

Embracing Joy in His Presence

I Am with You

Station 1: I am with you.

On days when the tasks before you seem overwhelming, remember this: I am with you, ready to help. Take a moment to rest in My loving Presence. Whisper: *“Surely, the Lord is in this place.”* Relax, knowing that you’re not meant to be self-sufficient. So, come to me, just as you are—without shame or pretense. Talk with me about the challenges you face and inadequacy you feel. Instead of rushing ahead, take small steps of trust, staying in communication with Me.

I am the vine; you are one of My branches. As you stay connected to Me, My Life flows through you, enabling you to bear much fruit. Don’t worry about being successful in the eyes of the world. So live close to Me—ready to do my will—and I will open the way before you. (Page 168)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

God’s Masterpiece

Station 2: God’s masterpiece.

The source of much discontentment is comparing oneself with others. I want you to make every effort to avoid this deadly trap. Remember that you are My unique creation—redeemed by my blood and exquisitely precious to Me. Stay in joyful communication with Me, the Savior who loves you immeasurably more than you can imagine. I will transform you more and more into the *masterpiece* I designed you to be. (Page 166)

Instead, we are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives. Ephesians 2:10

God Leads

Station 3: God leads.

Be willing to follow My lead, beloved. Open yourself more fully to Me and My way for you. Don't get so focused on what you want that you miss the things I've prepared for you. Trust Me enough to let go of your expectations and demands.

Sometimes you obstruct the very things you desire by trying too hard to make things go according to your will and timing. I know the desires of your heart, and I also know the best way to reach those goals. Instead of striving to be in control so you can get what you want, seek *My Face*. Talk with Me openly, and rest for a while in my Presence. When you are feeling more refreshed, invite Me to show you the way forward. (Page 104)

***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God.***

Psalm 46:1-3, 10

Trust God's Love For You

Station 4: Trust God in His unfailing love.

Seek to "see" Me in the midst of your circumstances. Look for signs of My unseen Presence as you walk along the path of life. Gratefulness opens not only your heart but also your eyes. When you know Me intimately, you can find Me in myriad tiny details as well as in the big picture of your life. Take time to notice all My blessings—small and large—and to thank Me for them. This practice will help you enjoy My many gifts.

Ask Me also to train you in trusting Me more consistently. Well-developed trust enables you to go across treacherous terrain without stumbling. You can pray, "*Lord, I trust in Your unfailing Love.*" This short prayer reminds you that I am with you; I am taking care of you; and I love you forever. (Page 89)

***The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you;
he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.***

Deuteronomy 31:8

God is our strength

Station 5: God is our strength.

Knowing Me as your Strength is like having a guide who is always with you—showing you the way forward, clearing away obstacles, empowering you to take the next step. I hold you by your right hand, and I guide you with my counsel. Since I am omniscient, knowing everything. My counsel provides the best wisdom imaginable.

So don't fret about your weaknesses. They are training you to depend on My loving Presence—confident that I am with you and will help you. I meet you in your weaknesses and use them to draw other people to Me. My Light shines in and through your inadequacies when you keep looking to Me, your Strength. Let this Love-Light flow freely through you, filling you with Joy that overflows into others' lives. (Page 256)

***And he said unto me,
My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I
rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***

II Corinthians 12:9

God is in all seasons

Station 6: God is in all seasons.

There is a season for everything. This means that even the most fulfilling times in life must eventually give way to something new. Whereas some of My followers “chomp at the bit” to forge ahead into new territory, others hold back even when I am clearly directing them to go forward. Moving from a comfortable season of life into a new situation can feel scary—especially to those who dislike change. However, I want you to trust me enough to cling to Me and follow wherever I lead, *whenever* I choose. *Your times are in my hands.* (Page 12)

***To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven....***

Ecclesiastes 3:1

***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***

Proverbs 3:5-6

Give Thanks

Station 7: It is right to give thanks.

When you are thankful, you *worship Me acceptably—with reverence and awe*. Thanksgiving is not just a holiday celebration once a year. It's an attitude of the heart that produces **Joy**; it is also a biblical command. You cannot worship Me acceptably with an ungrateful heart. You may go through the motions, but your ingratitude will hold you back.

Whenever you're struggling spiritually or emotionally, pause and check your "thankfulness gauge." If the reading is low, ask Me to help you increase your level of gratefulness. Search for reasons to thank Me; jot them down if you like. Your perspective will gradually shift from focusing on all that is wrong to rejoicing in things that are right...Because of my finished work on the cross, you have a glorious future that is guaranteed forever!

***Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.***

Psalm 100:4

Rejoice Always

Station 8: Rejoice.

Rejoice Always. This is one of the shortest verses in the Bible, but it is radiant with heavenly light. I made you in My image, and I crafted you with the ability to choose Joy in the moments of your life. See how many times each day you can remind yourself to rejoice.

Think about specific reasons for rejoicing. They can be as simple as My daily provisions for you—food, shelter, clothing. Relationships with loved ones can also be a rich source of Joy. Since you are my beloved, your relationship with Me is an ever-present wellspring of gladness.

Choosing to rejoice will bless you and those around you. It will also strengthen your relationship with Me. (Page 209)

***Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

God is in our Circumstances

Station 9: God is in our circumstances.

I give you JOY that is independent of circumstances; I give you Myself!

My joy is not of this world; **it can coexist with the most difficult circumstances.** No matter what is happening in your life, the Light of My Presence continues to shine upon you. Look up to me with a trusting heart. If you persist in searching for Me, My Joy-Light can break through the darkest storm clouds. Let this heavenly Light soak into you, brightening your perspective and filling you with transcendent delight.

Remember that you have *an inheritance in heaven that can never perish, spoil, or fade.* Since you *believe in Me, inexpressible, glorious Joy* is yours—now and forever! (Page 378)

You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you.

I Peter 1:4

Prayer

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad!

Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

For your love and grace that is extended to us and enfolds us, we are grateful. Let us extend your love and grace to others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

