

Theme for 2018

**WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD &
WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)



This Week’s Thought – September 23, 2018

“Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege.” Psalm 31:21 (NIV)

Psalm 31 is another one of those favorite psalms in the Bible, by many. For in it, we encounter David trusting fully in God as his refuge and source of hope, even in the darkest of times. God is his refuge (v.1), rescuer (v.2), rock and fortress (v.3). So much so, that even when there is *“terror on every side”* (v.13), he is able to be at peace and is confident in the Lord’s protection and provision.

Often many people think that their ability to encounter the goodness and love of God is conditional. When the weight of the world presses in and our fears and anxieties seem to overwhelm, we can find them to be all consuming and struggle to see how the love of God can reach us in that dark place. Yet it is in those moments, not in spite of them, that we often encounter God’s love in the most intimate of ways.

For David, a *“city under siege”* was not a metaphor but a very present reality and danger. Likewise, many around the world today read Psalm 31 who might very well be under the threat of violence, attacks, and loss of all they know and hold dear. What was true in David’s day is true today. No matter how dark the darkness may be, God’s love is always able to reach you.

Even if today you have death to face, there is nothing to fear. As Paul said to the early Christians in Rome, *“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:38-39)

As humans we are remarkably gifted at living broken and fragmented lives, where our exterior and interior lives are in a constant state of misalignment. As such, while many give forth the appearance of having it all together, their heart may feel like a *‘city under siege’*.

Do you have some hidden or suppressed fears, doubts, and insecurities that you’ve never told a soul? Do you live in a place of consistent anxiety and doubt that leaves you paralyzed and unable to move forward in faith and trust in God? I believe those are the places within us that God loves to enter into, if we will open our hearts to Him. He longs to show you today the wonders of His love, not just when you feel open to it, but even when your life feels like it is under constant attack. Encounter afresh His calming presence in the midst of your storm!

Application: Where does your life feel like a *‘city under siege’*? This might be a good time for you to remember that God’s love can reach you even in your deepest place of need, bringing light to your darkness and replacing fear with hope, trust, and love.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: *“Thank you, Lord, for being there for me and allowing me to cry out to You in my times of need. It is amazing to me that You...the Lord of the Universe would take time to listen to me and to care about what I say. Heavenly Father, there are things happening around me right now that I do not understand. Some of these things make me feel weak, helpless and afraid. Even in the midst of this, I know that You are the Lord. I know that the situation is in Your hands, and I trust You. I ask You for strength, wisdom, stability and structure that I would be able to endure this situation and be able to handle it in a way that would bring glory to Your name. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus. Amen!”*

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King