

He Has Always Been There

A Letter of Pastoral Encouragement

Reflections Prayer, Repentance and the Spiritual Life

WhatsApp post, 22 August 2025

Dear friend,

This morning began with what felt like a thousand tasks waiting for me. Some were related to home, while a large share of my time and energy had to be devoted to the work I have taken up for my Father. Deadlines draw close, and the load feels demanding. It is made heavier because so many people, though well-intentioned, have not kept their church accounts in an orderly or updated manner (I help with several such accounts). Much of what I deal with is tucked away in old files and shoe-boxes, gathering dust, kept all over, including in their minds.

When I came across your post, I realised that, in truth, the Father had long taken His seat in the small world that we inhabit — He is not a guest who comes and goes, but One who has always been present.

People often ask me why I take up so many responsibilities instead of politely declining. Some suggest I enjoy the challenge, others believe I am too ambitious, and some even think I have a towering ego. My reply is always the same: yes, in one way or another, they are right — at least when it comes to work for my Father. When I quietly ask myself the same question, the answer becomes very clear. What would I do with this brief life, if I did not give maximum space to my Father within it?

Looking back over more than eighty-two years, I see that this was never something that came upon me suddenly or in full measure at any one moment — it never does. The truth is, He has always been there, even when I did not know Him well. That tiny mustard seed of faith was planted the very moment He breathed life into me. It cannot be different for you either.

And that, dear friend, is the answer for you also. This is not a sudden arrival. He is already living with you. Perhaps He has lately noticed some neglect, and now urges you towards course-correction. Trust Him, and go along.

