

Not Alone In This Life

As the school year was winding down, we attended elementary school awards assemblies for our grandchildren. If you have ever been to one, parents and grandparents arrive 30-40 minutes early to get a good seat. The kids file in with their class five minutes before the starting time. As they walk in, they scan the room to find their parents and then issue a hearty wave to loved ones sitting in the audience. My grandson, graduating from kindergarten, gave the sign of a heart and a visual hug to his mom. Children "feel the love" when they acknowledge the presence of their family. There is a definite connection between the child and those in attendance to witness their achievement. When they are called up front to receive an award, they beam a smile and look at their parents and grandparents in the audience. They know they are there for them.



As we go through life, God is "in the audience," cheering us on. While we don't physically see Him, we know He is there for us. A familiar verse reads, *Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:20). Sometimes, we may forget the first part of this verse and concentrate only on "I am with you always." Teaching isn't only through formal school. Life is a continual teaching opportunity where we learn of God's direction through the Bible, through Christian friends, and evidence of God working in our lives.

Life can be scary, but God is with us. From Isaiah (41:10) we read, *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* And in verse 13, we read, *For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.* God takes an active role during the difficult times. We don't need to fear.

At the end of the school year assembly, the parents were waiting in the gymnasium well before the children entered the room. *The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*" As you face life's challenges, God goes before you, regardless of what you are facing. Acknowledge Him. Think of His love for you when you speak to Him through prayer. He is right there with you - you are not alone in this life.

Question: How do you acknowledge the Lord's presence and seek His guidance when life throws challenges and obstacles in your path?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We know you are continually in our presence, holding our hand and guiding us. Teach us the way you want us to go. Amen.