

IS GOD DISTANT OR INTIMATE?

by Linda Ensley



Recently I read a book by Karen Kingsbury titled Angels Walking. As I read it, I expected to see angels coming to the aid of the main characters in miraculous ways. However, that was not the case. What the book did reveal was how God uses angels to fulfill His will in our lives and meet our personal needs, often needs we are unaware of. But the overall impression I got from the book was how much we are loved and cared for by our Heavenly Father and how intimately involved He is in our everyday lives.

This is sometimes difficult for us to see. As I was growing up I believed God loved me and sent Jesus to die for my sins. I could recite John 3:16. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”*** John 3:16 (NIV).

But then I would think “Yes, God loves the whole world, of which I am a tiny, insignificant speck.” There was nothing very special about our relationship. I was just one among the billions of other people in the world that God loved.

Then one day God reached out of heaven and touched me in a personal way, a way that I could now see His love for me and His personal involvement in my life. He healed me of an ailment that I had never told anyone about: for a couple of years I had been suffering with burning pain on the bottoms of my feet. I simply explained it away by thinking it was due to the shoes I wore and the fact that the building I worked in had concrete floors.

Then, one Saturday, at a Women’s Aglow meeting, the speaker said that God had told her He was sending healing that morning. She spoke of specific conditions within the group. I heard her say, “Someone has burning pain in their feet; God wants to heal you.” I had never thought to pray about that. So I made a note to myself to pray about it when I got home. However, before I could get home, I was healed of the pain. It was gone! It never returned!

At that point, I knew that God Himself knew me, cared for me and was intimately and lovingly involved in my life. I was living the words of the prophet who wrote: ***“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness”*** Jeremiah 1:13 (NIV). Since that day, I have seen my heavenly Father meet me at my point of need over and over again.

“Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!” Matthew 6:8 (TLB).

God has carried me through health issues, emotional struggles, divorce, job loss, financial stress and heartbreak. He has held my hand through cancer, challenges with my children, and loneliness.

He has not only been there, but He has been ahead of me. He prepared the jobs, the home, the counselors, the friendships, the church family and so much more.

Why do we try to be so self sufficient? Why do we think we must figure it all out on our own? Why do we so often turn to God as a last resort? He is there, waiting to provide for us, heal and bless us. After all, He is our Heavenly Father. Parents anticipate the needs of their children and stand ready to meet them. Why wouldn’t God do the same?

“May the Lord answer you when you are in distress . . . May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”
Psalm 20: 1 & 4. (NIV).

