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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

June 26, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week I read a passage that is so well expressed that I am simply sharing it with you unchanged. It is from Bill Hybels latest book, The Power of a Whisper.

"Nearly every Christ follower I know has faced a season or two in life when God seemed distant or uncharacteristically aloof, and I believe that Romans 8:38 -39 was written especially for times like those. It says: ***"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** (NIV)

For most people, it's an utterly overwhelming idea that a loving and all-powerful God wants to share an intimate bond with the likes of you or me – but this passage assures us that he does. Through one simple verse of scripture, God seems to remind us, "I know you're going to foul up. I'll forgive you. I know you're going to get scared as well, and I promise to help you with that. You won't always pray as wisely as you hope, but I promise the Holy Spirit will give expression to what you don't even realize you should be praying. Just keep your hand in mine, and we'll walk together each step of the way. I'll cover you. I'll love you. I'll never leave you. I'll always be your God."

God wants to be connected to us every hour of every day, for the rest of our lives. What's more he craves this sort of intimacy not just during our span of life on earth, but for all eternity – that's your Father's loving heart toward you."

The other aspect of our not being alone in this world is perfectly expressed in the traditional prayer of thanksgiving at the close of communion. This I quote in it's early form in King James era English.

"O God, our Father, we give Thee hearty thanks for the most blessed communion of which Thou hast this day made us partakers. Make Thy grace always sufficient in our weakness; and support us when temptations and sorrows assail us. Give us power to endure unto the end, and let the light of Thy countenance be upon us now and forevermore.

Rejoicing in the communion of the saints, we bless Thy holy name for all Thy servants who having accomplished their warfare are now at rest with Thee the great cloud of witnesses by which we are compassed about: all thy saints in every age who have loved Thee in life and continued faithful unto death: especially those dear to our own souls, our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep in Christ. Believing that we are still one with them in the same holy fellowship, we beseech Thee to enable us to follow their faith and good example that we with them may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant that, bring made like unto Christ, we may be presented faultless before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for His sake, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

(Rev.) John McGurrin

