

## Personal Lord

Lord, You know the truth, even when I don't admit it. When I think of praying or having devotions, sometimes it is an "ought to," an obligation. I have to try to make myself spend time with You.

Similarly, when I have a job to do for You, I approach it as *work* – unpleasant, uncomfortable, and impinging on my time, energy, and freedom.

That includes any challenge, for that matter. Difficult tasks quickly become challenges to my self-image as I face fear and the possibility of failure. I hate such tests.

And living a life that is holy and pure? This request seems unfair and impossible – so frustrating, so unattainable, always beyond the reach of my willpower and adequacy.

"Ought tos," obligations, fears, frustrations.

But Jesus, when I simply realize You are *right here*, when I think of You as with me now, not as vague and out there somewhere, Your personal reality changes all that. Devotions become a comfortable, inviting time. Tasks become exciting opportunities to work *for* You and *with* You. Challenges become possibilities for growth, personal progress, and discovery. A new confidence is born – a confidence in You, not myself – and I discover an energy I didn't know I had.

And holy living? It becomes freedom from bondages that I mistook for freedoms. Life becomes more relaxed and positive and fulfilling than I ever knew it could be. My days seem filled with dawns, and beautiful horizons loom all around me.

Jesus, when I grasp Your personal presence, You become all that You are, and all that You are *for* me and *in* me. Christian living is no longer powerless, or impersonal, or isolated from You. Fear turns to natural, unforced faith. Rituals become a relationship, a personal friendship, a union more intimate and constant and thrilling than any marriage could be.

Communication is no longer limited by words or burdened by the formalities of conversation. And Your great promises –

*I am with you always* (Matthew 28:20, NASB).

*In Him you have been made complete* (Colossians 2:10, NASB).

*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13, NASB).

Your great promises are no longer theories; but when I know You with me, Jesus, they are "Yes!", they are now, they are reality, they are mine.

I praise You, Jesus, right here and now. You are *my* Lord, *my* Jesus.

*As many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:20, NASB)*

Hymn: [Living Christ](#)

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