



# God's presence in our trials

Pr. Israel - Aug, 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Main Bible Verse

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."

Isaiah 43:2 NLT

## Summary of the Message

His presence transforms moments into opportunities for growth, faith, and deeper intimacy with Him. God doesn't promise the absence of storms—He promises to walk with us through them.

### 1. God's presence is not dependent on our circumstances

"Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me."

Psalms 23:4 NLT

The Greek word *Tsalvemeth* means "deep shadow", "death shadow"; this is the worst case territory.

Two examples are Daniel in the lions' den and the disciples caught in a storm. In both cases, God allowed the trial to unfold but never abandoned His people. His presence didn't necessarily stop the danger from existing, but it removed the power of fear to control them.

Human presence can bring a sense of comfort in difficult times — a friend by your side, a hand to hold — but God's presence brings an unshakable, supernatural peace. Even when nothing about your situation changes, knowing that God is with you and changes you on the inside.

### 2. God's uses our trials to reveal himself

"God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Exodus 3:12 NLT

The Greek word *Ehyeh immak* means I am with you. The word "Ehyeh" is the root of "I Am". God isn't only giving presence as He is the presence.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego experienced this firsthand. They met God in the fire — not before it, not after it, but right in the middle of the flames. Sometimes our trials become sacred "meeting places" with God. We may long for Him to remove the burden, but more often He chooses to carry us through it.

Just as gold is refined in fire, not destroyed by it, God uses trials to purify our faith, strip away what is unnecessary, and reveal more of His power and character to us. The pain may be real, but so is the refining work He is doing in our lives.

### 3. God's presence transforms fear into faith

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 NLT

The Greek word *Chazak ve'ematz* means rooted not in self confidence but in God's with-ness.

We often feel inadequate as mentors, leaders, or even simply as followers of Christ. We don't always know the "how," but we can be certain of

the “who” — the flawless Father who walks with us every step.



God’s love sometimes looks different from what we expect. We may pray for Him to take us out of a trial, but instead, He joins us in it. He knows that walking with Him through the fire will make us stronger, bolder, and more rooted in faith than avoiding the trial ever could.

#### Start Talking: Spark Conversation

- Can you recall a time when you were in chaos but later realized God’s presence carried you through?
- What image comes to mind when you think of “God with us” in difficult times?
- When have you felt another person’s presence give you courage in a hard moment?

#### Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

- Why do you think God sometimes chooses to join us in the trial instead of removing it?
- How can viewing trials as “meeting places with God” change your perspective?

#### Start Sharing

- Share about a specific storm or trial when you realized God was holding you, even if you didn’t feel it at the time.
- How has God used a difficult season to refine your faith?

#### Start Doing: Commit to Act

- This week, when facing fear or uncertainty,

say aloud: *“I am not alone. My Father is with me.”*

- Encourage someone else who is in a “storm” by being present with them, as God is present with you.

#### **Praying.**

“Father, thank You for Your promise to be with us in deep waters, in the fire, and in every storm. Teach us to trust Your presence more than our feelings, and to let You turn our fear into faith. Strengthen us as we lead our families, face trials, and walk with You daily. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

#### **Announcements:**

The Way Camp – September 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>  
Conferência Casa de Glória – August 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>