

# Never Alone: The Nearness of God

Feel alone? Fear? Why?

*"Even Here" song by JJ Heller, p. 4*

**When we are downhearted, or fearful, or weak, we are saying to everybody, by looks and by deeds if not by words, "After all, our Lord is not to be absolutely trusted." ...So for the greater glory of our glorious Saviour Who has never once failed us, and never will fail us, Who has loved and led and guarded us all these years, let us look to Him now and pray from the ground of our heart, Lord, give us valour.**

–Amy Carmichael, Edges of His Ways

Know Him=No Fear

He is not far off...He is near.

**James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.**

## **Old Testament—Shadow (Physical)**

•••God was with...–Adam and Eve–Genesis

–Moses–Exodus 3:11-12–*"I will be with you."*

–Joshua–Joshua 1:5, 10–*"...with you wherever you go."*

–David/Solomon/Psalmists–1 Chronicles 28:20; Psalm 23:4;

*Psalm 34:17-22; Psalm 65:4-5–Blessed is the one **you choose and bring near**, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple... Oh God of our **salvation**, the hope of all the ends of the earth...*

*Psalm 73:23-28–But for me it is good to be near God; Psalm 91:14-15;*

*Psalm 139:7-10; Psalm 145:18*

–Israel/Israelites/Prophets–Deut. 31:10; Isaiah 41:10

*Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. And 1 Kings 19:12; Isaiah 43; Jeremiah 1:5, 8, 19; 15:20; 23:23–  
"Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away?"*

Paul–Acts 17:26-27–speaking to men of Athens

*And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. **Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...***

## **New Testament—Substance (Spiritual)**

### **•••God is with us because...**

#### **1. He sent Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).**

(John 8:29. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.)

#### **2. He promised.**

*"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).*

HOW?

- Through the Holy Spirit: His ongoing presence empowers believers and offers constant guidance. *"The Spirit of truth... will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:17-18).* The Holy Spirit is the "Advocate" or "Helper" dwelling within believers. *Romans 8:9—"if the Spirit of God dwells in you,"* and *1 Corinthians 6:19—"Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God."*
- In the Church/Through One Another: *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20).*
- Through Scripture & Prayer: Connecting with God through His Word and prayer brings awareness of His presence. *James 4:8—"Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Philipians 4:5-7— Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

#### **So what? His Nearness...**

- Overcomes Fear & Gives Security: Knowing He is with us dispels fear and gives courage. I am His and He is mine. *John 10:27-30—"No one will snatch them out of my hand; no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand."*

REMEMBER! OT and NT promises.

*Hebrews 13:5-6—Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you," so we can boldly/confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"* quoted from *Joshua 1:5* and *Psalms 118:6-7).*

*Romans 8:38-39—For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. NOTHING!*

- Transforms: Experiencing His presence changes us, bringing peace and purpose. "In Christ", "When Christ who is your life..." (Colossians 3:4), "For to me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).
- Is Our Eternal Hope: His presence is a foretaste of eternal life with Him.  
*John 14:2-3—"I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." 1 Peter 1:8-9—"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

### **Contentment = Knowing His Presence**

*Hebrews 13:5—"I will never leave you nor forsake you." "Forsake" is a compound of three words in the Greek, "leave behind in". It conveys the thought of leaving comrades exposed to peril in the conflict, or forsaking them in some crisis of danger. One interpretation, "I will in no wise desert you or leave you alone in the field of contest, or in a position of suffering, **I will in no wise let go—loose hold—my sustaining grasp.**"*

### **Truths—How feel differently?**

**—Know the WHO!** (honest prayer; prayerful reading of Scripture); **Confess?** (sin?); **Remember!** (journal, make a list); **Do!** (Obey! Live Christ. And serve).

### **Things are not how I want...but He is!**

Christ our Lord is with us. From all fearing, from all weakening, from all turning back, the Lord deliver us, that standing fast in one Spirit, strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, we may be "to the praise of the glory of His grace.

*Patrick in Ireland in 5th century Scotland and Ireland, p. 5*

"Thou knewest me before I was; I am all open unto Thee; And yet Thou lovest me, because Thou, my Lord, lovest me. I may not fear, for to the end Thou lovest. Who save only Thee, The sinner's Saviour and his Friend, Would set his love on me? And on Thee now my heart is set, Thy Name is music unto me. O help me never to forget that I am loved by Thee." — Keswick Hymn quoted by Amy Carmichael

*Who He is gives us joy. Do you, like Paul, dwell on the character of God? Do you think about all that is lovely, noble, and excellent about Him and His kingdom (Philippians 4:8)? If you do, you will draw near to God, not as a subject, but as a child of your Father. You will experience intimacy and fellowship with Him, and, consequently, you will be able to say with the psalmists, "In Your presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11).*

*— Consider the Lilies, p.21*

## **EVEN HERE**

When the doctor names the pain you feel  
And the air around you changes  
When you don't know what is coming next  
You're afraid to turn the pages

When the answers don't give you relief  
And they only bring more questions  
When you wish that you could run away  
But you don't know what direction

There's no waking up from this a bad dream  
There's no way to stop a slow motion emergency

Even here  
In the unknown  
Even now  
You are not alone

When the person lying next to you  
Starts to feel more like a stranger  
Somehow holding all your pain inside  
Has become like second nature  
Is there a way to rewrite the story?  
Is there a way to stop a slow motion emergency?

Even here  
In the unknown  
Even now  
You are not alone

When you feel like you are drowning  
I will find you in the depths  
I will be your everything when you have nothing left

Even here  
In the unknown  
Even now  
You are not alone

*–JJ HELLER*

Patrick in Ireland in 5th century–Christ With Me...



**Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who  
thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who  
speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.**