



Shiloh Messenger

February 2024

IT NEVER FAILS

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases..." - Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

As we delve into the theme of "LOVE" during the month of February, it's essential to explore the transformative power of love, both human and divine. Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) provides a biblical anchor, proclaiming, ***"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*** A reminder that God's love never ends.

In this month, a time traditionally associated with expressions of love, the phrase "It Never Fails" takes on a special resonance. Often used in everyday language to convey inevitability or reliability, this phrase can carry negative connotations, emphasizing patterns of disappointment or failure. From a Christian perspective, this usage may reflect a temporary lapse in faith regarding God's promises and provisions.

Sometimes, we Christians use "It Never Fails" in a negative way. We must be mindful, especially in times of frustration and aggravation, not to impulsively use God's Word, taking it out of context and therefore being destructive instead of life-giving.

Transitioning into a more positive understanding of "It Never Fails" involves recognizing the reliability of God's promises, an idea inherently linked to the theme of love. Psalm 145:13b (ESV) asserts, ***"The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works."*** A Christ follower should purpose always to intentionally use "It Never Fails" to affirm God's unfailing promises and the constancy of His character.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) further solidifies this perspective, declaring, ***"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*** This verse emphasizes the unchanging constancy of God, providing a solid foundation for believers to stand on, even when circumstances seem uncertain—a valuable lesson intertwined with the theme of enduring love.

As we explore the transformative power of love, it is crucial to acknowledge that shifting the phrase from a negative to a positive context requires a renewed mindset rooted in biblical truths. Philippians 4:8 (ESV) encourages believers to focus on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy—a fitting guide as we contemplate love's positive declarations.

Ultimately, when Christians declare "It Never Fails", it should be done with a confident assurance in God's steadfastness. Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) offers guidance, stating, ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."*** This verse emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's wisdom and guidance, fostering a positive declaration of "It Never Fails" within the context of love.

In conclusion, we as His image bearers, becoming more like Him, let us anchor the phrase "It Never Fails" into a declaration of trust in God's unwavering love. As we celebrate love, let us heed the truth of 1 Corinthians 13:8 (NKJV): ***"Love never fails."*** Stepping into 2024, let us purposefully choose to love larger and deeper, allowing this love to transform lives, starting with our own, thus living out love more and more becomes a daily reality. ***"1 John 4:7-11 (NLT) - "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other."***

Shiloh Ministries

is one of the Lord's many Ministry tools to reconcile men for restoration. We are blessed to be used of Him to preach the unsearchable riches that are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:8).

Every day we hear wonderful testimonies of our Graduates pursuing their calling as a godly husband, father, missionary, staff member at local churches, and a minister of reconciliation in the workplace.

The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh has always been free of charge for the man who desires freedom from his addictions.

Because of this, we simply trust the Holy Spirit to lead people to give. We are grateful to those who express their gratitude to God by co-laboring with us in discipleship.

The expenditures are huge to manage a campus that houses over 30 students, staff & interns. **We ask you to prayerfully consider supporting Shiloh Ministries financially each month, as it is good ground.**

We invite you to **visit our website** and **read our testimony section!** It bears witness of the fruit in the lives of our graduates for the glory of God.

Thank you for giving to The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh!

Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501C3 charitable organization.

All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year.



Hello, my name is Donald Gates. I was born December 21, 1963 in Ft Meade, Maryland to a military family. My father served in the US Army and he along with my mother, six sisters and two brothers moved around frequently. As long as I can remember, we always attended church, vacation bible school and summer camp. However, I never pursued a personal relationship with God. While in school, I always wanted to hang out with the guys who were in the party crowd, but my mother wouldn't allow it. As I got older, I craved freedom and began drinking. It wasn't long until I began losing control of my cravings and I ended up separating myself from family, friends and God as alcohol became a part of my identity. I lost all control of my life and I found myself in and out jail. Finally, I landed in prison, and it was there I cried out to God for help. I was expecting something to happen immediately, but God took His time as He wanted me to learn how to trust Him, do my part in bettering my situation and continue to seek Him. Once I was fulfilled my prison term, I made sure to get in church. However, I still resisted true surrender and only attended church to make myself look good. Because of my lack of surrender I began hanging around the wrong crowd again and soon started drinking again and using drugs. Hard substance abuse took ahold of me taking the place of my friends, family and getting high became my god. Somehow through the grace of God I met Pastor Joe Williams at a Street Church in downtown Houston. This was a church that welcomed addicts, the homeless and anyone in desperate need of help. I started attending Street Church every Thursday evening rain or shine. One Thursday night Pastor Joe introduced me to some men from another ministry called Shiloh. These men shared how God had set them free from addiction. These guys seemed to have a Godly light upon them, and I wanted that light. Pastor Joe told me I could carry that same light but needed to go to Shiloh. Pastor Joe called it a 1-year Holy Ghost workshop where I could have my mind renewed. It has been hard letting go of my flesh, but God has proven faithful. Here at Shiloh God will show you what you're looking for when you seek Him first. I feel I've been set free in so many ways and I know I must continue walking in the light to remain free of the darkness.

God has a use for me to help others in the homeless community and those in jail or prison. I know that our God is a forgiving and loving God, and I am His child. He is not through with me yet. I'm so grateful for Shiloh Staff's love and leadership. I look forward to becoming a better father and grandfather to my girls and a better brother to my family and to all in Christ.

1 John 4:20 "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

*We love you and are thankful for your love and financial support of
The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh. Blessings multiplied back to you!!*



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