



*CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.*

*CtK in Worship—Empowerment to Grow—Relationships Bring Life—Honor in Service  
In His Presence—Sharing Jesus in Love—CtK in Mission*

**Day 5—Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**In His Presence**

**Prayer Focus—Side by Side Mentoring**

***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 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.***

***Psalms 139:7-10 (NIV)***

Do I try to flee from God? Well, maybe, when I'm angry with a friend, grumpy with my family, or when I think thoughts that aren't very nice. My worst self draws me away from God, but God never leaves and I remain in his presence.

I stand proudly when I'm being my best self. But when I'm being my worst self, I'm ashamed and I try to hide from God. But I can't really hide. God is sitting in the passenger seat when I'm a grumpy driver. God is my dining companion when I lose patience over slow service. I cringe when I think about all the times I've not lived well. I want to forget those days—and I wish I could hide from God, but he is there. I sink to the floor and cry out, "Oh, God, how can you love me?" And I hear, "Because I know your heart."

I raise my head forgiven, and wipe away my tears. God loves me. He enjoys being near. He holds me fast. Oh God, please help me become my best self. I'm reaching for your hand. Please hold me tight. Someday, I want to kneel at the feet of Jesus and hear him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'.

What a wonderful God! What a wonderful Father! Please don't worry about your worst-self moments. Instead reach for the hand of God and LIVE in his presence. He will guide you and hold you fast. He loves you when you are weak, and he loves you when you are strong. He loves you.

*Dear Father, thank you for your presence in our lives. We need you. We love you. Thank you for those that serve as mentors—helping us become our best self. What a wonderful gift it is to have a mentor as we learn about being in your presence. Amen.*

*Linda Algire*

