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## Feeling at home with God

We know the old saying, “There’s no place like home.” That rings true for most of us. Even after time away to see family and friends, after “the trip of a lifetime” with beautiful sights and experiences, it is good to get home, to be at home.

Being at home — where everything is familiar, comfortable and personal, where you can relax and let your hair down, express yourself freely, where you know where everything is.



I recently listened to a song I hadn’t heard for years. The first verse,

Feeling at home in the presence of Jesus, hearing Him call me His own. Just feeling at home, feeling at home. Putting my feet right under His table, knowing I won’t be alone. Just feeling at home, feeling at home.

Does that ring true for us, for you?

There may be times when you feel that God is an infrequent guest who shows up for a short time now and then. The rest of the time He is distant. Or there may be things going on in your life that are not in order, messy, and you don’t feel comfortable having Him in.

How can we experience Jesus being close, being at home with us? As powerful and valuable as feelings are, we need to start with some facts. Think of two which we must have firmly fixed in our minds.

First, God loves you. You may have heard this all your life, and yet may question if God really loves you because of what you have done or not done, because of what you are or are not. God loved you before you came to faith in Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). He has loved you, loves you, and always will love you. As God said through Jeremiah, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (31:3). In His love God encourages, comforts, teaches, guides, corrects and disciplines you. He always loves you.

Second, God always is with you. Sometimes you may feel like God is nowhere to be found, far, far away. King David felt that way at times. He opens Psalm 13,

“How long, LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?”

You may have felt that way, you may feel that way today. Despite how you feel God has promised “I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you” (Hebrews 13:5).

With these facts in mind, we then need to practice, live out basic spiritual disciplines. Think of just three today.

- *Keep in touch with God.* You may know the old chorus, “I keep in touch with Jesus, and He keeps touch with me. And so we live together in perfect harmony.” To have a close relationship with anyone requires staying in touch. We stay in touch with God by talking with Him in prayer and reading, thinking through His word. You may know that, you may have heard it more times than you can count, but are you doing it?
- *Keep short accounts with God.* You can’t feel comfortable with a person if there are problems between you. The longer problems go unresolved the more distant and uncomfortable you feel. Remember that the apostle John was speaking to believers when he wrote, “If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). He was not talking about our salvation, but our fellowship with God. Not dealing with sin creates a barrier, limits the closeness of our fellowship with God.
- *Keep trusting God.* Let’s go back to king David and the short 13<sup>th</sup> Psalm. David not only called out to God with his questions and for an answer, he closed the Psalm with,  
“But I have trusted in Your faithfulness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because He has looked after me.”

He had learned that God was faithful and that to enjoy close fellowship with Him he had to walk by faith, not by sight. Regardless of your circumstances, of how you feel, keep trusting God.

So, keep in touch with Jesus and He will be in touch with You, you will feel at home with Him.

Pastor Lyle