

## **Life Never Seems To Be What We Want It To Be**

Do you remember the name of Michael Jackson's estate? He called it, "Neverland," after the fictional island in "Peter Pan." It included a lavish home with a huge theater, gardens, fountains, a four acre pool, and a private amusement park and zoo.

But did it make him happy? A lot of people who knew him described him as troubled. Michael's dream estate never gave him true peace and contentment. Sadly, the name "Neverland" was fitting.

"Neverland" is actually a fitting name for the world we live in. It never seems to give us the peace and contentment we are looking for. Things might be going great and then a pandemic turns our lives upside down. But even before the coronavirus brought upheaval and anxiety into your life, you probably had financial pressures, relationship problems, work stress, illness in your body, or sadness in your heart. Because this life is "Neverland"- never able to give us the life we long for.

That's because life is broken, although it wasn't always like this. The first humans, Adam and Eve, lived in a perfect world. But they foolishly decided they didn't need the God who gave them perfect life. Their sin was like striking a once inch circle in the middle of a pane of glass with a hammer. It shatters the entire pane. Their sin left their relationship with God in ruins, and ruined life itself.

But even as we are keenly aware right now of how this life fails us, and how we fail as people whose first impulse in a time like this is not to trust God but to worry and not to take care of others but think of ourselves, here's what does not fail: God's love for you. The Bible describes God's love as "unfailing" no less than 32 times.

In this life that is never what we want it to be, God will never stop loving you. And he loves you so much that he sent his Son to undo the mess we have made in our relationship with him and the mess that human sin has made of life. He sent his Son into our world to suffer on a cross for our sins as if HE was the one who had messed things up. Through that sacrifice you are forgiven. Now there is nothing to keep you from going to heaven, where the only NEVER in that life will be that you will never experience sin or suffering, disappointment or death again.

So expect this world to be "Neverland" when it comes to being what you long for it to be. But be content and at peace anyway. Because God's love in Jesus Christ will never fail you. In that love God will give keep forgiving you and giving you what you need until that day when he brings you to perfectly restored life in the "Foreverland" of heaven.