

## Day 5

“You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me” (Psalm 139:5, CSB).

“The Lord surrounds his people, both now and forever” (Psalm 125:2).

When my kids were little, I poured nearly all my energy into keeping them safe and healthy. We installed gates and closed off rooms to prevent accidents, but at times it wasn't enough. When one child stepped off the curb to dart into the parking lot, my hand blocked him from certain death as a car sped by. When another child reached for the cookies on the tray in the hot oven, my hand prevented a painful burn and a possible trip to the emergency room.

God displays His presence in our lives by protecting us from harm, by extending His hand in love. Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for His sheep. A child who is well cared for experiences a parent's love. In the same way, we, as God's children, experience God's love as He encircles us and places His hand of protection on us.

What is our response? First, we recognize God's hand in our lives. There may be a good reason we didn't get that job or that person ended the relationship. Looking for God's hand in our lives is one way we seek God's presence. Second, we surrender to His guidance. We submit to His authority. A child in the presence of a loving parent feels a sense of security. When we submit to God's authority and surrender to His hand, we are secure in His presence.

How has God displayed His presence in your life this week?

In what area is God calling you to submit to His authority and surrender to His guidance?

*Lord, help me recognize Your hand in my daily life. I submit to Your authority and commit to follow You wholeheartedly.*