

November 20

Psalm 73:23-24 (NIV) ²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

When I was little, my mother often took me shopping with her. She told me to hold onto her hand so I would not get lost and so I would not get into trouble. On one of our outings, all went well for a while, but, when she was distracted, I quietly slipped her grasp and sneaked away. For some reason, I was fascinated with the clothes racks. I crawled underneath one and pulled all the price tags off the clothes. When an employee discovered me, I had a handful of tags. They took me to my mother, explained what had happened, and told her to take me out of that store. I would have escaped trouble and not embarrassed my mother if I had held onto her hand.

When we look at this verse, we might imagine a child saying this. However, the psalmist was a mature person who loved the Lord. Over the years, he realized that the only way for him to walk that narrow path was to keep his hand in God's. We may think we are too old to be "led" by God, but that is the same attitude I had with my mother. However, whenever Carol and I go somewhere, I love to hold her hand and she, mine. Our holding hands is not a way to limit or control the other; it is a way to show our love for each other. Because of that love, we do not want to take different paths. We should have that relationship with the Lord. We should never get too old to hold onto His hand because we love Him and trust Him. He is the only one Who can lead us into glory. His Word guides us and teaches us. The Holy Spirit's counsel is always wise and good. When we move away on our own, trouble awaits us. I never got in trouble again when we went shopping because my mother kept me close. Then, I had to do so; now, I want to do so.