

Always/Never

Always:

Origin: Middle English: genitive case of all way, the inflection probably giving the sense 'at every time' as opposed to 'at one uninterrupted time'; the difference between the two is no longer distinct.

Definitions:

At all times; on all occasions

Throughout a long period of the past

For all future time; forever

Repeatedly and annoyingly: example: 'she is always making derogatory remarks'

As a last resort; failing all else: example: 'if the marriage doesn't work out, we can always get divorced'

Never:

Origin: Old English nǣfre, from ne 'not' + æfre 'ever'.

Definitions:

At no time in the past or future; on no occasion; not ever

Not at all

I know these two words seem so simple and you may be wondering why I am writing about such simple words. The reason is in our humanity we often bypass the simple and immediately go for the complex. Part of this is because we have been so trained by society to not believe or trust things that seem too easy or simple. Have you ever been given an offer that seems too good to be true? What's your first reaction? My first reaction is what's the catch?

On Monday, Gina wrote about control and trust. These two are topics I have some issues with to this day. My lack of trust in the Lord results in my trying to keep things in control. The bigger issue, I have found, is fear. This fear has stopped me from pursuing things I love to do in the past. As I continue to grow in my relationship with the Lord those fears I had are becoming no more because my fear of the Lord is becoming greater thus my trust in Him is becoming stronger. As I read and (more importantly) believe His promises He sets forth in His Word, the more I love Him and am joyful to serve Him.

What does this have to do with 'always' and 'never'? God's promises to you and me are set by either 'always' or 'never'. Some of us have become so hurt by unfulfilled promises from people in our lives that we have a hard time trusting anything especially something as definitive and absolute as 'always' and 'never'. Let me remind you of one thing, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

When God says 'always' and/or 'never' He absolutely means it. When we use these terms we must absolutely mean it also. Always means at every time. Never means at no time. These two are words that we hear everyday and think them so simple that at times we by pass them and don't let them fully register; we often don't trust whenever we hear these words. It is time to turn that around. These words are simple in the context of the Lord meaning they are not used as a gimmick or to just hook you for some unfulfilled promise. God means what He says and says only what He intends. Let these commands to us and promises from God sink deep in your mind and heart and remember that "God is not a man that He should lie...". Stand on His promises and be the overcomer He created you to be.

Bible Verses:

- **Deuteronomy 5:29, 32-33** - Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! 32 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
- **2 Corinthians 2:14-17** - Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.
- **Hebrews 7:24-25** - But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- **Genesis 8:21** - And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.
- **Psalms 55:22** - Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
- **John 4:13-14** - Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
- **John 6:35-40** - And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."
- **John 10:25-30** - Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one.
- **Hebrews 13:5-6** - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
- **Deuteronomy 31:6** - Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Sources:

- http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/always
- http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/never

Alicia R. Shipe
May 20, 2015