

This Unwelcome Place

By Gretchen Crowder

Lord,
I find myself
in an unexpected,
and quite *unwelcome*
place these days.

It feels lonely here,
and quiet...
so **very** quiet.
I feel a bit tired
and this lack
of **something**
has become
all I can see.

It's almost as if...
well, I just *have* to ask...
did You,
my closest confidant,
my mentor, my friend...
just up and disappear?

If so, Lord,
where did you go?

I guess, maybe
if I think about it,
I have become
quite **needy** lately.

I've been asking...
well, no, **demanding** a LOT
of this relationship of ours...

I guess, maybe
if I think about it,

I have been
giving less and less
to You in return.

Or maybe,
is it something else?
Like did you go
for just a bit
so I could see
if I would **miss** You
while You were gone?

Because I do.
Oh, Lord... I do.

I didn't realize how much
I needed the **joy**
of feeling You,
right here with me.

I guess, maybe,
if I think about it,
I have taken You
and the love and grace
You offer me
for *granted*.

Or maybe,
is it something else?
Like did you go
for just a bit
so I could see
how much I **need**
You in my life?

Because I do.
Oh, Lord... I do.

It turns out,
I can't do all this,
solve all this,
alone.

It turns out my gifts,
my talents,
my determination.
my passion and grit...
It's not enough after all.

It turns out, Lord,
I miss You,
I took You for granted,
and I forgot how much
I **need** You here.

This desolation,
boy can it pack a punch!

But I **will** fight it, Lord,
I will remember
that You never
really leave me
And believe that
feeling of closeness
with You,
of joy and grace and love
is just around the corner.

So, I will wade through
this unwelcome place
until I feel once again the
welcome and warmth
of your embrace
and the comfort
of the consolation
only you can offer.