



Rise & Build:

Reflections from the Joseph Story

The God Who Is With Us

Genesis 39:2 “The Lord was with Joseph...”

Looking at the life of Joseph, it would be easy to conclude that he had a sad life. Deserted by family, blamed for something he didn't do, his character attacked, forgotten in a prison, these are all the things necessary to make one bitter, angry and withdrawn from others. But, that's not the picture of Joseph we find

in the Bible. One of the main reasons was that God was with him. The expression, “The Lord was with him” is repeated four times in chapter 39. In chapter 45, Joseph understood that God had helped him (5,7,9). ***What does it mean that God is with us?***

Sometimes God May Not Seem Close:

- Because we have chosen not to be close to God
- Our lives are filled with _____
- Prayers do not seem _____
- Trouble _____ in
- The way others treat us is how we think God _____ us
- The sorrows of death, disappointment and defeat can appear that God is _____ us

This is reflected in several Psalms:

- Ps 44:24 Feeling that God is h_____
- Ps 13:1-2 Feeling that God has f_____ you
- Ps 39:12 Feeling that God is a s_____ to you
- Ps 42:3 “My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?””

1. _____ that remind us that God is near:

Near to the heart of God; Nearer still nearer; Near the cross; Just a closer walk with Thee; Jesus keep me near the cross; Abide with me; He leadeth me; As a deer...

2. The _____ of Scriptures Assures us that God is Near:

- it is not a feeling, but a relationship
- Heb 13:5; Josh 1:5
- Mt 28:20 (18:20)

- You are never _____
- You are never without Divine _____
- You always have One who _____

3. What helps in knowing God is with us: (Jas 4:8)

- filling your heart with S_____ (Col 3:16; 1 Tim 4:15)
- engaging regularly in _____ (Ps 34:3; 122:1)
- having a mindset to _____ the Lord (2 Cor 5:9)
- making the kingdom a _____ (Mt 6:33)

The Feeling of Spiritual Loneliness

- Prayers do not seem to be answered
- Worship seems empty and not helpful
- Feeling burdened and overwhelmed
- Feeling like you alone are carrying the weight of the world
- Feeling like no one else understands or cares
- Feeling abandoned by God
- Feeling that sorrow is about to overcome you

Spiritual Loneliness

- Doesn't go away quickly
- Isn't resolved by being in a crowd
- Can take us places that we don't want to go
- Can lead to us becoming angry with God and even walking away from God
- Can be one of the great tests of our faith

