



Covid-19 FBC ANNOUNCEMENT 11.0

13th May 2020

Greetings FBC church family, we're glad to be joining you today, and trust all is well with you. I'll share a brief devotional thought for your to prayerfully ponder...and be encouraged by...

Devotion

(Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

The first thing you notice is the Psalmists confidence in God, and that this is about God! Do you see that?

God is our refuge and strength...we will not fear...There is a river ...God is within ...God will help.... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress...Come and see what the Lord has done.... "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth..."
The Lord Almighty is with us

What we also notice in the Psalm is validation and acknowledgement of the difficulties that we face in life, written by a person/s you could argue was familiar with the normal challenges of life today. But at the same time this speaks of *utter* confidence in God... and that is where God wants us to dwell.

This psalm directs us to give Him the glory for what He has done for us and what He will do. We are taught to take comfort in God when things look very bleak and threatening. What I 'hear' the Psalm saying is the world can literally fall apart...but I will be confident in God. Fear with the unknown and events outside our control are replaced with confidence and certainty in God, who is the only certainty!

This Psalm teaches us two others important truths about God

He's ever present.

The Psalmist tells us "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." So don't be afraid to ask for His help. God is always near & available and keen to hear us, and wants to be in relationship with us. He is well able to handle whatever we bring to him from the smallest to the most complex and deepest of issues we face. Talk to Him, then listen to Him through His Word, listen to the Holy Spirit & learn from Him...

Be Still.

This is not about being quiet and calm, it's not about being dismissive of the reality of difficult circumstances. IT IS taking a step back from what you're doing, to consider God, who he is, and what he can do. IT IS stop trying to control the things that are in the domain of Gods control. IT IS intentionally stepping out of the chaos, and the frantic-ness and into the Stillness....and finding God, in the person of Jesus Christ, our way, truth and life

He's ever present, present with you right now...be still, step out of the busyness, the clutter, and KNOW Him. Know he's with you.

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand (In Christ Alone – CCLI #3350395)*

Blessings on all
Ross and Karyn

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