

Women & More

The Practice of the Presence of God

8 March 2012

There is power in the example of an ordinary life lived with an awareness of God's presence—seeing Him in everything and doing all things for Him.

*“The reality of Jesus comes as a result of secret prayer,
and a personal study of the Bible that is devotional and sympathetic.
Christ becomes more real to the one who persists in the cultivation of His presence.
To know Him is life's highest attainment.”*

Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

“To be a Christian is an outrageous fortune.”

J. I. Packer

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Exodus 33:11

Psalm 32:8

Jeremiah 29:11

Luke 14:27

Romans 8:26

Scripture to Memorize:

John 15:15 *“...I have called you friends.”*

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
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.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love
will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.

‘Followship’

They hear Him walking softly
His feet gently brushing through the grass
Long stems trembling and sticks breaking at His tread
Peacefully, His stride is casual,
He’s familiar with the path they take.

He’s leading helpless, clueless sheep
Who have no mind for clearing trails
Let alone removing obstacles that slow them
Leaving beaten down and weakened knees
So He’s clearing rocks and limbs from off the path...

• *He has been this way before.*

Now He’s searching for a quiet respite
Not for Himself, but for His sheep
Bobbing heads and heedless faces
Following one another closely...to that place
Where shadows lie upon the meadow’s breast.

They’re listening for the Shepherd’s footsteps
More intently now his ‘call’ to *follow* Him!
Walking rocky hillsides and down the slippery slopes
Leading roughly to the valley’s open fields
Knowing dangers lurk below...

• *They’ve not been this way before.*

They hear His ‘walk’ become a sitting down
Near a running water stream
And He’s bidding them to do the same
Here they’ll **rest** and take **refreshing**
Reading His every motion, look and word.

Through the night they’ll take **renewing**
Restoring and **reviving** soul as well
For He is watching, hearing, and alert
To any predatory strain or storm that’s lingering
Being held at bay by His staff and rod...

• *They know He’s been this way before!*

—R. Jeanene Moore, 05-08