

## **In Step With God**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I believe that we ought so to love and trust God in our lives, and in all the good things that God sends us, that when the time comes (but not before!) we may go to God with love, trust, and joy. But, to put it plainly, for a man in his wife's arms to be hankering after the other world is, in mild terms, a piece of bad taste, and not God's will. We ought to find and love God in what we are actually given; if it pleases God to allow us to enjoy some overwhelming earthly happiness, we must not try to be more pious than God and allow our happiness to be corrupted by presumption and arrogance, and by unbridled religious fantasy which is never satisfied with what God gives. God will see to it that those who find the Divine in earthly happiness and thank God for it do not lack the reminder that earthly things are transient, that it is good for them to attune their hearts to what is eternal, and sooner or later there will be times when they can say in all sincerity, "I wish I were home." But everything has its time, and the main thing is that we keep step with God, and do not keep pressing on a few steps ahead—nor keep dawdling a step behind.

from: *Ethics* (155-156)