

Friday, March 27, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 46 (NIV)

¹⁰ **“BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;**

**I will be exalted *among the nations,*
I will be exalted *in the earth.*”**

¹¹ The Lord Almighty is **with** us;
the God of Jacob is **our fortress.**

— PART 2 —

“The Lord Almighty is with us” — here in v. 11, the Psalmist reminds us for the fourth time that God is **with** us (see vv. 1, 5, 7).

The Psalmist puts it like this in v. 1: **God is an “ever-present help”** when we run into **“trouble.”**

1. “Ever-present” — means He’s there when we need Him!

2. “Help” — “The modern reader tends to think of a helper as someone of a lower status, an assistant to the one who is important. But the fact that this psalm describes the LORD as the helper signifies it means much more. Basically, the word refers to providing what someone lacks, or doing for someone what that person cannot do for himself. . . . **The word ‘help’ means that God will do for his people what they cannot do for themselves.**

Martin Luther was inspired by this psalm to write his famous hymn,

*‘A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.’*

Believers of all ages have taken refuge in God **whenever threatened by the destruction from nature** or the devastation from invasion. In such times people are reminded that **there is only one sure place of safety** — faith in God Almighty. **And the awareness of his presence enables them to deal with the crises of life.**

3. “Trouble” — “The word for “trouble”...**refers to those difficult, life-threatening situations where there seems to be no way out, no room even to move.** The word can be used for **inner turmoil that cannot be overcome** (Ps. 25:17), **or a situation such as a natural disaster** or a besieging army **and all the anguish that goes with such cases** (Jer. 6:24). **In such times there is no help, except God, and so believers seek him** (Ps. 22:11).

“...God is greater than all the forces of nature...”

ALLEN P. ROSS, *A Commentary on the Psalms, 42-89* (Kregel Exegetical Library)

So from these two phrases (“ever-present” and “help”) we understand something about the nature of God: “He is **all-powerful** and **ever-present**” (Ross). He is with

us, right now, our “Emmanuel” — and He is up for the challenge! God’s got this!

*“In this psalm the believers are strong,
being filled with confidence in the presence of the living God.
And today the more that believers focus on*

the POWER of God,

the PRESENCE of God,

and the PROMISES of God,

*the more they will find comfort and confidence
to deal with the tragedies and troubles of the world.”*

ALLEN P. ROSS, A Commentary on the Psalms, 42-89 (Kregel Exegetical Library)

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So we cry out,

“We are worried, Abba Father.

***Yesterday we learned that ‘The U.S. Now Leads the World
in Confirmed Corona–virus Cases’ (NY Times).***

So it’s a little hard to think about anything else right now.

And yet.

We trust you, God.

***So today, we ask you to help us to BE STILL...
and to FOCUS more intently and intentionally on
the POWER of God,
the PRESENCE of God,
and the PROMISES of God.***

Thank you for being our ever-present, all-powerful God.”

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May God’s joy and gladness be poured out on you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at info@bethanyonline.net

P.P.S. Keep checking this page — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for more encouragement.