

Daily Devotional, May 19, 2021 Safely Easing Into the Future

Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. Psalm 40:11 (NIV)

Safety, especially personal safety has been on the minds of most people for a number of months now, and it will now be tested, especially as more people are starting to get out, many without the need for masks. I must admit, it is strange to see people again beginning to not wear masks everywhere I go, even as I was still getting used to wearing one everywhere. However, it seems like it is time for those of us who have been vaccinated to begin testing the waters. We still need to keep ourselves and others safe, but it feels like it is finally time to begin opening up and getting back to normal again.

While many of us have lived through times in which we felt a potential risk to our safety, whether from war, or being drafted, or robbed or things of such nature; this current threat has been much worse. It has been a threat to our health, our well-being, and has been affecting every aspect of life. Yet, we have never lost hope.

Psalm 40 gives us a reflection of a time when life was every bit as fragile, and to be honest, life is *always* this fragile, we just usually have a grander illusion of safety. However, in Christ, in a relationship with the divine, our true safety is not an illusion, but a reality. The psalmist knows that God has helped before, and God will help again. God is the rock upon which we know that we can stand. There's another great hymn that speaks to us about this truth – *God Our Help in Ages Past*.

The opening verse of this wonderful hymn by writer Isaac Watts reminds us:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Like the psalmist, Watts, also knows that God has been with us in the past, and God will be with us in the future, and we can rest assured that God is with us now. God's steadfast love and faithfulness will keep us safe forever, for we are in his almighty grip, and we have received his endless mercy. Thanks be to God for knowing that our true safety and security is always found in God's divine hand.

Yes, it's true, we may not feel safe in this world at times, even if for a little while. We will have to continue to make some changes in our daily lives, but little by little, we will find a sense of normalcy again, but our praise for God's grace and mercy will never cease. God has been our help in ages past, and God will continue to be our eternal home.

Prayer: Come, Lord, and fill me with your Holy Presence. May your love and faithfulness always protect me. Let me rest and be at peace. Let me feel your protection. Let me feel as if I'm under the shadow of your wings, safe, hidden, and secure in you. Only you can give and take it all. In your holy name I pray Lord, Amen.