

God Goes Before You

Life has a way of throwing storms at us when we least expect them. Whether you are heading back to school, starting something new, or facing a situation that feels overwhelming, there is a truth in Scripture that can change everything: God does not follow behind you cleaning up messes. He goes before you.

What Does It Mean That God Goes Before You?

Deuteronomy 31:8 says it plainly: "And the Lord, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Do not fear nor be dismayed." This is not a suggestion or a comfort phrase. It is a declaration about who God is and how He operates.

Isaiah 45:2 adds even more clarity: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight." God is not reacting to your problems. He has already been to the places you have not yet arrived at, and He has already worked things out.

That changes everything about how we approach life.

Why Do We Treat God Like the Caboose of Our Lives?

Too often, people treat God like a backup plan. He gets called on when everything else has failed, when the situation feels desperate, when the boat is filling with water. But that is not the role He plays.

Think about the disciples in the storm. Jesus told them clearly, "Let us go over to the other side." He did not say, "Let's try." He did not say, "Let's hope for the best." He spoke it, and then He went to sleep, fully at rest in what He had already declared.

The storm came anyway. The waves rose. The boat filled with water. Even the experienced fishermen panicked. But here is the key: the storm was not a sign that God had abandoned the plan. The storm was just part of the journey to the other side.

Does God Already Know What You Are Going Through?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:8, "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." Before you open your mouth in prayer, God has already been there. Before you were

even formed, He knew you. As Jeremiah 1:5 reminds us, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."

This means prayer is not about informing God of a crisis He missed. Prayer is about aligning yourself with what He has already done. It is about positioning your heart and mind to walk in step with His plan rather than scrambling to get His attention.

When you pray, honor Him. Thank Him for what He has already prepared. Ask Him to help you walk it out. That is faith-filled prayer.

What Should You Do When Fear Comes?

Fear is real. It comes to everyone. But feeling fear and being ruled by fear are two very different things.

Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." God does not suggest courage. He commands it, which means it is possible. He would not command something you are incapable of doing.

When fear starts rising, here is what to do:

- Open the Word of God and begin meditating on His promises, not on the problem.
- Speak what He has said out loud over your situation.
- Keep going until the Word lifts you above the circumstance, not just to eye level with it.

Psalms 23:4 puts it this way: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Notice it starts with "yea." That is a shout of confidence, not a whisper of dread. You walk through the valley. You do not camp there.

Isaiah 41:10 adds: "Fear not, for I am with you. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you." You have a helper, and that helper is God Himself.

How Does This Apply to Going Back to School?

God has already gone before every student, every teacher, and every person stepping into something new this season. The same God who gave Daniel and His friends "knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom" (Daniel 1:17) is the same God available to you today.

James 1:5 promises: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally." You do not have to burn yourself out trying to figure everything out on your own. Ask God for wisdom. Spend time in His Word. The Holy Spirit, who Jesus said "will bring all things to your remembrance," can help you retain what you study, make wise decisions, and navigate every challenge that comes your way.

Psalms 121 says, "The Lord shall preserve you from all evil. He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in." Psalm 91:11 adds, "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."

You are not going into this school year, this job, this season of life alone. God has already surveyed the territory.

What About the Storms That Still Come?

Even when God goes before you, storms still happen. The Red Sea was still in front of Moses. The disciples still hit rough water. Paul's ship still broke apart. But in every case, God had already made a way through.

The land bridge under the Red Sea was already there. The disciples made it to the other side. Every person on Paul's ship survived. Not one life was lost.

The storm does not mean God has abandoned the plan. It means you are still on the journey to the other side. Just because you cannot see the answer does not mean God has not already supplied it. When you arrive at your problem, the solution is already there waiting for you.

How Should We Pray Differently Because of This?

Praying in faith means coming to God not to wake Him up, but to align with what He has already done. It means thanking Him for His promises, asking Him to order your steps, and trusting that He has already been where you are headed.

Proverbs 13:20 says, "He who walks with wise men will be wise." Walking with God, spending time in His Word, and following His guidance is the wisest thing any person can do. His wisdom is available to anyone who asks.

Stop treating prayer like a panic button. Start treating it like a conversation with someone who has already handled everything you are worried about.

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where fear or anxiety has been driving your decisions, whether it is school, work, relationships, or something else. Instead of focusing on the problem, find two or three specific Bible promises that speak directly to that situation. Write them down. Read them out loud every day this week. Let the Word of God lift you above the circumstance rather than letting the circumstance define your outlook.

Ask yourself these questions as you go through the week:

- Am I treating God like the leader of my life, or like a backup plan I turn to when things fall apart?
- When fear comes, am I meditating on the problem or on what God has promised?
- Do my prayers sound like I am informing God of a crisis, or like I am aligning myself with what He has already done?
- Am I walking by faith in what God has said, or by what I can see and feel right now?

God has already gone before you. The crooked places are being made straight. You are not a victim of your circumstances. You are going over to the other side.

Quotes

1. God doesn't just meet you there—He goes before you and prepares the way.
2. God was never meant to be the caboose of your life or your backup plan.
3. The storm may be real, but that doesn't mean God hasn't already handled the problem.
4. Just because you can't see the answer doesn't mean God hasn't already supplied it.
5. Before you ever open your mouth in prayer, God has already been there and dealt with it.

6. Prayer aligns you with God's plan so you can walk by faith instead of by sight.
7. Prayer should honor God's knowledge, not talk to Him as though He is ignorant.
8. If God commands you not to fear, then fear is not something you are powerless against.
9. Meditate on what God promised, not on what fear predicts.
10. The Word of God is the great equalizer—it lifts you above what tried to put you beneath it.
11. The reason you can walk through the valley without fear is because God is with you.
12. We don't camp in the valley—we walk through it.
13. God doesn't follow behind fixing things after the fact; He goes before us.
14. Before sin ever appeared, redemption was already in God's plan.
15. "Be strong and courageous" is not God's suggestion—it is His command.

Verses

1. Deuteronomy 31:8
2. Isaiah 45:2
3. Joshua 1:9
4. Matthew 6:8
5. Psalm 23:4
6. Psalm 121
7. Psalm 91:11
8. James 1:5
9. Daniel 1:17

10. Isaiah 41:10

11. Deuteronomy 31:6

12. Proverbs 13:20

Summary

God does not follow behind you cleaning up messes. He goes before you, and that truth has the power to change everything about how you face life. Deuteronomy 31:8 declares that the Lord goes before you, will be with you, and will never leave you nor forsake you. Even when storms rise, as they did for the disciples on the water, they are not a sign that God has abandoned the plan. They are simply part of the journey to the other side. Fear is real, but feeling fear and being ruled by fear are two very different things. God commands courage in Joshua 1:9, which means it is possible for you to walk in it. Whether you are heading into a new school year, a new job, or a new season of life, you are not going in alone. God has already surveyed the territory.