

Daily Devotional, May 13, 2020 Protected Under God's Wings

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Matthew 6:26-29, NIV

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year. The temperature begins to warm, and the rains replenish the brown, parched earth, bringing it back to life. The grass returns to a deep green, the flowers are in bloom and the branches of trees are filling with tiny flowers and leaves. It reminds us of how God continues to bring new life to the world.

The other day, while working on a spring-cleaning project, Laura walked by our backyard fence and noticed the chirping of baby birds high up in the pine trees outside the fence. Although she could not see it, she knew a new bird nest had been built above, hidden by the branches. She leaned in and though she couldn't see the babies, she noticed the mother and father sparrows taking turns flitting about, gathering food and standing guard.

Hearing her story, I was reminded of Jesus' teaching, found in the book of Matthew. Jesus makes it clear to the crowd gathered around him that God cares for His creation. He provides food for the birds and water for the grass and flowers. Jesus tells us that the birds and the flowers have nothing to worry about, because of the great love of God for them. Jesus also asks that we think about the fact that God considers us of greater value than even the birds and the flowers.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. Psalm 91:4

When I think of protection, I don't automatically think of a bird's feathers. Though a bird's feathers might seem like a flimsy form of protection, there is more to them than meets the eye. Bird feathers are an amazing example of God's design. Feathers have a smooth part and a fluffy part. The smooth part of the feather has stiff barbs with tiny hooks that lock together like the prongs of a zipper. The fluffy part keeps a bird warm. Together both parts of the feather protect the bird from wind and rain. But many baby birds are covered in a fluffy down and their feathers have not fully developed. So, a mother bird has to cover them in the nest with her own feathers to protect them from wind and rain.

People in our society today worry too much. For humans, it comes naturally. We don't have to try to worry; we just do it. Sometimes it is sickness (or in today's world, fear of sickness), paying the bills, lack of companionship, or one's appearance. The question is, if God doesn't hesitate to feed and care for the birds, then why wouldn't God care for us? The Bible tells us that God has a specific plan for each one of us. God knows what's going to happen in the future. Knowing this, why wouldn't we put all our worries aside and trust in Him?

When we come to realize how much God truly cares for us, and we see that God is at work in our lives, our worries and fears become smaller and the possibility of an amazing future looms as a much greater possibility. God's love and care frees us to consider a much brighter tomorrow.

Those baby birds in our backyard have no idea what the future will be, but as they grow and their wings strengthen, the sky is the limit! As we grow in our knowledge of the love of God, we too begin to spread our wings, dream new dreams, and experience an amazing life – surrounded by God's love.

Prayer: Most gracious God, help me to trust and depend on your protection and provision. You are all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever present. Your love and care for me is beyond all measure. Help me to understand and to trust that everything happens for a reason, and everything that happens is part of your plan. Help me to let go of my worries, for it won't get me anywhere. When I place my trust in You, it gets me everywhere I need to be—under Your wings. Amen.