

GOD OUR REFUGE & STRENGTH - SERMON 2



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Psalm 46: 1-3

Without God as our Refuge we're in trouble. However, the good news is that, if at any time or for any reason we find ourselves in trouble, God is our Refuge. He is our Strength also and a very present Help in trouble.

It's actually in times of trouble that we can truly appreciate God as our Refuge and Strength. It is when we are in danger that we can appreciate our Refuge and Protection in God.

If you are in any trouble now, always remember that God is for you and with you. When trouble strikes, you can face it with God's help. God is with you and will surely see you through. We don't need to fear what lies ahead, whatever the storms. Every storm will look smaller when we know that God is with us.

So, let us re-assure ourselves at this time that...

1. God is ever present (**Ps.46: 1**).
2. He is present everywhere (**Ps.139: 7-12**).
3. He is with us (you and I) - His name is Emmanuel (**Matt.1: 23**). And...
4. He will never leave us or forsake us - That's His promise (**Heb.13: 5**).

So we should not fear - **Ps.46: 2-3**. Fear can overwhelm us at times but think of the picture our Lord painted in **Matt.7: 24-29**. Jesus says the one who hears and does what He says is wise but the one who hears and does not do what He says is foolish. When the rain, floods and winds come against us, we need a solid ground to stand upon. Acting on God's Word is the security we need in times of storm.

The Word of God is our sure source of peace in times of storm - **Isa.26: 3**.

Since the days of King David **Psalm 46** has been a song of comfort for God's people. It was the song of the Christian martyrs of Europe then, and of many persecuted believers through history... It should be our song also.

What, where and in who is your refuge in times of storm? To what do you turn when trouble comes? The Bible talks about the refuge of lies that gives false sense of security - **Isa.28: 17**. Refuge of lies includes family background, education, job, health, wealth, etc. but our trust should not be in any of them but in Christ Jesus.

Christ is also our Shelter from God's terrible judgment. He is all-sufficient so, we don't need to fear. For, if God be for us, no one can be against us - **Rom.8: 1, 31**. The Lord God is our Deliverer, Protector and Defender. When we fall sick, suffer financial loss, face marriage troubles, work worries, or grief... the Lord is still our Refuge - **Ps.61: 1-4**. We can be confident in the Lord our Refuge - **Prov.14: 26**.

When your heart is overwhelmed and it seems like you cannot cope, always remember God is your Refuge and Strength - **Ps.61: 1-4; Nah.1: 7**.

Our security is in God, not in things and not in people - **Ps.91: 1-4**.

We are safe in God - **Deut.33: 27**.

You can trust in Him at all times and be immovable in times of trouble.

"God has not promised bright skies without dark patches or flower-strewn pathways all our life through; God has not promised sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain. But God has promised strength for the day, reward and rest for the labour, light for the way; grace for our trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love." - Anonymous

Conclusion:

Are you in trouble in any way? Do not lose hope. Instead, find peace and hope in God. See God is IN that trouble with you! Run to Him for cover and take your Refuge in God! He is your Shelter in times of storm - **Ps.46: 1-3; Prov.18: 10**.