



Encouraging Words

with Darlene Sala

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Home!

Did you ever think of God as wanting to live in your home in every day? Yet, that's what He offers us. Here's what Jesus said in John, chapter 14: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (verse 23). What an amazing thought that the creator of the universe, who owns *everything*, wants to be at home with *me*!

He doesn't offer to come just as a visitor on vacation. He wants a permanent residency. I like what Max Lucado wrote:

God wants to be your dwelling place. He has no interest in being a weekend getaway or a Sunday bungalow or a summer cottage. Don't consider using God as a vacation cabin or an eventual retirement home He wants to be the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28 NIV).ⁱ

That might make you feel a bit uncomfortable--God living with you and you with Him day in and day out. But it's really an amazing privilege. Especially when you realize He knows us inside out anyway--the good, the bad and everything in between, yet He wants to be with us.

The only requirement is that we love Him. Sounds like a wonderful offer to me. Maybe today is the day you take up His offer and accept an incredible bond with Him as His child and He as your Father. Or if you already have a relationship with Jesus, maybe you just want to ask Him to do a little housecleaning. You could start by admitting that sometimes He hasn't been first in your life but you want that to change. Jesus promised if you keep His Word, the Father will love you and make His home with you. Yes, it's a promise.

ⁱ Max Lucado, *Grace for the Moment* (Nashville, TN: Countryman, a division of Thomas Nelson Inc., 2000), January 6 selection.