

I AM Right Here

OUTSKIRTS PRESS
PROOF

Anthony Martin

outskirts
—
press

Dedication

I want to dedicate this book to my wife, Patrice Martin. 2
Our conversations about eternity and the presence of 3
God have inspired me to share some of our discussions 4
with those who also long for Him. It is with delight that I 5
present this work of inspiration as a token of honor to you. 6
7
With All My Heart, Your Husband, Anthony. 8

CONTENTS

A Message From the Author	i	3
Chapter One – It’s Recorded	1	5
His Nature	4	6
His Presence	10	7
His Voice	17	8
His Actions	22	9
Chapter Two – His Eternal Love	29	11
He is Your Heavenly Father	29	12
He is Your Eternal Hope	35	13
He is Your Confidant	42	14
He is Your Trusted Friend	49	15
Chapter Three – He Watches and Listens	56	17
He Knows You	58	18
He Sees You	65	19
He Hears You	70	20
He Comes Alongside You	74	21
		22

1	Chapter Four – He Is the Secret Place	82
2	He is Where You Dwell.....	83
3	He is Where You Abide.....	91
4	He is Where You Confide.....	97
5	He is Where You Find Rest.....	102
6		
7	Chapter Five – He Sustains	109
8	He is Your Supporter	111
9	He is Your Strength	117
10	He is Your Defender.....	126
11	He is Your Provider	132
12		
13	Chapter Six – His Foresight.....	137
14	He Has a Plan	139
15	He Confirms It	146
16	He Prepares You	151
17	He Brings It to Fruition.....	158
18		
19	Chapter Seven – His Power.....	164
20	He Has All Authority.....	164
21	He Wills and Works In You	170
22	He Draws You Closer	176
23	He Helps You with Earthly Living.....	184

A Message From the Author

1

Suppose you were praying and calling on God, and suddenly, you heard a gentle but firm voice say, "I AM Right Here." How would you react? What would be your response? Well, He speaks that comforting and securing phrase to all His children. I often hear it in my heart during various moments. Sometimes I read about His nearness to me in Scripture, and other times, it manifests in situations or through the faithfulness of others. Our heavenly Father displays His love and commitment regardless of His chosen methods.

In every season or moment, He makes Himself known to us because He is a personal and relational God. There is never an instance when He is not present. In our good days and challenging ones, He is there. In happy and joyous moments, He is there rejoicing with us, and in even our sadness, the psalmist declares He is "...a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). Not one detail about our lives goes unnoticed by Him. I must admit there are times in my faith walk when I wonder if God is present, especially during those emotionally turbulent moments. I'm sure we all had instances when we sought to reach for Him in prayer, hoping for immediate results. Yet, nothing happens in our lives that doesn't pass before Him first.

The fact that our heavenly Father sees all our days before we live them out is comforting and relieves us while we live on Earth. The key is to keep our hearts and minds filled with His Word. Nothing else can sustain us greater than His counsels and promises. I recall instances when God's Word came to my mind that reinforced His love and provision. I didn't

1 ask to be reminded; the words came to my memory. It wasn't
2 a coincidence. My heavenly Father wanted me to know He
3 heard my prayer and was with me.

4 We often think of God's presence in only highly intense
5 moments of fellowship with Him, such as singing worship
6 songs, praying fervently, or even in Sunday church gatherings.
7 However, God wants us to know that He is always present.
8 We don't have to wait for those powerful, celebratory mo-
9 ments to feel His closeness; He is always there. He doesn't
10 leave and then comes back later. The Almighty is always pres-
11 ent. He's not on standby or looking from afar. He is a God that
12 is "At Hand." Whether we shout out to Him, whisper, or say
13 nothing, He hears and knows what we think and feel.

14 The phrase "I Am Right Here" stays with me constantly, no
15 matter where or what I'm doing. I always hear it in my heart
16 and mind. One day I was praying, and the unction came to
17 me about how reinforcing and reiteration those words (I Am
18 Right Here) is so profoundly needed amongst His children. I
19 was led to several passages of Scripture where the Lord God
20 spoke to His people about His abiding presence with them.
21 Throughout the Bible, it is a common theme of the Almighty
22 to enter and intervene in human life. However, none is greater
23 or more significant than His presence through Jesus Christ.

24 It all started coming together. The light turned on in my
25 mind. God showed me that He has always existed since the
26 Earth's creation. And on a personal level, He was present
27 at my birth. I thought about passages such as Jeremiah 1:5,
28 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," and Psalm
29 139:16, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance." I started
30 remembering different situations that occurred (favorable and

unfavorable) in my life, and it came to me, “That was the Lord 1
God,” working out the details on my behalf. It was Him who 2
stepped in and helped me. 3

I could hardly contain my emotions. I thought about 4
schoolteachers, counselors, friends, bystanders, relatives, 5
spiritual leaders, those in the Body of Christ, and of course, 6
my parents, who all were being used by my heavenly Father. 7
They were all tools in His hands to help craft my develop- 8
ment and growth. He was right there the whole time through 9
those individuals and various situations throughout my life. 10
Amazing! 11

The narrative of your life is also inspired by God, who 12
places specific people along with various factors that help 13
shape you for His glory. Take a few moments to sit with the 14
idea of God’s presence in your life. He didn’t show up when 15
you started following His Son (Jesus Christ). He has always 16
been with you behind the scenes of your life. He was present 17
at every major and minor event. He was there cheering you 18
on in your achievements, smiling when you took your first 19
steps, and bottling every tear you cried. God knows you. 20

However, the only way we can know Him is by Spirit. 21
We cannot tangibly see or touch our heavenly Father, but that 22
doesn’t mean we aren’t close to Him. Have you ever experi- 23
enced a calmness or peace in your heart when thinking about 24
God? Not the kind of serenity you would come away with 25
when sitting beside a lake or in a park. But the kind that lets 26
you know He is present. It’s difficult to explain because it 27
goes beyond a feeling. It’s a knowing or confidence that the 28
Almighty is guiding you. 29

Furthermore, you have His nature (the Spirit) dwelling in 30

1 you. The Holy Spirit knows everything there is to know about
2 God. The Bible explains this in First Corinthians Chapter Two,
3 "...For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God"
4 (v.10). He (the Spirit) knows the deep areas of God because
5 He is the third person of the Godhead (1 John 5:7). Our Lord
6 and Savior, Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit (also known as the
7 Helper or Comforter) to aid us in our lives upon Earth.

8 Chapter One details God's *nature, presence, voice, and*
9 *actions*. It is the groundwork for several statements about the
10 Almighty in the rest of the chapters. Additionally, referring
11 back to Chapter One as you read throughout the book would
12 be a good idea because it will help you process the relational
13 connection between you and God. The central message is to
14 inform and inspire about the Almighty's presence and near-
15 ness to you in every aspect of your life. Let's get started...

16

17

18

19