

## MercEmail A Weekly Devotional by Steve Higginbotham

### Do You Want To Go With Me?

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Presence. We all value it whether we realize it or not.

I can remember a frequent routine that used to take place in our house when my youngest son was about six-years-old and my youngest daughter was about two-years-old. It would be evening, the family would be upstairs, and I might ask my youngest son to retrieve something from the first floor.

He would quickly say, "But dad, no one's down there." To which I would say, "I know." Then he would reply, "But it's dark and the lights are out." I'd say, "Then turn on the lights and it won't be dark anymore." Then he'd say, "But I'm afraid." And I'd say, "There's nothing to be afraid of, now go on down there and get what I asked you to get." Finally, he would turn to his two-year-old sister and say, "Hey Anne Marie, do you want to go downstairs with me?"

Through the years, I've laughed about that. I mean, what's a two-year-old girl going to do to help you when you're scared? (Actually, I think I figured out his logic. I think he planned on sacrificing her to the "monster" while he made his get-away!)

Anyway, to seriously answer my question, "What's a two-year-old girl going to do to help you when you're scared?" Presence. She'll give you her presence. We value presence more than we may realize. Our fears aren't as great when we're with someone else. The darkness doesn't seem quite as dark. And our imaginations are kept in check by the presence of others.

Friends, being alone is scary! In fact one of the frightening things about Hell is that the presence of God will not be there, and we will be all alone (2 Thessalonians 1:9). But thank God for two-year-old little girls who will go downstairs with their older brothers, and thank God for Jesus who promised to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

By Steve Higginbotham