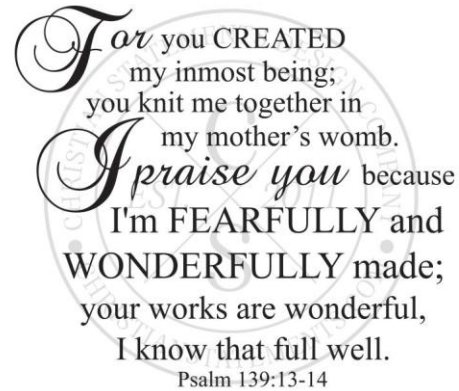


Devotion by Alvyn Lim during the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting on Jan 11, 2017

God's Ever Presence

For this devotion, I would like to share a quote from an Email written to a family member suffering from hardship: "Merely knowing that God exists is a great comfort for me." For when we are in times of pain and trouble, it's easy for almost anyone to feel alone and helpless. But unlike just anyone, us Christians have something wonderful to comfort us: the presence of our Heavenly Father in Heaven. Thanks to His presence, even when we have no earthly loved ones around or feel lost when our future looks bleak, we can know that there's Someone who DOES love us and ultimately has a plan for our lives.



Today God doesn't directly speak to us nearly as much as He used to in the Old Testament days. But today we have the Bible that assures us that God is still there. From the beginning, before we are even born, God is with us. As Psalm 139:13-16 says: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." And during our whole lives, God remains with us in our best and worst times. As Psalm 23:4 says: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me."

In the Bible there is the book of Esther, which speaks of God's doing – *yet* He isn't even mentioned in name or even addressed. Through His providence, He arranged multiple events and circumstances so that His people could be saved from a royal decree ordering their destruction. Two major examples of this are: indirectly influencing Haman (the man responsible for the decree) to choose a date far enough for the right protective measures to be made, and delaying Mordecai's (a Jew and Esther's cousin) reward from the king so that the Jews would be permitted to

defend themselves. In short, even though His work isn't directly credited to Him, God was there the entire time working behind the scenes to protect His people.

Now in the present, He's still here among us. Even if He's not working on some ultimate plan for us, He lives and breathes. So even when we visibly have no one to provide help in uncertain and dire times, God and His presence is with us.