

The calendar says it is Easter but sometimes it feels like Good Friday.

Be careful before you give up on Easter.

...if Christ wasn't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. ...If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ has been raised up...

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 The Message

How do I live like it's Easter in a Good Friday world?

I must not deny the pain of this world....

Remember the words I spoke to you:If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

John 15:20 NIV

...but let God join me in my pain....

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4, 5 NIV

I must not let life's circumstances shape me.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2 NIV

...but rather I must shape life's circumstances.

Celebrate God all day, every day....Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down.

Philippians 4:4, 6-7a The Message

I must not give into the despair of the moment...

Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? God doesn't come and go. God lasts. He's Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he knows everything, inside and out.

Isaiah 40:28 The Message

...but hold onto the hope of tomorrow.

For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles. They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

Isaiah 40:30-31 The Message