WHEN YOU’RE IN A DARK PLACE

HE WILL QUIET YOU

*The Lord your God is with you*

*he is mighty to save.*

*He will take great delight in you,*

*he will quiet you with his love*

*he will rejoice over you with singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

Imagine! God Almighty, Creator, the One who is above all, rejoicing over us with all our shortcomings. I have trouble finding adequate words to describe how amazing this is and what it means for God to sing, so will quote what writer John Piper said in one of his commentaries:

“Can you imagine what it would be like if you could hear God singing? Remember that it was merely a spoken word that brought the universe into existence. What would happen if God lifted up his voice and not only spoke but sang!”

I held this verse close during a particularly severe depression years ago. But I only hung onto the first and fourth lines: *“The Lord your God is with you . . . he will quiet you with his love.”* I repeated these lines over and over in my mind. They comforted me. Through those words I was able to keep going.

I couldn’t fathom the part about God rejoicing over me—not the way I was feeling. In that dark place I wasn’t in any mood to have anyone, not even God Himself, sing over me.

I needed quiet. I needed a soothing of the spirit.

It was tremendously reassuring to hear that there was an awesome God loving me and holding me close. The solace I found during those painful times was a wonderful relief.

I stand in awe-filled wonder at how God can take delight in us and rejoice over us with song. Who are we, after all, to be considered precious enough for that? But God thinks we are.

How He loves us! Every one of us.