



## Title: **God Is Closer Than You Think**

Author : **John Ortberg**

Category : Christian Living

***“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***  
Matthew 28:20b

Have you ever found something that is so good, straight away you give a two thumbs up? This book is a two thumbs up for me. It speaks to my heart about the treasure of God’s presence in our lives that we are missing in daily living and impacts every facet of society.

Pastor Ortberg talks about the character of Waldo as illustrated by Martin Handford in his best selling book called, “Where’s Waldo?” Just like looking for Waldo in every page of the illustrated page, I can look out for God’s presence in every page of my life too. He is there with me and with us. I simply have to look carefully. This reminded me of David’s Psalm 139:7,8 – ***“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!”*** Indeed God’s great desire is to be with us; every individual one of us. The Gospel of Matthew mentioned the name Immanuel, which means “God with us.” Thus the call to pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances make sense. He is with me and I am heard and I can lament and pour out my stress and joys and sorrows to Him.

But then, if God is with us, why then do we often find that He seems absent? Pastor Ortberg shares many interesting lessons from the study of Job and the absence of God. Some practical ideas came from the section ‘Mini-Pain.’ One thing we can do is practise God’s presence (yes, Brother Lawrence, remember his book?) in moments of “mini-pain.” Suppose you’re frustrated at standing in line at a 7-Eleven store. You can use these moments as a tool. You can ask God to be present with you in your frustration at having to wait. You can look for Him in the presence of the clerk behind the counter who doesn’t speak English very well. The practice of walking with God in mini-pain can serve people well when larger pain comes.

There is also a chapter on discovering your spiritual pathways - the way we most naturally sense God’s presence and experience spiritual growth. We all have at least one pathway that comes most easily to us. Check it out and embrace yours.

This book has lots of gems and highly recommended.

If this book is borrowed, check out John Ortberg’s other good titles:

1. The Life You’ve Always Wanted
2. The Me I Want To Be (Youth Edition)
3. I’d Like You More If You Were More Like Me
4. All the Places to Go... How Will You Know?
5. Coping with Depression (co-author with Siang-Yang Tan)
6. Who Is This Man? - The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus