

Daily Devotional, July 3, 2020 Never Small, Never Alone

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” Romans 8:16 (NIV)

We may not want to come right out and admit it, but many of us struggle with loneliness. So often we wonder if anyone truly understands us, or “gets” us. Loneliness can be tricky. Some people may have actually isolated themselves from the outside world because they feel there is no use in trying anymore to be known or included. But many times, we are lonely even as we are constantly around other people and involved in our communities. There are thoughts and issues of the heart that the people around us just don’t know or maybe even care about.

When we are lonely, it tends to make us feel small and insignificant. This feeling can be driven even deeper when we actually start to consider how small we really are when weighing the enormity of the world around us. When we view the scale of our country, our planet, our solar system, and the universe we see that we are incredibly small. Biblical writers magnify this feeling. David, in Psalm 8:3-4 says to us, ***“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”*** Even the great King David couldn’t help but feel his own insignificance in comparison to God’s immense creation. To think that “*here today, gone tomorrow*” creatures such as ourselves could hold any significance at all in God’s greater scheme, evokes thoughts of wonder from all of us who consider what unfathomable love must lie in the heart of such a marvelous creator!

The great news that is revealed to us in the Gospel is that no matter how small we are, we are *not* insignificant. We are also *not alone*. Paul argues in Romans 8 that Jesus has died for us so that we may receive the Holy Spirit and be adopted into God’s family. What great news for the world, but also great news for us as individuals! In our confusion and in our struggle God’s Spirit testifies with our own spirit about who we are. This essentially signifies that God preaches to our very souls about their own identities. God reminds us by God’s very presence that we belong to Him as His children. His own Son gave his life so that we would be adopted into God’s family. The Gospel makes it clear that God loves us and wants us. God wants us to feel like we belong.

This tells us that we are never really alone. There is one who always sees, knows, understands, and cares. As followers of Christ, we have an all-knowing, all-powerful, always present Father who “gets us.” God watches over and provides for us. God has given us brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we share fellowship, love, and support. And God leaves no stone unturned in helping God’s children succeed. God is working for our good as God’s glory takes root and advances in our lives and in our world. Let us feel confident that we are completely secure in God’s domain!

Prayer: Give us strength, dear God, to carry on when we are down and out and have no one to turn to. Let us always remember that You are our friend and our companion in our time of need. Most gracious God let us feel the Holy Spirit’s comfort at all moments of desperation. Help us to realize that You are the only one we need, especially in times of trials. Comfort us and warm us forever in Your love. Amen.