

Daily Devotional, May 21, 2021 My Fortress and My Refuge

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Psalm 71:1-3

Safety and security are pretty much an essential part of our human existence. Of course, there are some physiological needs that comes first, such as air, food, water, shelter, and rest. These are all necessary to sustain life, but beyond an essential element is safety. The idea that one is secure is a need that comes almost immediately at our birth. When a baby is born, it begins to cry, but nestled in its mother's arms, and given sustenance, the baby is soothed, and soon sleeps. The baby is calmed because it feels safe and secure.

Throughout our lives our security is compromised and challenged. Sometimes due to our own actions. As we get older and begin to venture out, doing things that assert our new-found independence, we typically do so with some form of safety-net. That is, we may spend the first night away from home, but we know that we can call mom and dad, if needed. How many of us have maybe gone off somewhere to college, but knew we could return home for breaks, or at any difficult time if needed.

Eventually, the time comes we think we can provide our own security; whether through job stability and a steady paycheck, health insurance, or just the need to be free to live out our independent desires. At this point we are convinced that we are able to provide for our own security. However, often when something traumatic happens, we immediately revert back to our former life, as we want to feel safe as before.

Some have said that security is nothing more than an illusion, but I would argue that a person who feels that way has never had an awareness of a loving home, and most especially of a loving God. I believe that security is something that runs deep inside of us, and although on the surface it can be taken away, it doesn't disappear altogether. Not as long as there is hope.

Our *greatest* security, or at least our greatest *hope*, is found in our relationship with God. I have found, that even in times when life has been frazzled, when I've been shaken, even to my very core, I find security in knowing the rock who is my fortress and my salvation. In today's psalm verses, the psalmist is making a request that God would be that refuge, that strong fortress, knowing that it is in the Lord's arms that we are truly secure.

We might remember the words of Martin Luther, who nearly 500 years ago composed our great hymn: *A mighty fortress is our God*. I want us to pay close attention to the final stanza of that hymn which states:

That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

We rest securely even today, knowing that we belong to the kingdom that is forever with the one who abideth still. May you rest securely in the arms of your Savior, for His kingdom is with us *today and forever*.

Prayer: Lord. Help me to live according to your ways. Establish your kingdom here on earth so others may know you, as well. May your kingdom spread throughout our land and bring more of you to this world so in need of your love and protection. Help me to be faithful in helping advance your kingdom here. Show me the path you have set before me, so I may follow in your way. Lord, may I feel forever secure in You. Amen.