

Emmanuel



Interestingly enough, I am writing this devotional during the third week of the Advent season, and last Sunday morning we sang this Bob McGee chorus in worship; from it, we went into “Jesus, Name above All Names” – which brings me to the point of these thoughts.

We’ve all seen that gold and black poster of the names of Jesus. In fact, I saw it just this morning at the local donut shop! With the words “And His Name Shall Be Called” emblazoned across the top, it is a beautifully appointed artwork which seems nearly exhaustive in its content. As we ponder those names or give a mere passing glance at a few, we typically have a momentary personal worship experience because the very name of Jesus speaks to us.

We all have a favorite of his names: mine is Faithful One. What’s yours?

Whatever your answer, it probably reveals something about yourself – about your personality – your needs.

From our earliest days, we have feared being left alone. I vividly remember at about age five thinking I had been abandoned in a Knoxville department store, only to discover my mother was only an aisle away and came running when she heard my distinct cry.

This name of Jesus – “Emmanuel” -- gives us the reassurance that we will never be forsaken because this name means very simply: “God is with us.” Like my mother, he is nearby and comes running when he hears our distinct cry.

No, never alone.

No, never alone.

He promised never to leave me,

Never to leave me alone.

(anonymous text)