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One of God's unique characteristics is that He is everywhere present. For some of us this can be a difficult concept to understand. It is helpful to know and remember that God is Spirit (John 4:24) and is not bound by any five-senses limitations. God is everywhere present, and yet He cares for each of us individually and personally; there is no time that He is not with us and no situation we must face alone. In His presence we can walk with confidence and joy.

How astonishing that despite the scope and magnitude of God's ability to be everywhere present, the relationship He desires with each of us is a personal one of tender intimacy.

Psalms 139:1-3:

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

There is nothing that we can or need to hide from our heavenly Father and nothing that diminishes His love for us. That is what makes for an intimate relationship. Our all-powerful and everywhere-present God desires to be the One we open our whole hearts to. God is not watching us to judge and convict us of our shortcomings. Nothing could be further from the truth! He is not present with us to condemn, but rather to help us walk in the abundant blessings He desires for us.

Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

At times we may think ourselves far from God's presence. But in the following remarkable section of scripture, God assures us that no place—no matter how distant or how dark—is beyond His presence. Everywhere and anywhere, He is still with us to lead and guide us and to uphold us.

Psalms 139:7-11:

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

God desires that we know He is everywhere present and is therefore with us at all times and in all situations so that we are strong in Him and courageous. As we remember this truth, we are fearless in the face of any challenge, no matter how insurmountable it may seem. This includes not only personal challenges but also those we may face as a community or nation. Joshua confidently led the children of Israel to victory as he adamantly believed this unmistakable promise of God.

Joshua 1:9:

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

God's promise is as clear and as true for us today as it was the day God declared it to Joshua. God is with us wherever we go. In His presence, we can walk with confidence.

Our lives are made not only stronger but also sweeter as we each recognize and enjoy abiding in our Father's presence. A vivid picture of this is found in Psalms 16:11, where we read that God shows us the path of life. This alone would be magnificent, but there is more! In His presence there is fullness of joy, and at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore. As we bask in His presence, we can walk with joy.

We have seen that God's ability to be everywhere present is one of remarkable scope and power, and yet He is a most personal and tender Father to each of us. No matter how far we may think we are from Him, mentally or physically, He is there to lovingly

uphold and guide us. His constant presence gives us the courage, strength, and confidence that we need to meet and overcome any challenge. It is in God's presence that abundance of joy and unlimited blessings flow. Let us remember and be unshakeable in the knowledge that we are never alone. In our own lives and in this world we can be confident and joyful, because our God and Father is, and will always be, everywhere present.

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