

Sometimes it's hard to believe in an invisible God. When life goes wrong, you wonder where God is or if he even cares. You pray, but God seems to be a million miles away. You can't see or feel him working in your life. You feel alone. Your mind is filled with doubt and sadness. Bad things seem to pile up. One hardship follows another, and your cries to God to make them stop seem to get no higher than the ceiling. What do you do when God seems far away? First, it's important to recognize that this is an **emotional response**. The problem with your feelings is that they're not always reliable. They can lead you to conclusions that simply aren't true. You have to make a choice as to what you're going to believe: your feelings, or Jesus. When Jesus said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," (Mat. 28:20), he wasn't kidding. Jesus always spoke the truth. That means he's with you even though you may not **feel** his presence. In my 50 years of

being a Christian, I've learned that when you're suffering, that's when Jesus is **closest** to you. Second, you need to accept that God is always working behind the scenes: Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." (John 5:17) If you recall how God answered your prayers in the past, you'll remember that at the time, it seemed as if nothing was happening. Then suddenly, perhaps unexpectedly, God's solution appeared. He had been working on it all the while. Third, remember that God is on his own timetable. He won't be rushed, no matter how desperately you pray. His timing is perfect, even if you don't think so. Many of your life events can only be understood in hindsight. God, who knows your future, can see ahead to consequences you would not have considered. Fourth, sometimes you need to stop talking and **listen**. Don't expect an audible voice. God speaks through the Bible and through other people. Perseverance in prayer is important, but if you're too upset to pray, don't worry that

God has forgotten your needs. He doesn't need minute by minute reminders. Give him a chance to talk.

Finally, never forget that God loves you more than you could ever imagine. When you love somebody, you want to be **with** them all the time. God, who has the power to go anywhere he wants in the entire universe, has chosen to live inside **you**, through his Holy Spirit. God is in your heart, right now as you're reading this!

So be still and accept God's enormous love for you. Open your heart to him and his Word. He's not far away at all. He **is** with you and he will never, **ever** leave you.

That's not a feeling. That's a fact.



You'll find many other encouraging messages like this at Jack Zavada's web site:
www.inspiration-for-singles.com

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