



# Rehearsing God's Care

Matthew 6:25-34 Psalm 77 2 Timothy 2:8-14a

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Have you ever been involved in a **rehearsal** of some kind? You had to go over some lines or movement to get it right, and to make sure you knew it? A rehearsal is a practice --- maybe for a dance, drama, reading, song, or a wedding.

The etymology of the word **rehearse** comes from agriculture, and it means to “turn over ground, to rake over”--it has come to mean to say or do something over again, to repeat, to practice.

When you think about **God's care in your life**, do you **rehearse** those things over and over again? Do you “turn over” in your mind those events and circumstances where you saw God work in tremendous ways? **Do you remember how faithful God was in the past in order to help you live for the day?**

One theme that is woven throughout Scripture is the idea of **remembering** what God has done for you.

I will **remember** the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will **remember** your wonders of old. I will **ponder** all your work, and **meditate** on your mighty deeds. PSALM 77:11-12

I **remember** you upon my bed, and **meditate** on you in the watches of the night; **for you have been my help**, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. PSALM 63:6-7

There is **strength and encouragement** in remembering God's care for you in the past. There is **comfort** in *not only knowing* that God is “**your refuge and strength**”, but also *seeing* it in action. The Bible teaches us to “**rehearse**” those things that God has done for you; “**turn them over**” in your mind and remember them. **We all have stories of God's care in our lives.**

**God's care for all of us begins at the same place: the cross of Christ.** Sin destroys not only our relationship with God, but also our lives. We are totally and thoroughly corrupt – Jesus said, **out of your heart comes all kinds of evil thoughts --- murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander** --- sin separates us from the holy God and leaves us facing eternal death.

But God comes to our rescue. In His love and care for you, He sent His Son to be your Savior. Jesus came into the world to suffer and die with your sins, they are removed from you and placed on him. In His death and resurrection, you are reconciled to God and forgiven. Eternal salvation is a gift from God that comes by faith, and not by works. God's love and care for all of us begins at the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ!

God has given us something UNIQUE AND SPECIAL to remember His eternal salvation. **Holy Communion.**

One aspect of Holy Communion is that we remember – we rehearse in our minds -- what Christ has done for us and our salvation. We remember that His body was broken and His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Holy Communion is a gift that God has given to us to remember His love and care in saving us from our sins! **A part of Holy Communion is rehearsal: turning over in your mind what Christ did for you on the cross so that you have the forgiveness of sins!**

### ***Ebenezer***

That's an interesting word, isn't it? It's a Biblical word from 1 Samuel 7:3-12 that means "*stone of help*". It refers to a memorial stone that Samuel set up to remember God's care and protection when the Israelites defeated the Philistines in battle. How do you remember God's care and watchfulness over you? Do you have some form of *Ebenezer*?

**After faith in Christ**, God's love and care is seen in many and various ways on your life. **God knows you personally and individually, and works uniquely in your life.** In other words, my list of God's love and care will be different than your list. What is in common is that God has been faithful to all of us; He has kept His Word and promises. He is loving, kind, and good to us; He has watched over our lives; and promises to continue to do so. When you remember the past works of God in your life, you have strength and comfort each day.

When you think about God's care in your life, think of it in four different areas.

### **The first area where you see God's care is HIS GUIDANCE.**

When you look back over your life, can you see the Lord leading you? From place to place, city to city; maybe job to job or school to school. The Lord promises to guide our steps and lead us. Maybe when you look back, your life history has been a pretty straight line; or maybe your life history looks more like the "*flight of the bumblebee*" – either way, it is God at work leading you through life.

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. PROVERBS 3:5-6

**God's love and care in your life is seen is His guiding hand throughout your life.**

### **The second area where you see God's care is HIS MERCY.**

When you look back over your life, are there sinful things that have you have done that could have changed your life forever? Has the Lord spared you from some terrible consequences of your sin? Would your life look completely different if it wasn't for the Lord intervening with His mercy? Have you ever said to yourself, "*there but by the grace of God I go?*"

One place where you see God's love and care for you is in His Mercy. He has spared you from some terrible consequences of your sin that would have changed your life forever! Psalm 103 captures this idea:

The Lord **does not treat us** as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. PSALM 103:10

**God's love and care in your life is seen is His mercy where He spared you the consequences of your sin.**

### **The third area where you see God's care is HIS PROTECTION.**

Have you ever had a "close call"? Something happened in your life, whether your fault, someone else's fault, or just an accident, and it could have killed you or hurt you so bad that your life would be completely different? As Christians we do not consider "close calls" and "brushes with death" just being lucky. It is God's care in your life as He is at work to protect you and preserve your life.

The LORD will **keep you from all harm**— he will watch over your life; & the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:7-8

Close calls are God's care and protection in your life!

## **A fourth area where you see God's care is HIS GENEROSITY.**

Can you see God's **good and generous hand** in your life? Do you believe that everything you are and everything you have is a gift from God's good hand?

God has provided everything you need to support and sustain for your body and life. God's love and care for you is seen when He provides for your **DAILY BREAD**.

Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like. MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

**God's love and care for you is seen in His abundant generosity to you.**

**God's love and care is seen in many and various ways in your life. You see it in His guidance, His mercy, His Protection and in His generosity to you. God knows you personally and individually, and works uniquely in your life.**

The problem is not remembering: call it **spiritual** amnesia if you want. We too easily **forget** all the good things the Lord has done for us. We get **distracted** and remember the things of the world rather than God's love and care for us. We are **too busy** to even keep a list of God's mighty acts in our lives.

Don't let that happen to you. **Rehearse** God's care in your life. Turn them "turn over and over again" in your mind. Today, listen to God's Word and

**remember** *the deeds of the LORD;*  
**recall** *His wonders throughout your life;*  
**ponder** *all of His love and care for you;*  
**meditate** *on His mighty deeds in your life!*

Paraphrase of Psalm 77

The Lord's care for you is seen in

His Guidance!  
His Mercy!  
His Protection!  
His Generosity!