

IMMANUEL; GOD WITH US

Part 1: A Place Of Strength

(Matthew 1:23 NKJ)

A DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRISTIANITY

A. The world's major religions

1. Buddhism (376 m) code of conduct, personal enlightenment, no connection with God
2. Hinduism (900m) Equates God with the universe, God the One formless and limitless
3. Secular/Agnostic/Atheist (1.1b) absence of belief in the existence of God
4. Islam (1.3b) Belief in One God not a Trinity, God who has no children

B. Christianity *(2 Corinthians 6:16 & 18 NKJ)*

1. A promise to be with us and
2. A promise to be with us as a Father

GOD WITH US; A BELIEF THAT EMPOWERED GOD'S PEOPLE

A. The nation of Judah was in a difficult position but...

1. Led by Hezekiah they had already turned back to God

B. Hezekiah speaks to the people *(2 Chronicles 32:6-8 NKJ)*

1. Encourages them to look beyond what was visible
2. Encourages them to believe God was stronger than their enemies
3. Encouraged them to believe that the God who was with them would help them
4. His words provided emotional and spiritual strength

C. God intervened in their situation *(2 Chronicles 32:18-21 NKJ)*

1. The enemy stepped up the mental attacks
2. Hezekiah did not just cry - he cried out to God - and God provided a solution

GOD WITH US: YOUR PLACE OF STRENGTH

A. What you believe will either lift you or limit you

1. Believing God is with you requires that you look beyond what is visible
2. Looking beyond all that to the promise of God's presence

B. Your best answer for fear

1. You don't have to know how everything is going to turn out but...
2. You do have to believe 2 key things *(Hebrews 13:5-6 NKJ)*

C. Based on this promise use your own words to strengthen yourself

1. When your emotions are a bit shaky - God is with me and will help me
2. When you feel as if you are facing things all alone - God is with me and will help me