

A Safe Hiding Place

"Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted."

Psalm 25:16 NIV

As we had lunch together, my friend quietly let slip some tears. For the last few years his wife had been slowly withdrawing into the darkness of dementia.

He attended to her daily, but there was no recognition of him except for a rare smile. She had not spoken for months.

I was deeply moved when he said, "Gordon I believe I love her even more now than when she was with me." I thought I had never heard a more beautiful and sincere confession of love in my life.

We spoke together about the struggle of coming home to an empty house and how challenging it was to endure the silence of home and making meals for one.

Today's verse came to me too late to pass it on to him but I have corrected that omission today.

Loneliness is one of the most difficult things to endure.

Those who torment prisoners of war know well the efficient tool of denying the person any contact with humanity. A small cell, little or no light, meals shoved through a slot on the cell door, total solitude, no sounds of any sort. All these things cause mentally healthy people to crack.

When the child of God thinks that the Lord may have turned His back on them, they cry out with the Psalmist to ask God to turn His face toward them and act in grace. They wish the sweet taste of the Lord's presence.

The Psalmist says it so well as he asks for grace, unmerited favour, and the knowledge of the Lord's presence once more.

Believers have had the knowledge of the Lord's presence, and it is their joy to think their Saviour loves them and wants their presence. When Jesus said in John 17:24 that He wants the people the Father gave Him to be with Him where

He was, believers are overjoyed.

Whoever may be indifferent to them matters nothing, in the surpassing wonder that the Lord Jesus loves them so much that He prays His people be with Him forever.

Come again to the Lord in prayer, remind Him that He died and rose again to make you His child forever. Tell Him over and over that you want nothing more than to sense Him near at all times.

Call on Him to tell you again of His eternal love for you. Plead with Him to fill you with the glorious sense of His love and grace for you. Tell Him you will not let Him go unless He blesses you.

Remember always that He longs to be gracious Isaiah 30:19 NIV He says "...you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you."

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