NEVER ALONE

Known by the Father, Connected in Christ

Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa D.D.

WOT PUBLISHING

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Introduction

Beloved, it is possible to be surrounded by people and still feel alone. A change in family life, a move, the loss of a friend or a season in which you are not understood can make the need for companionship especially clear. Loneliness is the painful experience of lacking the connection you desire. It deserves honest attention and patient care.

The Word directs you to a foundation that does not change with the number of people around you: the Father loves you in Christ. His Spirit lives in you, and you belong to the body of Christ. These truths do not make the desire for friendship unnecessary. They give you confidence from which to receive and practise healthy fellowship.

In this book we will follow the Scriptures from the Father's love to the care believers are called to give one another. We will consider the Spirit who dwells in you, your place in the body, the patient work of friendship and the importance of mutual encouragement. Read the passages for yourself and allow their truth to guide your next steps.

CHAPTER ONE

The Father Knows And Loves You

For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

John 16:27 (KJV)

Read John 16:25–33; Romans 8:31–39

The Lord Jesus told His disciples, "the Father himself loveth you." He spoke these words as He prepared them for the time when He would leave them. Their relationship with the Father rested on the revelation and work of the Son. He directed them to the Father who loved them, not to a distant God who needed to be persuaded to care.

John's account also records that the disciples would be scattered and would leave Jesus alone. Yet He said, "I am not alone, because the Father is with me." He did not pretend that their scattering was insignificant. He spoke with confidence in His relationship with the Father in the midst of what was coming. His words invite us to consider the faithfulness of the Father when people cannot be present as we desire.

Paul writes in Romans 8 of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He names tribulation, distress and other severe circumstances, and then declares his persuasion that neither death nor life, nor any other creature, can separate us from that love. His confidence rests in what God has done in Christ. The

love Paul describes is not measured by a change in the believer's circumstances.

Let the Word establish your value

Loneliness can make another person's silence feel like a judgment on your worth. A message may go unanswered, an invitation may not come, or a friendship may change. You can acknowledge the disappointment without allowing it to define your identity. The Father's love is not secured by the number of people who contact you today. In Christ you are known and loved by Him.

Read Romans 8:31–39 slowly. Notice the questions Paul asks and the ground on which he answers them. God gave His Son; Christ died, rose and intercedes. The passage places our confidence in the Father's action and in Christ's continuing ministry. When the mind begins to make a person's absence the measure of your life, return to what the Word says about God's love.

Bring your desire for companionship to the Father. You can speak honestly about the relationship you miss and the connection you hope to build. The fact that He loves you does not mean you must be indifferent to human friendship. He has also placed you among His people, where love and care are to be expressed.

The Father's love is a settled foundation. Receive that truth, and from it take wise steps towards others. Your worth in Christ is not waiting for someone else to notice you.