

In Thy Presence



*Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence
is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are
pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:11*

Welcome to *In thy Presence Magazine.*

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In Thy Presence seek to encourage young women to follow in the ways of God, and to walk in his presence. The contents of this magazine reflects the desire to encourage, inspire and strengthen the hearts of readers in their relationship with the Lord.

Publication:

In Thy Presence is compiled by Rachel-Marie McPherson, and is published 4 times a year. My aim is to print these issues on time, but it doesn't always happen.

In thy Presence is a ministry, and therefore the Lord's will take priority, and I do this as he leads.

Contributions:

Please would you help me to encourage others by sending in contributions. Write what the Lord has been teaching you, something you read that has encouraged you, a poem you have written, or anything that would

inspire, bless, challenge or encourage others to walk with the Lord. We would certainly love to hear from older woman as well. You certainly have a large source of wisdom with which you can share from. Please accompany your contributions with your name, addresses and date of birth (older woman excepted☺) You may also send a photo, if you would like to have that printed with any articles you have sent in. (We ask to print these articles at our discretion) The thoughts expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of my family. We do generally try to select articles in which, although maybe not agreeing with everything expressed, the underlying principle is in accordance with our beliefs.

Reprinting and Copies:

You may photocopy articles for yourself or a friend. For all other use, we would appreciate

It if you contacted us first. If you need any extra copies of *In thy Presence* Please let us know and we will try to meet that need. We pray that the Lord will be glorified through this magazine and that you will be both blessed and encouraged.



We look forward to hearing from you!

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About the Editress:

My name is Rachel-Marie McPherson, and I am 24 years old. I love to spend time with my Saviour and to grow closer to Him each day. My desire is that you will be encouraged to do the same.

Dear Sisters,
Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Here we are a good portion into the New Year already. It does not take long for the months to fly past. So here I am once again sitting in front of the computer and putting together what the Lord has laid upon my heart. Thank you to all who have sent in contributions. It was a real blessing to read what the Lord has been teaching you. And I'm sure it will encourage others.

The Lord has been showing me a lot in the past weeks about total trust in him. There are so many things that draw us away from God to the pleasures of this world. Earthly pleasures

♥ *Heart to Heart* ♥

that are but for a moment. In Matthew 6 it says "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Then further we see it says "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself, Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." What a comfort we have in our Heavenly Father! To know he is in control of our lives. He knows everything about us and he knows how much we can handle. All we need to do is trust him for the future and seek first the kingdom of God. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

If we are not trusting, we begin to worry, and become anxious about what is happening. I was reading an article about 'Saying no to Worry.' And there were a few things that stood out to me. "If we are anxious then we are worrying and not trusting God. If we do not have joy it is because Mr. Worry and Mr. Faithlessness have robbed us of our joy.

When we lose our joy, Mr. Self-pity comes along and encourages us to get a wrong focus on self and others."

I thought to myself how true that is in my own life when I lose my joy it is very easy to get focused on Self. Then I thought on Self. The great big monster in our lives. Always gloating about what he can do. Self likes to go everywhere with us. And if we are not careful, when we deny Self some time, Self will be there gloating in the fact that we denied Self so well! He is a monster that shows up everywhere. It is so easy to see this

monster in our brother. But would to God that we could see him in our own life. . .

There is so much of self in our lives, that it is so hard for us to see. We are so often caught looking at others and how selfish they are, and we forget to look at our own lives and don't see our Self.

We need to look at Jesus and the perfect example he was when walking on

I started by reading the Genesis 17 account of this earth. It will give us the courage to rise up again, and go on. The

When we lose our joy, Mr. Self-pity comes along and encourages us to get a wrong focus on self and others."

Bible says, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God," If we will truly humble

faith, especially considering their ourselves there will be no room for the big monster Self.

So I would encourage each one to humble yourself, and get rid of the Self that so often finds itself in our lives. And always keep your joy in the Lord, that there may be no reason for self-pity to come along.

Only by His Grace,

The faith of Sarah

A month ago I started a new series with my Sunday School lessons on Hebrews 11- The Hall of Faith. I'm going through the chapter person by person and writing a lesson based on each one, and I have been really blessed by them. This week's lesson as about Sarah.

In studying Sarah's faith according to Hebrews 11:11-12 it is practically impossible to separate it from her husband, Abraham, because they shared the same faith, and lived the same faith.

God change Abram's name (meaning "Father of many") to Abraham (meaning "Father of a multitude"). At the same time God changes Abraham's wife's name from Sarai (meaning "My princess", ie, first her parents' princess and later Abraham's rincess) to Sarah (meaning "Princess" ie the princess of a new race). In my study it struck me that simply announcing to their household and acquaintances their new names was a real act of

circumstances. Think about it for a moment. The names they already had, especially Abraham's were probably already a sore point for them, for Abraham was the father of one, not many, and Sarah was no-one's mother at all. Now , out of nowhere God changes their manes to Father of a multitude, and Princess of a new race! No doubt an announcement such as this would have left them wide open to scorn and ridicule. And yet with great faith and

courage they did make that announcement, for never again do we read of them being called Abram and Sarai- by anyone. Abraham and Sarah believed that God would keep His promise, and that the significance of their new names would indeed be fulfilled. Later in Genesis 18, we read that 3 angels came to Abraham's tent and reiterated God's promise that Sarah would bear a son, and that this would happen over the next year(vs 10) Sarah heard if in the tent door, and doubting in her heart, she laughed and said, "After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" (vs12) Then we read in vs 13-15 how that the Lord rebuked her for her lack of faith, and for denying it. However, God does not punish her, and in chapter 21:1-3 we see that God did indeed opened her womb and she conceived. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:11 that it was "by faith" that she received strength to conceive, so we see that while Sarah did suffer a lapse of faith, it was only temporary. The Lord's

rebuke, and, no doubt the encouragement of her husband, restored her to a strong faith in God's faithfulness and power. She waited up to a year from the time of the original promise before it was fulfilled in Isaac's birth, and never in that time did she renounced her new name. I was encouraged in three points from Sarah (and Abraham's) story according to Genesis 17-21, Romans 4:16-22 and Hebrews 11:11-12.

A) Faith begins when we disregard our inabilities knowing that god's abilities will more that compensate (Romans 4: 19-20). Both Abraham and Sarah were beyond child-bearing age, but God's power was not limited by their powerlessness. I am reminded that there is nothing too hard for God, and therefore I must trust in Him to do even the impossible (Genesis 18:14).

B) It is not rare for a Christian to have a lapse of faith. Often I lack faith in my own Christian walk. Praise the Lord though, that He does not leave me stumbling. He rebukes me, and maybe

sometimes sends me "an angle" to encourage and restore me again to a strong faith in His promises. When we stumble, we must listen to rebuke and heed encouragement as Sarah did, and like her, we can by God's grace and mercy be forgiven, restored and used to the praise and glory of the Lord.

C) Being fully persuaded that God can and will do what He promises gives us the courage to make a public declaration of the given promise. Neither courage nor faith can exist exclusively of the other. Courage is the natural fruit of faith. Faith without courage is not faith at all, and courage without faith is nothing but vain hope. This truth has for-reaching applications in the Christian life. For example, if we truly believe that God will be faithful and that He is able to fulfil His promise that if a person repents and believes the gospel then God will give her forgiveness and eternal life, or on the other hand, that God can and will keep His promises to punish unbelieving, unrepentant sinner for

eternity in the Lake of Fire,,, -if we really believe that, then we will have the courage to repent and trust Christ and then to publicly confess Him in baptism. Likewise, if we really believe these promised we will have the courage

to publicly declare these same promises by getting involved in soul-winning. I hope everybody who reads this will be as encouraged and challenged as I was by the faith of Sarah.

By Mrs. Crocket



Mrs. Crocket lives with her husband and 5 children in Romania, where they serve the Lord together.

I will give you rest.

“And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”

Exodus 33:14

There are times when we as Christians go through trials; things just seem too much for us to bear. Myself and my family have gone through times like that, and I am sure you have too, because every Christian does.

A few mornings ago, when I was reading Exodus, the Lord really encouraged me with the above verse.

In this verse the Lord was reassuring Moses that He would be with him as he lead the children of Israel. And It reminded me that yes, some things are too much for us to bear by ourselves, but that if we are close to the Lord and in his will, whatever that Lord takes us through, His presence will asways be there to give us the peace and rest that only he can give.

“. . . God replied ‘My precious, precious child

I love you and would never, never leave you

During your times of trials and sufferings,

When you see only one set of footprints It was then that I carried you.”

I do hope and pray that you, my sisters in Christ, will be encouraged by Exodus 33:14 as much as I was, and always know that the Lord is with you.

By Tiana Popovic



Tiana Popovic

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters now how much we own;
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a while.

So when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be glad of the things they say

About how you spent your dash?

A Tangled Life

Father, my life is in tangle,
Thread after thread appears
Twisted and broken and knotted,
Viewed through the lapse of years.

I cannot straighten them, Father;
Oh, it is very hard'
Somehow or other it seemeth,
All I have done is marred.

I did not see they were getting
Into this tangled state;
How it has happened I know not—
Is it too, late, too late?

Is it? "Ah no!" Thou dost whisper,
"Out of this life of thine
Yet may cone wonderful beauty
Wrought by My Power Divine."

Take then, the threads, O my Father
Let them Thy mind fulfill,
Work out in love a pattern
After Thy holy will!

Charlotte Murray

*"The Absence of a
devotional spirit means
death to the grace born in
a renewed heart".*

E.M. Bounds

God is looking for little people:

Today you are youth, eagerly reaching for adulthood. Dreams about tomorrow beckon you; ideas for the coming years ignite hope in your breast. Not long ago I was in your place. Though youth is a joyful segment of life, it is not an end in itself. To become an adult is good because God designed that we become adults.

Your concept of adulthood is very important, for you will invariably move in the direction of your ideal. What does adulthood mean to you? Does it mean independence, financial power, stamping your imprint in this world, and time to pursue your own interest? Or does it mean maturity and refinement of character, and a time to labor in the Lord's work?

For many people, adulthood means leaving behind all the things that portray childhood; yet it was a child that Jesus used to demonstrate the character of one who would enter the kingdom of heaven. Consider a few differences between adults and children.

- 1/ To be an adult is to be big; to be a child is to be small.
- 2/ To be an adult is to be strong; to be a child is to be weak.
- 3/ To be an adult is to lead; to be a child is to follow.
- 4/ To be an adult is to own things; to be a child is to own nothing.
- 5/ To be an adult is to be brave; to be a child is to trust.
- 6/ To be an adult is to have authority; to be a child is to take instruction.
- 7/ To be an adult is to have freedom; to be a child is to be secure in another.
- 8/ To be an adult is to be independent; to be a child is to love selflessly.
- 9/ To be an adult is to accomplish things; to be a child is to smell the flowers.
- 10/ To be an adult is to have the answer; to know God is to be a child.

As the Christian life runs paradoxical to nature, so we must have a child's nature to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is true adulthood.

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

E.J.Hartman

God's Love in You

Love your brother, love your sister,
Love the lost and dying too;
Thus will God's love be perfected
In your life; He'll dwell in you!

You must have a deep compassion
Everywhere and for all men,

Giving as the Lord hath prospered,
Share with them, and share again!

Suffering with those who suffer,
Weeping and rejoicing too;
Thus will God's love be perfected
In your life; He'll dwell in you!

Pauline Ressler

Purposeful Singlehood

For those of us who are still in the life-stage of singleness, there is no need to fear these years between finishing school and becoming a married woman. There are many areas we, as young women, are able to take part in, and can be used to be a blessing to others and also beneficial for our future marriage and child-rearing.

Are you part of a large family? Or do you know a large family who might need an extra pair of hands to assist with daily living? What a wonderful way to prepare for running your own home! I know for myself, when I've helped other families in different ways how invaluable the experience has been, even though I'm not using it yet.

The list could go on with ideas of how you can fill your single years. . . teaching music lessons- of teaching anything that you have a good amount of knowledge about. . . and as you pass on your knowledge, it will become more ingrained in your own mind and be

more helpful to you- improve your homemaking skills such as cooking, cleaning, sewing, clothing washing. . . do a short course like First Aid, book-keeping- something that will potentially be helpful when you're married, of even now while you're under your father's authority; there's a multitude of courses available that are beneficial, and suitable for Christian young ladies. I'm sure you will be able to think of ways that you can use your years of singleness to the utmost, and please the Lord in the process. .

. . is there a young girl in your church that needs a "big sister"! Can you see something at church that needs tending go? Do it, without waiting to be asked to do it, and without expecting thanks - do I because you want to be a blessing to your pastor and to your fellow Christians in the church.

But whatever you do, "do all to the glory of God", and insure that your parents are happy for you to go ahead with

it, for - after all - they are your God-given authority at this time of your life, and what better way to show your love for the Lord than to obey and love your parents willingly, and to heed their counsel!

So may I encourage all the single Christian women to use these beautiful years of singleness to attend to the things of the Lord and developing skills that will make you better equipped for marriage.

From a fellow Christian single young woman,

Bethany Davies.



Bethany Davies

16.6.1991

Perfect Peace

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3

Let us look at this promise of His Word carefully.

Thou- The everlasting, the all sufficient, the all knowing, the never failing GOD.

Wilt- Assuredly, in the best possible way, beyond the measures of man's mind.

Keep- Guard closely, sustain completely, treasure as His very own in His hands.

In- Inside the safety on His Holy Presence, Power, Preservation and Purpose.

Perfect- Absolutely and Completely without fault of blemish

Peace- His peace which nothing in this world can disturb because He Who is our peace is keeping thee. . . " **Whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.**"

Jesus gives His Word of promise personally to you also.

- Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
- Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

By Colin Stock

'For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ' 2 Corinthians 1:5

Here is a blessed proportion. The ruler of Providence bears a pair of scales- in this side He puts His people's trials, and in that He puts their consolations. When the scale of trial is nearly empty, you will always find the scale of consolation in nearly the same condition; and when the scale of trials is full, you will find the scale of consolation just as heavy. When the black clouds gather most, the light is the more brightly revealed to us. When the night lowers and the tempest is coming on, the Heavenly Captain is always closest to His crew. It is a blessed thing, that when we are most cast down, then it is that we are most lifted up by the consolations of the Spirit. One reason is, because trials make more room for consolation. Great hearts

can only be made by great troubles. The spade of trouble digs the reservoir of comfort deeper, and makes more room for consolation. God comes into our heart- He finds it full- He begins to break our comforts and to make it empty; then there is more room for grace. The humbler a man lies, the more comfort he will always have, because he will be more fitted to receive it. Another reason why we are often most happy in our troubles, is this- then we have the closest dealings with God. When the barn is full, man can live without God: when the purse is bursting with gold, we try to do without so much prayer. But once take our gourds away, and we want our God; once cleanse the idols out of the house, then we are compelled to honour Jehovah. 'Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord,' There is no cry so good as that which comes from the bottom the mountains; no

prayer half so hearty as that which comes up from the depths of the soul, through deep trials and afflictions. Hence they bring us to God, and we are happier; for nearness to God is happiness. Come,

troubled believer, fret not over your heavy troubles, for they are the heralds of weighty mercies. C.H. Spurgeon

Taken from C.H. Spurgeons Morning and Evening

Faith, not feelings

Faith has nothing to do with feelings or with impressions, with improbabilities or with outward experiences. If we desire to couple such things with faith, then we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith needs nothing of the kind. Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take him at His Word, the heart is at peace.

-George Muller. Known for his life of faith and refusal to solicit funds, Muller prayed about everything and expected each prayer to be answered. He was well-known for providing an education to the children under his care, to the point where he was accused of raising the poor above their natural station of life. He also established 117 schools which offered Christian education to over 120,000 children, many of them being orphans.

Enjoy Today!

As I prayed for you this morning, the word that kept coming to mind was "encourage." I know what it is to be discouraged. I've been discouraged hundreds of times, but I've also been encouraged just as many times.

What I'm about to share with you are the very words I've used to encourage

myself. These words have broken the spirit of discouragement. No one is immune to problems. Anyone who attempts anything for God will have problems and will be discouraged.

Today I want to encourage you:

God is greater than you think, closer than you think, He is more ambitious

than you think, more committed than you think.

Satan will attempt to get you to focus on and to magnify the problem rather than to focus on God and to magnify Him.

The Bible says to let the weak say, "I am strong," let the oppressed say, "I am free," and let the sick say, "I am healed."

The Bible says that no weapon formed against you will prosper and that God will never leave you nor forsake you.

It's time to starve your fears and feed your faith by magnifying the Lord rather than that which is discouraging you.

Proverbs 20:24: Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?

"Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to figure out everything that happens along the way?"

Psalm 37:23: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."

The Bible declares that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

I encourage you today to count your blessings rather than your problems. Look at what is right with your life rather than what is wrong.

Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

When I've been discouraged, I've chosen to rejoice in the Lord and be glad. No matter what you are experiencing today, everything is subject to change- your dreams, your health. . . because God is on the throne.

David was discouraged himself in the Lord and declared aloud, "You've come with a sword and a shield, but I have come in the name of the Lord. This day I will feed your head to the birds of the air."

Be encouraged today. Stop right now and encourage yourself in the Lord. Pray this prayer with me:

"Father, I magnify you because you are my source. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I bless you, Father, because I take the shield of faith, and I quench every fiery dart of the wicked. I overcome evil with good. No weapon formed against me will prosper. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.

'Copied from and email to Mr. and Mrs. Milway from Dr. Michael Evens of the Jerusalem Prayer Team'

Stir up the Gift

Oh, stir up the gift of God within you,
Although small in your sight it may be.
There's a task, and you're needed to do it,
With the gift God has given so free.

God has made everyone for a reason:
Find the purpose He has planned for you.
You will not be content till you're willing
And follow what He bids you to do.

The grace that God gives will be sufficient
For the work He has called you to do.
His strength will be given without failing
If you abide in Him and are true.

If unused you leave your ability,
You have cheated the God who made you
And the world that much needs every talent;
You must give all the best you can do.

So stir up the gift of God within you;
May it shine for His glory always.
Work your gift to the fullest of service,
In a life crowned by His endless praise.

-Josh Bechtel

*Whenever we are in the wrong place,
our right place is empty!*

A Soul

“A soul! A soul!” arose the cry
From the thousands on the green
Although ‘twas stormy and most dark,
A tug of war was seen.

“A soul! A soul!” was the weight
For which the two teams fought.
Both sides in earnest pulled the rope,
Both sides the vict’ry sought.

“A soul! A soul!” the heavenly crew
Tried to gain a hold on—
Angels, friends, and Mother dear,
Pulled, lest it be gone.

“A soul! A soul!” the evil team
Tugged with all their might,
Edging closer to a cliff
And into the cold, dark night.

“A soul! A soul!” Ala! ‘Twas mine!
The two groups labored on—
Mother’s face with anguished flashed—
And then the soul was gone!

“A soul! A soul!” ‘Twas just a dream,
But lest it should come true,
I gave myself to Jesus Christ
A friend and Master too.

“A soul! A soul!” Dear fellow man,
Come and be as I—
Come, eternal life to gain,
So more to eternally die!

- By Lydia Tesch
Based on O.F. Walton’s
Christie the King’s Servant

Don’t Quit

When things go wrong as
they sometimes will,
And the road you’re trudging
seems all up hill,
When funds are low and
debts are high,
And you have to smile,
but you want to cry,
When care is pressing
you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but
don’t you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and
turns

As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he
stuck it out.

Don’t give up though the pace seems
slow-

You may succeed with another blow,
Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you
are,

It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you’re
hardest hit-

It’s when things seem worst that you
must not quit.

-Author unknown

