

God is Present
- Ron Stullenbarger -

Psalm 139:7-10 says, *"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me."* (NASB)

No matter where you go, no matter what you do, God is with you. And He isn't just with you in an abstract sense, He is available for you to tangibly and powerfully experience. Psalm 23:4 says, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* In the presence of the Lord there is fullness of comfort. Throughout every season of your life, He is there ready to empower you, encourage you, strengthen you, and love you. He longs to meet you where you are and provide all the guidance, love, comfort, and fatherly encouragement you need.

You see, when God meets with us He both satisfies our emotions and transforms us. As our Father, He not only comforts us when we need Him, but guides and helps us through the various seasons of life. God is present not only to love you emotionally, but practically as well.

Isaiah 41:10 says, *"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* As a father teaches his son or daughter how to walk by upholding them, your God longs to uphold you through whatever decision, trial, season, or pain you are presently experiencing. He is not a distant God who just gives His children rules and tells them to go through life on their own. He is not a far-off Creator who leaves His creation to its own devices. He is working presently in our midst to shepherd us toward the fullness of life Jesus died to give us. There is no more present, loving, or powerful father than our God. There is no greater helper than the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. And there is no greater life than one lived in constant communion with our Creator.

Whatever season you find yourself in today, know that your heavenly Father is present. As you enter into prayer and then daily live your life, allow God to fill you, satisfy you, comfort you, and love you. Allow him to shepherd you, empower you, uphold you, and encourage you. Experience the nearness of your heavenly Father and walk in constant communion with your God who is present.