



“MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS!!”

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
 - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
 - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
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Psalm 91:1-7 Amplified Bible (AMP)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, Will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!"³ For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence.⁴ He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.⁵ You will not be afraid of the terror of night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,⁶ Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon.⁷ A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But danger will not come near you."

Prayer

“Father, open my eyes, so I can see Your truth. Open my ears, so I can hear Your Voice. Open my mind, so I can understand Your Word. And open my heart, so I may receive all that You have for me, that is for me. In Jesus Name, AMEN!”

Introduction

Do you remember the definition of faith? It is built on hope. (**Hebrews 11:1 AMP**) "*Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].*"

Hope is the trusting expectation that God will keep His Word. Faith is believing that Word, trusting God and then acting on that. I think what that means in the midst of what we are going through right now, is to believe three things and then respond. What we need to believe is, **1. God is Aware.** **2. God Cares.** **3. God Protects.** Then, we need to respond to that belief. **4. Trust Him.**

I. God is Aware.

Do you think this pandemic caught God by surprise? I don't! Some say it was hatched up by men in some secret laboratory in China. While others say it was a biological weapon gone wrong. I don't know if either is true or not – but I know this: God was aware before that virus was created and He was aware of the antidote before it was needed.

I have been reading that Israel has discovered a cure for it. I read where China and South Korea have used an old-fashioned anti-malarial drug, Chloroquine phosphate, to not only successfully treat it but to prevent coronavirus, too.

I believe at some point we in the US will eventually find an answer and find a way to cure or at least treat it and put us in better control of things, so does that mean we should not take this plague seriously? No. We should wash our hands often as prescribed. We should keep our distances from each other. We should isolate or quarantine ourselves if we feel sick. Those are just good common-sense measures. But there is no need to give into fear, terror or panic. God has got this! He has our back! This plague may get worse. A thousand may fall to the right and ten thousand to our right – but we need not fear. We can put our trust in God. Read that promise with me again.

- Psalm 91:1-7 (AMP)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, Will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!"³ For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence.⁴ He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.⁵ You will not be afraid of the terror of night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

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⁶ Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But danger will not come near you."

God is aware! This did not catch Him by surprise! David wrote about pestilence and plague thousands of years ago to encourage and comfort us. God is in control! And you know what? God will somehow use this for good.

In my devotions this week I once again was reminded of how God can take something bad and use it for good.

- **Romans 8:28 (AMP)** *"²⁸ And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose."*

That tells me, also, that

II. God Cares.

I feel like people (even Christians) are panicking and acting like God doesn't care. I expect that from the world but not from Christians. God has not forgotten or forsaken you. Peter wrote,

- **1 Peter 5:7 (AMP)** *"⁷ casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]."*

God, Himself, says,

- **Deuteronomy 31:6 (AMP)** *"⁶ Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble in dread before them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you."*

- **Hebrews 13:5(b) (AMP)** *"⁵ ... "I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], NOR WILL I FORSAKE or LET YOU DOWN or RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU [assuredly not]!"*

God has not forgotten us! God has not forsaken us! The thing is, many people are acting that way and living that way, but He has not. God cares for you! With David I can say:

- **Psalms 37:25 (AMP)** *"I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous (those in right standing with God) abandoned Or his descendants pleading for bread."*

I have experienced so many wonderful answers to prayer through the years. I have seen and experienced the miraculous time and again. It tells me that God cares. He cares for me and He cares for you.

Do not doubt that God cares for you. In times of plague or plenty; in times of pestilence or prosperity, God cares for you!

Since God loves you as He does –

III. God Will Protect You.

Let's visit our Scripture one more time.

- Psalm 91:1-7 (AMP)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, Will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!"³ For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence.⁴ He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.⁵ You will not be afraid of the terror of night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,⁶ Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon.⁷ A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But danger will not come near you."

The Children of Israel rebelled against God. And God sent a plague of snakes to entice them to turn from their rebellion. Read (Numbers 10:4-9).

There are a number of things that strike me about this story. One is that it was actually an act of love from God to turn the people to Him. Secondly, God used the plague for good. Thirdly, God had Moses make an idol of a despised snake to be their salvation – as He did with the horrid cross of the Romans. Fourth, the source of their salvation would eventually become an idol to them. People worshiped the snake on the pole instead of their Savior.

Lastly, all the people had to do to be saved from death was to look up at that snake on a pole. They continued to be bitten (because of their sin) but they wouldn't die if they just looked at God's source of salvation. Today we see that snake on a pole all the time. Where? At the doctor's office. It is a symbol of healing. What was meant to hurt became a symbol of healing. Army Medic symbol. Lapel pin. Google it.

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God will protect you, as He did these people, if you look to Him for help and healing and hope. God is aware of what you are going through; God cares what you are going through; and God will protect you as well!

So what is our response to be? **Trust God!**

Conclusion

IV. Believe Him. Trust Him. Place Your Faith in Him.

This Coronavirus/COVID-19 plague is an opportunity for growth and spiritual maturing. We are so blessed. We have lived most (if not all) of our lives in comfort and prosperity. We live in a land of plenty. Now the whole world is shaken by this pandemic or plague or pestilence – whatever you want to call it or label it.

Will you react in fear – or faith. Again, I'm not saying to take this lightly or foolishly. Don't be like that professional basketball player who, when instructed not to touch things needlessly, did exactly that as a joke. He touched the microphones and podium and a number of other things to show he was not afraid. In the next day or two he was diagnosed with the virus. Don't be like all of the people shown on the news walking the beaches in Florida in defiance of the 'social distancing' orders. Don't do that.

I don't think we need to live in fear – but be cautious. Be wise. Follow and adhere to all of the good guidelines. But remember – **1. God is Aware. 2. God Cares. 3. God Protects. 4. Trust Him.**

'I Am What You See. Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What You See!'