You Are Never Alone
2Timothy 1:5

The game of tennis has taught me many lessons. It has taught me how to look at victory. It has taught me how to accept and understand loss. That when we lose, we are never alone; as hurtful as that moment may feel individually, we are not alone. There have been others who have traveled this very road before us. There have been others who looked victory in the face only to have defeat snatch it from their grasp. Not only have there been others who have been before us, there will be others who will follow behind us. They too will have to learn how to accept winning and losing, victory and defeat with a level of acceptance that leads to peace.

However, it is the ones who have gone before me who have taught me the most. It is to them that I am most indebted. They are the voices that I hear when defeat wants to pull me under. When defeat wants to label me a loser, they are the sages of yesterday that guide me through the emotional drama that loss introduces to anyone who has experienced it. When those torrential rains come pouring down and do their very best to cut through the very fabric of our being, are we ever alone? When the rains of life attempt to cut through my very being, am I ever alone? As the storm rages and the challenges continues to visit us from places we did not know existed, it is that very storm that forces me to seek the voice of God. It is that storm and similar storms that causes me to remember the lessons of yesterday. Those teachers God sent to light my way. It is the voice of yesterday's teachers that we sometimes hear. Those are the voices that remind us that we are not alone. Those are the voices of our mothers, our fathers, and our grandparents that we remember telling us, "we are not alone." The Holy Spirit guides us and brings to our minds their words, the light they had to give as the Holy Spirit floods our minds with divine revelation they received from God. It is in that moment that we hear the voice of God resound above the storm with "peace be still." It is this voice that speaks to me and me alone that touches my spirit and guides my footsteps. It is this voice of God and the voice of those I remember that reminds me and confirms for me that I am not alone.

I have taken this lesson with me in other areas of life. When trouble rudely interrupts my peaceful existence, it is then to my surprise that the lessons of God's word find their way into my spirit. God tries to tell me that I am not alone. In the midst of the trial, God tries to convince me that He present with me. I have discovered and am constantly reminded in these times of extreme trouble, there are others who have walked this road. Yes, this is my road, yes, this is my trial, but there are saints who been through their own anguish that is very similar to my own. They have been through their own hell, and they have something to tell me and you about how to get through it. They have something to teach you and me. They have something to share with us. You may feel alone. You may feel abandoned, but God does not abandon His own. Circumstances may cause your knees to buckle, cause your heart to ache, but the God who keeps Israel, will keep you too, even in the midst of this particular trial.

The Word of God has lesson after lesson about how God has kept His saints. There are people in your circle who can testify how God has been a very present help in their time of trouble. Not only was God helping, not only was God rescuing, but God was present while doing it. They will tell you that they experienced God's presence. There are those in our circle who have experienced God's rescue and can tell you first hand, that God's presence is real. Listen to the sick and shut-in report. God has been moving, God has been touching lives. Sometimes God acts by giving us the strength to just hang on. Sometimes God acts by giving us the strength to hold on. Understand this, however, when the situation unfolds, God is there with us.

It is normal and natural to feel abandoned in times of trial and conflict. When there are no answers, it is almost impossible for us to understand. None of what is going on makes sense to us. It is not a sin to feel forsaken or lost. It reveals our humanity and our need to have God's active strength and power in our lives. The God we serve is not offended by our frailties. It is because of our weakness, it is because of our shortcomings that God extends His grace and mercy.

We sing the song, "Your grace and mercy has brought me through. I'm living each moment because of you, I want to thank you and praise you to, Your grace and mercy

has brought me through." This song speaks to the ever "present God" in our lives. When we sing "I'm living each moment because of you," we are saying that God is our constant companion. That every moment I live because of God's personal involvement in my life. God is there all the time. God does not move. Our awareness of God may diminish at times, but God's presence does not. We have come to know this over time. Even though we sometimes become fearful and doubt, God does not ever abandon us because of it.

But it is the lessons taught to us by those who have gone before us. The lessons that tell us and teaches us that God is always faithful. The lessons that teach us we are never alone. Sometimes, it is through the testimony of others; sometimes, it is through the prayers of others. Sometimes, it's a kind word, a gentle touch. It is all a demonstration of God's presence in our lives. It is a statement that says no matter how you feel, no matter how dark the moment, you are not alone.

I have discovered God displays His companionship in a variety of ways. Through people, words, and touch. People are the instruments of God. God gives us each a melody to play when others are in need of God's help. It is a melody that is unique for our particular situation and our particular trouble. Only you can play this melody. Only you can reach out and love someone enough to show them the love of God that prevails in this world. As long as there is a Child of God in the world, no one needs to ever be alone.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool