

Good morning! Have you ever felt completely alone? I was born into a family that did a lot of things together. I had a Mom and Dad, a brother and two sisters. We had cousins who we saw fairly regularly and we lived in a neighborhood where there were lots of other children. Our parents raised us in church and we had lots of friends there, too. We were surrounded by people, it seems, all of the time. Did you know that people can feel very alone, even when they are surrounded by friends and family? Sometimes it seems that the more people are around you the more isolated you can feel. Have you ever felt that way? If so, maybe this morning's passage is for you. Let's read it together:

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139:7–10

I have always found this passage comforting. It reminds us of God's relentless faithfulness. No matter where we go, the Bible tells us that God's invisible hand will guide us and hold us. No matter how far we may sink into despair or how high we may rise in exultation, we cannot escape God's presence. God is always with us. He hears every word we speak; He knows every thought we think. Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Do you know what the word "forsake" means? The word "forsake" means "to renounce or turn away from, *entirely*." God will not leave us. He will never depart from us completely. He will always be with us. Sometimes we may feel forsaken, but it's only a feeling, an illusion. The Presence of God is always there, wherever we are, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. We might feel successful or unsuccessful but that doesn't affect God's nearness to us. The Presence of God is always with us and His hand will hold us securely. This morning, take a little time to thank God for His relentless Presence. Others may leave us...but God never will!

