

## Daily Devotional, March 23, 2021 My God, My Refuge

***Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. Psalm 73:25–28 (NIV)***

Building forts and clubhouses with my neighborhood buddies when I was young, were a regular part of my youth. Whether it be inside or outside, highly involved or as simple as a blanket draped over a string with books and chairs holding down the corners, we loved creating spaces to hide and fantasize and escape to. Those forts made us feel safe from all of life's worries and dangers. I imagine that right now there are many homes that have blanket forts with moved furniture creating castles and strongholds where children play and dream and let their imaginations run wild. A place of solitude and safety. If only all of our lives could be so simple again!

Verse 28 of Psalm 73 above says much to me, "I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge." It seems the perfect image for us of one who guards and protects, who makes things safe and secure for us. What a restful and reassuring picture for us to remember that in the arms of our Father we have security. It's not the mere security that the world can offer; rather, it is the assurance of being loved and valued and treasured.

The Psalmist Asaph says that he desires God more than anything on earth. Beyond the greatest joys of family or friends, beyond the cozy comforts that bring us great pleasure, more than the sights and sounds and smells of all those things that we savor ...we desire God more than any of that! Why? Because He is our refuge, our hiding place, our safe haven who reminds us that no matter what the world may throw at us, we belong completely to Him, therefore we are unconditionally shielded and protected.

The forts we built as youngsters would have protected us if there were real danger. But we believed that they would. The shelter of God, however, does protect our hearts and our minds from anything that the enemy brings our way. If you haven't already, you can call out and ask God for that kind of refuge today!

***Prayer: Lord, thank You for being our refuge from all of life's troubles. May we always be reminded that we belong completely to You through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Please help us to feel Your presence in our lives this day and may we desire more of You always. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.***

---