

## Thursday - April 7

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

*Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)*

I went to Catholic grade school for 8 years. There wasn't a playground. Recess was spent on a blocked off street alongside the school and church. A favorite way for me to spend recess was sitting by myself in the empty church. The painted ceiling, stained glass windows, white marble altar were all so beautiful, so quiet.

This was very different from home where my dad and younger sister lived with chronic illnesses. Dad used a large, loud breathing machine throughout the day, my little sister often cried because of injections and finger sticks. There were full meals to be cooked, cleaned up and constant housecleaning to keep everyone as healthy as possible. It was busy and noisy all the time. While sitting alone in church, I distinctly remember thinking, "It's so quiet, I think I can hear the air, maybe it's angels, maybe it's God."

Fast forward to age 27, my first encounter to Bible teaching was a Bible study on Philippians. Reading those verses, I understood my experience in my beautiful, quiet church - it was God just for me in that place - no doubt at all.

I've learned much since those experiences. Particularly, it isn't only in the moments of silence or suffering we can be certain God's with us. This assurance is ours in the noise, chaos and joy of everyday moments. All the attributes in this verse exist in our most ordinary situations. Be attentive, "think about such things...the God of peace will be with you."

Mary

**Prayer:** Dear God who is always with us, help us pay better attention to all of the ways and moments You are present for us. In those moments let us remember to offer You the praise, worship and love You so deserve from us. May Your desire to have a loving relationship with us give us the confidence to have a loving relationship with You. Amen.