

Daily Devotional, June 18, 2021 The Lord Has Helped Us

***Truly he is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God,
He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge. Psalm 62:6-8***

When life is good, and all things are well, it is easy to trust in God, which is especially so for people of faith. To know that God has us protected in His arms, is taking care of us, and to be aware of God's blessings, it's easy to trust in God, for all is well. However, there are plenty of times in life when everything is not so well. When we are shaken, or full of worry and doubt, things are far from well, and our faith and trust in God tend to wane.

So how do we maintain our trust in times like these?

There are a number of things that I lean on when life gets a little dicey. One of those things for me, is a line in an old, old hymn that through the version sung by Christian Performer, Fernando Ortega, brings me feelings of hope. It is the second verse of the hymn *Come, Thou fount of Every Blessing*. The line says: "Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I've come. And I hope by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home."

It may seem odd to think about that line giving hope, but there is a story behind it. In the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 7, we learn what the name Ebenezer means: "thus far the Lord has helped us." Within this story we learn that even in times that don't seem to be so great, when we take a look back, can see, and are able to remember all the times that God has been with us, then we can be assured that if God has been with us through all of that, then God must surely be with us now, and will be with us through all of our future trials.

Time and time again, we can look back and see the ebenezers that have been erected revealing to us that God was with us, and being a part of God's people, why should God abandon us now, especially since we know that God will never leave nor forsake us. I think this is a reminder that even when we are shaken, when life gets especially troubling, or troublesome, even when we don't think we can go on, God is there. God is with us as God has always been, holding us, encouraging us, lifting us up, and carrying us through the trails of life on our journey home.

We all wish life could be joyful at all times, but Scripture teaches us to sing praise even in the midst of sorrow, for God is still with us, wiping away tears, mending broken hearts, and helping us onward and upward towards reaching God's divine kingdom.

May we all be lifted up, and take pause to remember that God is with us today and everyday—always. Amen.

Prayer: Father, when we are not strong, You are. When we are weak, You carry us through. Our courage is rooted in Your strength, which takes the anxieties we lift up to You and returns our pleas with a peace that transcends all understanding. Father, it's hard to live at peace in this world. Strength and courage seem to be in short supply. Fill us, LORD, with Your presence, Your purpose, and a yearning for Your will to come to pass in our lives. Thank You for loving us, leading us, and calling us home. Each day, we are one step closer to heaven. Thank you that You never leave us. Fill our days with the pursuit of Your love flowing through our lives. In Christ we pray, Amen.