversation, before making an important decision, and before beginning another ordinary day.

† We can say, Lord, I don't know everything that lies ahead today, but You do. Give me wisdom to handle whatever comes.

† There is tremendous peace in realizing that we don't have to

control everything before we can trust God.

Psalm 121:7-8

The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.
The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in From this time and forever.

† Scripture repeatedly shows God's people looking to Him for protection, help, and strength during their journeys (Psalm 121:1-2).

† Asking God for safety doesn't mean we're promised a life without difficulties. It means we recognize our dependence upon Him wherever we go.

† Before we pull out of the driveway, board an airplane, walk into a hospital, travel through bad weather, or enter an unfamiliar place, we can pray.

† We should still use wisdom, wear the seat belt, watch the road, prepare carefully, and make responsible choices. Trust in God and responsible action belong together.

† Every departure and every safe arrival can become another opportunity to thank Him.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† There are few truths more comforting than this, our lives are surrounded by the love of God in Christ.

† Paul looked across every imaginable circumstance and couldn't find anything powerful enough to separate believers from God's love.

† There will be good days and difficult days. There will be laughter and tears. There will be moments when our faith feels strong and moments when we simply whisper, Jesus, help me.

† His love isn't measured by our emotions. Even when our feelings change, Christ remains faithful (2 Timothy 2:13).

† Being in Christ gives us a place of security that circumstances can't manufacture and circumstances can't take away.

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

† Our relationship with Jesus reaches into ordinary life, our words, our actions, our thoughts, our gratitude, and the way we treat other people.

† Let His words live richly within you. Read them. Think about them. Pray over them. Remember them when life becomes difficult.

† Talk to Jesus throughout the day, but also allow His revealed Word to answer you with the wisdom He has already given.

† The more Scripture fills our minds, the better prepared we are to recognize what reflects the character and teaching of Christ.

† Walking with Jesus isn't limited to a church service. It's a way of living every ordinary day.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

† Notice those beautiful words, in Christ. They describe where our spiritual life is found.

† We aren't standing outside waiting for God's redemptive plan to be completed. Christ accomplished His work and brought His people into the new covenant reality He promised (Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 10:14-18).

† Fulfilled prophecy doesn't leave us with less Jesus. It shows us a faithful Jesus who accomplished what He said He would accomplish.

† Because He fulfilled His promises concerning His kingdom

and covenant, we have every reason to trust His faithfulness in our daily lives (2 Corinthians 1:20).

† We aren't waiting for another age before we can enjoy life in Christ. We can walk with Him now.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

† What a comforting truth, God doesn't abandon His people.

† We don't have to face tomorrow pretending that we're completely self-sufficient. We can admit that we need Him.

† When fear comes, pray. When uncertainty comes, pray. When gratitude fills your heart, pray. When nothing unusual is happening at all, pray anyway.

† Talk with Jesus because you love Him, not only because you need something.

† Thank Him for another sunrise, another meal, another conversation, another safe arrival, another opportunity to love someone, and another day of life.

John 14:27

Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.

† Jesus spoke these words to disciples who were about to experience enormous change, yet He spoke to them about peace.

† The peace Jesus gives isn't based on everything around us being easy.

† His peace comes from knowing whose we are, where our life is found, and whom we've trusted.

† We can wake up each morning and say, Jesus, thank You for this day. Help me live it well. Give me wisdom. Help me love people. Guide my decisions. Watch over the people I love.

† At night we can thank Him again, place tomorrow in His

hands, and rest.

† This is the beauty of being in Christ. We aren't merely studying someone who lived two thousand years ago. We're living in relationship with the risen Lord who loves us, reigns, and has faithfully accomplished what He promised.

Historical References

† Ignatius of Antioch repeatedly centered Christian life on union with Jesus Christ, encouraging believers to remain inseparably connected to Him in faith and love (Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians).

† Augustine wrote of the human heart finding its true rest in God, expressing the ancient Christian conviction that our deepest satisfaction isn't found apart from Him (Augustine, Confessions, Book 1).

† Brother Lawrence later became well known for emphasizing continual awareness of God's presence during ordinary daily activities, including work that seemed insignificant (Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God).

† These historical witnesses don't replace Scripture. They simply remind us that Christians across the centuries have understood faith as more than theological information, it's a life lived in fellowship with God through Christ.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Start the morning with Jesus. Before the noise of the day takes over, thank Him for another day and ask for wisdom (James 1:5).

† Talk to Him throughout the day. Prayer doesn't require a special building or a complicated speech (Philippians 4:6).

† Before traveling, ask for protection and wisdom. Then travel responsibly and thank God when you arrive safely (Psalm 121:7-8).

† When you're worried, tell Him. You don't have to hide your anxiety from the One who already knows your heart (1 Peter 5:7).

† When you're confused, return to His Word. Don't depend on

imagined revelation when God has given us Scripture for instruction and wisdom (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

† When something wonderful happens, thank Him. Don't let prayer become something you remember only when life hurts (Colossians 3:15-17).

† When you feel alone, remember that your feelings don't define your position in Christ. Nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).

† When you think about fulfilled prophecy, don't see it merely as a system of dates and arguments. See the faithfulness of Jesus. He did what He promised (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 22:6-7).

† His fulfilled promises give us confidence in His character. Jesus can be trusted.

† Walk with Him today. Talk to Him today. Thank Him today. Trust Him today.

† Jesus isn't merely part of our theology. He's our Lord, our peace, our life, our hope, and the One in whom we live.

† You're never too busy to whisper His name, never too thankful to praise Him, never too uncertain to ask for wisdom, and never too ordinary to bring your day before Him.

† That's the beauty of being in Christ, we can live every day knowing that we belong to Him.

Q & A Appendix

Q: What does it mean to be "in Christ"?

A: It means our spiritual life, identity, reconciliation, and new creation are found in union with Christ. We're not merely admirers of Jesus, we belong to Him and live in the reality of what He accomplished (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:3).

Q: Can I talk to Jesus throughout the day about ordinary things?

A: Yes. Scripture tells us to pray continually and to bring everything before God in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6).

Q: Should I ask God to protect me when I travel?

A: Yes. It's completely appropriate to ask for protection, wisdom, and a safe journey while also making responsible decisions and taking reasonable precautions (Psalm 121:7-8; James 1:5).

Q: How do I listen for wisdom and guidance without claiming new revelation?

A: Pray for wisdom, fill your mind with Scripture, use sound judgment, and seek wise counsel. God's written Word equips us for every good work (James 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Q: What if I don't feel close to Jesus every day?

A: Our relationship with Christ isn't built upon changing emotions. God's love in Christ remains secure, and nothing can separate His people from that love (Romans 8:38-39).

Q: What does fulfilled prophecy have to do with trusting Jesus personally?

A: It shows His faithfulness. Jesus gave promises with definite expectations of fulfillment, and He kept them. Fulfillment gives us greater reason to trust the One who said what He would do and accomplished it (Matthew 24:34; Revelation 22:6-7).

Q: What's one simple way to begin living this every day?

A: Start talking to Jesus. Thank Him in the morning, ask for wisdom during the day, bring your worries to Him, thank Him for His care, read His Word, and end the day remembering that your life is in Him (Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:3).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 15:4-5; Matthew 28:20; Philippians 4:6-7; James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 121:7-8; Romans 8:38-39; Colossians

3:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5-6; John 14:27
† Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians; Augustine,
Confessions, Book 1; Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the
Presence of God

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