

ALWAYS THERE!

I remember one of the first times, as a young believer in Christ, that I didn't feel God's presence. I woke up one morning and simply did not have the great feeling and assurance I had had before. Being relatively young in the faith and not knowing the Bible, I thought: "I think God left me last night! What happened?"

When I went to my pastor to talk about this, he smiled and said to me: "Jackie, you're going through a trial."

"What? I'm on trial? For what?"

"No, you're going **through** a trial."

"What's a trial?"

My pastor explained to me there are times in our lives when we do not feel the presence of God, but that doesn't mean that He's not there. Over time, I came to realize and understand that God allows us to go through and experience trials in order to teach us and to enable us to grow in our faith. For example, we might walk outside tomorrow, and it's an overcast day. And we might say, "The sun was here yesterday, but I do not see the sun today. I don't feel the warmth. I guess the sun has disappeared!" No, the sun hasn't gone away. It has merely been obscured by clouds but it's still there. Its warmth is still there. Just go to the beach for the day without applying any sunscreen and you will know it was there.

In the same way, some people falsely conclude that when they don't feel God, He is gone. He has disappeared. But He is there even when we do not feel Him. The Bible is clear in **Hebrews 13:5**: "**I will never leave you nor forsake you**".

It is during these times that we must walk by faith, not by feeling because God has promised in His Word that He will always be with us. That is one way to know that God is with us. Do you believe that?

Thought for the day:

Even when we cannot feel God's presence, believe and know and be assured He is present.

Blessings!

Pastor