

YOUR PRESENCE

SONG DEVOTIONAL - COLE GRUBBS

LYRICS

I need Your help God
To seek You first
Give You all the praise
Though it's less than You deserve

Help me to focus
Distracted as I am
Put my eyes to Your Word
And help me understand

You are the One
You are the center of my universe
You call my name
Your presence Lord,
Is breathing life in me
Is breathing life in me

It's not always easy
To follow Your path
When I try my own
I have to take a few steps back

Speak to me Jesus
Drown out my fears
Let me hear Your voice
Make it loud and clear

I need Your presence
I need Your peace
Come let it wash over
And run through me

All I need is Your presence
To set me free
I'm seeking the face of
The risen king

DEVOTIONAL

Psalm 16:7-11

I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

As a child, I remember having the opportunity to go to Disneyland in California on a visit to be with my grandpa, who lived near Los Angeles at the time. He took me and my siblings to one of those multidimensional movie theaters, which involved images that appeared to be coming out of the screen, surround sound like you've never heard before, and even random bursts of air to give another dimension of touch. I don't remember which movie we saw, but as soon as the first big part of the film occurred, I experienced a whole new level of fear. I felt completely alone and swallowed up in the false reality of the theater. Through darkness, tears, and my 3D glasses, I scrambled all around until I finally found and grasped, with all of my might, my grandpa's arm. There was something immediately calming in the simple reminder that through my fear and confusion, he had been sitting right next to me the whole time.

I think we often do this with God. We tend to forget that he is an ever-present father who is available, active, and breathes life into us. It is too easy to become buried in the darkness of what distracts us, for our sense of reality and view of God to become clouded. Whether it be selfishness, addiction, greed, consuming too much of a wrong thing, viewing ourselves too highly, or trying to control everything on our own—these behaviors lead to distraction and pull our focus away from Jesus, giving the false appearance that he is distant.

Also, we must be careful to not only call out to him when we are fearful or find ourselves in a place of need. We should never forget that our true freedom is found in Christ and live in a constant posture of worship—holding close to him all the way through life, not only when we need him. As Psalm 16 says, our assignment is to bless him from a place of gratitude for being our ultimate guide and the one who offers us eternal life.

In a similar way to the lesson learned as a child in that movie theater, when you are met with the unexpected sense that you're far from God, or find yourself entrapped in crippling anxiety, remove the lens of false reality and cling to the Good Father who has been right beside you all along. There is authentic and life-giving joy when we trust that God is omnipresent and when we put him first. It's in his presence alone that we are guided, loved, and will not be shaken, no matter what comes our way. You are never too far away from him; he is right beside you if you just reach out.

What things in your life are distracting you from living a life of true worship and finding ultimate fulfillment in the presence of God?

