

21 KEYS FOR LIVING  
CAREFREE IN GOD'S CARE



# MAKING WAR<sup>ON</sup> WORRY



TERESA YANCY

## GOD WON'T LET GO OF YOU



*“My own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one, and they will follow me. I give to them the gift of eternal life and they will never be lost and no one has the power to snatch them out of my hands. My Father, who has given them to me as his gift, is the mightiest of all, and no one has the power to snatch them from my Father’s care.”*

—John 10:27–29, TPT—

*H*ave you ever walked a child across a busy intersection? Could you ever imagine taking your eyes off of the situation for even a millisecond? Of course not. What about your guidance? Would you ever just give that child a little push and follow along behind or perhaps carelessly go ahead of them, leaving it up to them to keep up? Again, of course not.

What about this: As you carefully guide them across, are you holding onto their hand, or are they onto holding yours? Without a doubt, you would be holding onto them with a firm grip, and you would never let go, no matter what. *It is exactly like that with you and God...but a thousand times more!*

We are safe in God's care *not* because we are good at holding on, but rather, we are safe because the King of All is good at holding onto us, and "no one has the power to snatch" us from His care!

### A Very Good Shepherd

This familiar passage from John chapter ten is also where Jesus declared, "I am the Good Shepherd."<sup>1</sup> Of the countless ways Jesus could have described Himself, He chose this: I am your Shepherd. This is worthy of our deep consideration. What does it mean for us that we have a *shepherd* caring for us? Here are a few thoughts to consider:

- We need one—We can't take care of ourselves.
- We are led—God knows the way.
- We are loved—Nothing can separate us from His heart.<sup>2</sup>
- We are known by name—We are intimately known and loved as family.
- We have someone overseeing us—He sees the bigger picture even when we can't.

- We have a protector—We are spiritually guarded from predators. Just as lambs are kept from wolves, lions, and bears, God keeps us from our enemies.
- We are provided for—Green pastures, still waters, and feasting are ours *even during life's shadowy, dark moments*.

Shepherding was considered a base and lowly vocation. It doesn't take much skill necessarily, just a lot of patience, kindness, and faithfulness. Jesus is full of those things! He is a *very* Good Shepherd. In fact, in Jesus' description, a good shepherd is one who lays his life down for his sheep. Jesus loves and protects His sheep with such fierceness that He is willing to pay the ultimate price to keep them. Wow.

Do you feel *that* loved by God? You can...and Jesus wants you to. He wants you to live your life like a well-cared-for *lamb* in His loving hands. He boldly and powerfully proclaims: "No one has the power to snatch [insert your name] from my hands!"

### **Un-Snatchable!**

So, what if we lived with that kind of confidence and trust? I spent many years of my Christian walk being afraid of losing God's care. I experienced a traumatic abandonment in my childhood and really had deep fears about being forsaken. I wasn't afraid of losing God's *love*,

but I deeply feared being abandoned and left on my own during my times of greatest need.

Like the little child crossing the busy intersection of life, I felt like I was really all on my own. I frantically “looked both ways” over and over and over, back and forth, and back and forth, afraid of the unknown and afraid of the worst. So. Much. Fear.

I really felt like I was the one holding on to God. How silly and, oh, how sad. Now I know I am not holding on to my Heavenly Father—He is holding on to me, and He is not *ever* letting go! He said so.

Precious friend, He is holding on to you as well, yesterday, today, and forever.<sup>3</sup> Nothing—no circumstance, no failure, no fault, no enemy—will ever make Him change His mind about you! If they could, then He would be a bad shepherd, not a good one. But He is so very good. He has never failed you, and He never will.

### **You Are the Father’s Gift to Jesus**

You may have painful memories of traumatic life experiences like mine, where it felt like you actually got hit by a semi-truck barreling down the highway of your life. But, yet, here you are! Alive and well, and look at you! You are still loving God in spite of it all.

He is so proud of you, and He wants you to know He never left, never took His eyes off you for a second. He will never ever let you go. No never.

So rest. Rest, knowing you are in His hand and in His care—the Good Shepherd's care. He is watching, listening, guarding, providing, and protecting. Always. You are His gift from the Father, and He treasures you!

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### **Let's Pray!**

*Lord, thank You for being the Good Shepherd of my soul. Thank You for Your tender, faithful, and continual care. I repent of and I hand to You the fear I have carried in my heart that You might let me go. Please heal the painful memories that have made me feel like I am on my own. I believe Your Word over every lie, and I believe that You are always holding me and no one can snatch me from Your powerful grip of love! Amen.*

### **War Declaration:**

*God is holding on to me, and He will never let me go!*

### **60-Second Challenge**

Think back to one of those “semi-truck” experiences from your past. Forgive all the people involved, including yourself. Ask Jesus to show you any lie you believed during that event. Then ask Him what the truth is. Next, see where was Jesus in that memory. He promised to never leave or forsake you, so He was there. Ask Him to

heal those painful wounds and free your heart to dream again.

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1. See John 10:11-18.
2. See Romans 8:38-39.
3. See Hebrews 13:8.