**063024 Devotional: Curious Faith**

**"When God Feels Far Away"**

**Day 1: Understanding God's Presence**

**Scripture:** Psalm 88:13-14 "But I cry to you for help, Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, Lord, do you reject me and hide your face from me?"

**Reflection:** The Psalmist's cry is a powerful reminder that even the most devout believers can feel distant from God. It's important to recognize that feeling God's presence isn't always about emotional highs or supernatural experiences. Sometimes, it's about faith and trust in His constant presence, even when we don't feel it.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to trust in Your presence even when I don't feel it. Strengthen my faith and remind me that You are always with me, even in the silence. Amen.

**Action:** Spend 10 minutes in silent prayer today, simply resting in the knowledge that God is with you, even if you don't feel anything extraordinary.

**Day 2: Over-Sensationalizing God's Presence**

**Scripture:** John 6:30 "So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?'"

**Reflection:** We often look for grand signs and wonders to confirm God's presence, but Jesus teaches us that faith doesn't always come with fireworks. Sometimes, God's presence is found in the ordinary and the mundane.

**Prayer:** Father, forgive me for seeking signs and wonders instead of trusting in Your constant presence. Help me to see You in the everyday moments of my life. Amen.

**Action:** Write down three ordinary moments today where you can see God's hand at work. Reflect on how He is present in the small details of your life.

**Day 3: The Hardened Heart**

**Scripture:** Matthew 13:15 "For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes."

**Reflection:** A hardened heart can block us from experiencing God's presence. This can happen due to ongoing sin, unforgiveness, or even disappointment. It's crucial to examine our hearts and seek God's help in softening them.

**Prayer:** Lord, reveal any areas in my heart that have become hardened. Help me to repent and turn back to You, so I can experience Your presence more fully. Amen.

**Action:** Take a moment to confess any sins or areas of unforgiveness in your life. Ask God to soften your heart and restore your sensitivity to His presence.

**Day 4: Drawing Closer to God**

**Scripture:** Acts 17:27 "God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

**Reflection:** God desires for us to seek Him and promises that we will find Him when we do. Sometimes, He allows us to feel distant so that we will crave His presence more deeply and seek Him more earnestly.

**Prayer:** Father, create in me a deep hunger and thirst for You. Help me to seek You with all my heart, knowing that You are not far from me. Amen.

**Action:** Set aside extra time today to seek God. This could be through extended prayer, reading Scripture, or worship. Make it a priority to draw near to Him.

**Day 5: Activating Your Faith**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

**Reflection:** Faith is not just about feelings; it's about trust and action. When we seek God with all our hearts, He promises that we will find Him. This requires us to move beyond our feelings and activate our faith.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to activate my faith and seek You wholeheartedly. Remind me that Your presence is not dependent on my feelings but on Your promise. Amen.

**Action:** Write down a faith declaration based on Jeremiah 29:13. Keep it somewhere visible and read it aloud every day as a reminder to seek God with all your heart.

**Closing Prayer:** Father, thank You for the promise of Your presence. Help me to seek You daily, to trust in Your constant presence, and to draw near to You with all my heart. May I experience You in both the extraordinary and the ordinary moments of my life. Amen.