

## EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY

### INTRODUCTION

Our Bible chapter for the year is Psalm 23. We have been visiting different parts of this Psalm and have been greatly encouraged by it. By now, most of us should be able to quote the entire 6 verses of the Psalm by heart and its true meaning should be sinking into our spirit and helping us in every circumstance we face.

The final verse is this: **Psalm 23:6** (NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. Often, we focus only on the "what" and the "where" of this verse – the "what" being the promise of God's goodness and mercy, and the "where" being our future eternal dwelling in the Lord's house.

Today I want to look at the "when" of this psalm because it holds a fantastic blessing.

### MESSAGE

Looking at the "when" of Psalm 23:6, we find reference to two time periods:

1. All the days of our life – goodness and mercy will be ours for as long as we live.
2. Forever – dwelling in the house of the Lord.

There is a wonderful continuation here – this verse indicates God's blessings both here on earth, as well as the blessing of being in His presence forever, implying life after death in the physical body.

This is very much in line with many scriptures in God's word. I believe there's more. When we speak of "every day of my life", we tend to think in days. There's even a song that was quite popular years ago. "One day at a time". And this is advice I often give to people, that they live not for next week, or next year, but they trust God for His presence and help for today, and then tomorrow, by God's grace we can trust Him for tomorrow.

### ALL DAY LONG

I want to encourage us today to shorten those time period's from days, to moments. Every day is made up of 24 hours or 1440 minutes or, 86 400 seconds.

I believe that God wants us to be aware of His presence, His grace, His mercy, His provision and His salvation all day long, every moment of every day.

A book was written called, "Practicing the Presence of God". It is a book of collected teachings of Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite friar, compiled by Father Joseph de Beaufort. The basic theme of the book is the development of an awareness of the presence of God. According to Brother Lawrence, he did this by "*being governed by love, without selfish views; and by resolving to make the love of GOD the end of all his actions,*". He said that "*he was pleased when he could take up a straw from the ground for the love of GOD, seeking Him only, and nothing else, not even His gifts.* He also formed a habit of conversing with GOD continually, and referring all he did to Him;"

The psalmist had similar thoughts:

**Psalm 25:4-5** (AMP) Let me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. 5 Guide me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You [and only You] I wait [expectantly] **all the day long.**

To successfully navigate everyday life, we all need godly wisdom. We need God's Holy Spirit and His Word to lead us, guide us and teach us. We don't need it now and again; we need it all day long.

**Psalm 86:3** (NKJV) Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to **You all day long.**

Not only do we need God's guidance and teaching all day long, but we also need His mercy every moment of the day.

***How would you like to learn to be aware of God's presence in everything you do, all day long? It will change the outcome of so much in life.***

## **IN HIS PRESENCE**

**Psalm 16:11** (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Being in God's presence is where we find His guidance and direction for our life. It's also where we find our joy.

- How different would our lives be if we allowed Him to show us the path of life?
- We would make less mistakes.
- We would stop making wrong decisions.
- We would certainly not sin nearly as much if we were constantly aware of God's presence.

Often the lack of joy in our lives is because of wrong choices and decisions. Fullness of joy comes from referring everything to God. Life would be so much

more joyful, when because of being aware of God's presence, and seeking His face continually, we stop saying hurtful things to others, we make correct decisions, and choices that don't lead to regret. Our mouths would be constantly filled with songs of praise.

***Declare to the Lord today, "I want to be continually in your presence", I need to experience fullness of joy".***

### **AT HIS RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE**

Psalm 23:6 ends with "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever".

Psalm 16:11 ends with, "At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore".

Both verses speak about being in God's presence forever! When does forever begin? I believe this does not only mean after we are done with our life on the earth. This forevermore begins the moment we give our hearts to Jesus.

How can I say this? Because of what the book of Ephesians tells us:

In Ephesians 1 we read that Jesus, having been raised in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, is seated at God's right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality and power, might and dominion and every name that is named, and ALL things are under His feet. Then we read this in Ephesians 2:

**Ephesians 2:4-6** (NKJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

We may not be physically in God's house right now, but we are there in the spiritual realm because of Jesus. Spiritually we are seated in Christ in heavenly places right now, and Christ is at our Father's right hand. This means that we too are at our Father's right hand.

When we take this truth and combine it with **Psalm 16:11** (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- We dwell in God's house all the time.
- We are currently in His presence at His right hand.
- This is the place where God gives us guidance regarding the paths of life.
- This is the place of continual guidance, goodness and mercy.
- This is the place where we experience fullness of joy .
- Right now, we are seated with Christ in the same place where pleasures forevermore are to be found.

We are with God every moment of the day forever. This is not only a promise for some time in the future, it's a promise for right now, this very moment!

**Psalm 23:6** (NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

***Do you want to be positioned in a place of mercy and goodness every moment of every day of your life and throughout eternity? In Christ you are already there. What we need to learn to do is become aware of God's presence every moment of the day. As we realise our amazing access to our Heavenly Father, everything changes. We can face every day and every circumstance with faith and confidence, experiencing goodness, mercy, salvation and joy on abundance.***

## **APPRECIATING GOD'S PRESENCE EVERY MOMENT**

Learning to appreciate God's presence every moment of the day will take some work. Bother Lawrence described it this way:

*"in order to form a habit of conversing with GOD continually, and referring all we do to Him; we must at first apply to Him with some diligence: but that after a little care we should find His love inwardly excite us to it without any difficulty."*

This is a process, it will take time and it will take diligence at first. It will require re-focusing our racing minds. It will take dealing with distractions. But if we persevere with it, the work will become pleasure, because the more we become aware of God's presence, the more of His love we will become aware of. This will lead us to begin desiring that place of being in His presence moment by moment, an in time, it will become a crucial part of our life.

What will distract us from getting there:

- Focusing on our problems instead of on the Problem Solver.
- Focus on self rather than on God.
- Sinful and carnal pursuit.
- Our mobile phone, and social media.
- The enemy – the last thing he wants is for us to become continually aware of God's presence.

***What is it in our life that is distracting us from God? Let us ask the Holy Spirit to keep prompting us and reminding us of His presence. He said He would NEVER leave us nor forsake us.***

## **CONCLUSION**

There is a Hymn which speaks of living in Christ every moment of the day:

### **Moment by Moment**

*Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;  
Living with Jesus, a new life divine;*

*Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,  
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.*

*Chorus:*

*Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;  
Moment by moment I've life from above;  
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;  
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.*

*Never a trial that He is not there,  
Never a burden that He doth not bear,  
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,  
Moment by moment, I'm under His care.*

*Never a heartache, and never a groan,  
Never a teardrop, and never a moan;  
Never a danger but there on the throne,  
Moment by moment He thinks of His own.*

*Never a weakness that He doth not feel,  
Never a sickness that He cannot heal;  
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,  
Jesus my Saviour abides with me still.*

The secret to successful, victorious days in the Lord is to be aware of His presence all day long. He promised to NEVER leave us nor forsake us. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us every moment of every day of our life. Fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore can be our portion right now.

Are you living in Christ moment by moment? Are you truly seated with Him in the house of the Lord at the right hand of Father? You can be, you can live every moment knowing true grace, true guidance, true fellowship and true victory all day long. All it takes is a willingness to culture a daily, moment by moment awareness of the Lord's presence. He is waiting for you to ask.