



## [Psalm 16:11](#)

(11) Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

*King James Version*

Do you realize that through [prayer](#), through Bible study, and through attending [Sabbath](#) services, we are in the presence of [God](#)? In His presence is [joy](#) evermore—no discouragement, not despair, not despondency, not guilt—joy!

He is such a powerful Personality that, when we are in His presence, it is very difficult, if not impossible, not to be affected by what He is. This is why we need to pray—it is an absolute necessity! We need to take advantage of this invitation to [fellowship](#) with Him, in study and prayer, because this great Personality wants to infuse us with what He is. It becomes part of us because we are around Him.

We have a proclivity to adapt to the environment in which we find ourselves. When we have grown up in this world, our character is set in such a way that it is against God. Only by being in His presence can this anti-God attitude be counteracted. This invitation to fellowship with Him is our salvation.

And there is not just joy in His presence but [love](#), [peace](#), [goodness](#), gentleness, [kindness](#), [mercy](#), self-control, and every other attribute of the [Spirit of God](#). In His presence is "where it's at."

Can we see the story that is being worked out from [Adam and Eve](#) on? Through the sins of mankind, he became separated from God. But now, through Christ, the ability to return to His presence, into fellowship with Him—into the very [Garden of Eden](#), as it were—has been opened to us again. It is only in His presence that all of the good attributes of His Spirit are available to us.

This highlights the importance of [Passover](#). It is not just the death of Christ but the effect

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of His death: reestablishment of communion with God, of fellowship with Him.

Having access to His presence does not mean that the Christian will never experience depression or despair, but we will never experience it for very long if we continue to fellowship with God. It will motivate us to refocus on the reality of what God is working and doing in us. In other words, our knowledge that we are keeping the commands of God and that we love our brethren and that we believe in the name (that is, the nature and all of the characteristics) of [Jesus Christ](#) will pull us out of our doldrums. We know what we have experienced with God in the past and realize that our present dilemma is not the end of the world.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**  
[Love and Fellowship](#)



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