

*Forsaking
All*



*Trust
Him*

STANDING

ON THE

PROMISES

OF GOD



Giffnock: the Park Church

Sunday 3rd May 2020

Our Weekly Devotion and Update

Good Morning everyone,

As we enter the 6th Week of a nation locked down and restricted in movement in order to impede the spread of infection and disease, I trust you are contending with these times well. It has been an interesting week with the Church now operating fully as a depot where the hard work of over 260 volunteers is being delivered or picked up from the church so that this can be sent to where it can be best used, be they GP Surgeries, Nursing Homes, children's Hospital wards or adult surgical or medical wards. What began as a small idea has mushroomed into something much larger and has been appreciated by those in the front line of

Health and Social Care. I am delighted that we at Park Church could play our small part in this during this difficult time of Health concern by making the Halls available for this more than worthwhile purpose.

As we begin yet another week, once again I would want to encourage you with the words and thoughts expressed in these reflections and I hope that you will remember all who are struggling at this time and remember them in prayer (If we can do nothing else though all this we can pray). Attached to this reflection is a prayer diary which I hope you find to be a helpful guide for daily devotions. Our Reflection for the first Sunday of will continue a theme started on Thursday evening's Facebook Reflection about God's Promises. Today we will consider the promise that God makes of Delivering us through Troubles times which I hope will be able to reassure us during this troubled time for the nation and the World.

As always I hope that you will keep safe and know God's Blessing even in these times. The acronym of faith detailed above is one for us all to hold on to and we at the manse want to wish you all well.

Calum D. Macdonald



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us Pray

Our Loving Heavenly Father, we come before You this day and acknowledge that you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth. You sustain us and keep us at times when we can see Your hand at work as well as those times when we don't. Such is Your power and love for us and to us that by resting in this great power and love, we can be able to stand on your promises to us, to guard over us and keep us through these troubled days that we are living in.

Lord of Compassion, we intercede for the millions around our globe who are suffering in so many ways – especially those who contend with this disease blighting the world today; those who suffer and are in hospital or are being maintained at home or are in a full time care

setting. We pray for those involved in scientific research to find a cure, those at the coal face of medical and social care seeking to help those who need help the most. We think of those across our villages, town and cities struggling with family breakdown, with the issues of Alcohol and/ or Drug Addiction, the rising trend of abuse in all its forms and we look beyond our shores to those distant places where suffering is rife and warfare is still prevalent over and above this awful Pandemic. As we intercede for all those around the world who are afflicted with disease and disability and instability. We especially pray for those in areas with limited medical facilities.

Lord God, we know that Your Son Jesus was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. He took up our pain and carried our afflictions. Speak today to those who are afflicted, deliver those who are suffering, give them relief from their turmoil and in small ways and big ways use us in your church Father, to be the means by which we all see your love in action. Father, Your Word tells us the prayer of a righteous person has great power to prevail and so as men and women of faith we seek your blessing again for all in this time of crisis. By Your Grace which is all sufficient, sustain us and keep us and Guard over us in these days to come for all this we ask in Jesus' name

Amen

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Psalm 91 New International Version (NIV)

¹ *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty*

² *I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my
fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”*

³ *Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

⁴ *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings
you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

⁵ *You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that
flies by day,*

⁶ *nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your
right hand,
but it will not come near you.*

⁸ *You will only observe with your eyes and see the
punishment of the wicked.*

⁹ If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,”
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
¹⁰ no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near
your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
¹⁴ “Because he^[b] loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue
him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be
with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my
salvation.”

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God's Promise

A Reflection on Deliverance in times of trouble

Earlier this week I had been thinking to streamline our devotional times online both by written email and by video presentation on our church Facebook Page (See Calum D. Macdonald). We began on Thursday with a short presentation on the promise that Jesus would return.

Reflecting on John 14: 1- 4, Matthew 10: 32 and Philippians 2: 11. As my thoughts turned to the weekend and a written reflection for the Sunday Morning, I thought first to use Matthew 6, part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus tells the people not to worry about anything. Then my thoughts changed to that of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 43 : 1- 3, where The Lord says " Do not be afraid for I have redeemed

you but I finally settled on the text of Psalm 91 which describes God as fortress which could not be broken and the more I read I thought it made sense this might be a good text from God's Word as a word in season for us to consider how God can and will deliver us through these troubles times.

The writer of the Psalm has never been identified fully although some feel the tone and the style of writing point to Moses who was attributed as having written Psalm 90, a prayer where the subject matter has some similarities to that of psalm 91. Rev. John Stott the Church of England Cleric and Theologian reminds us that these verses are the only verses which the Devil quotes when trying to tempt Jesus at the beginning of his ministry when out in the Desert fasting and praying although the devil being the deceiver he is distorts the context of the psalm to suit his purposes. The structure of the psalm is thought to be that of a three way conversation with someone praying, perhaps a priest from the tribe of Levi making a plea or seeking reassurance from God.(verses 1- 2) The

psalmist as the second voice in this prayer makes his reply to affirm what God is capable of and looks to assure the priest praying. (vs 3- 13)

But Finally God himself intervenes in the conversation where in the closing words of the psalm he gives a personal reassurance to the other two.

"because he loves me ... I will rescue Him... I will protect him... I will be with Him... I will deliver him and honour him." The psalmist uses the image and language of a fortress to describe God's capacity to hold off anything that comes against him. In ancient times when invaders came the locals fled to the Castles and fortresses for Shelter. It is interesting to see how we use the language of the ancients even today when we talk of Shielding those from the spread of Covid 19, where the promise to us from God's word is that...

"His Faithfulness will be your shield and rampart" (Verse 4)

The word Faith is a useful and important acronym for us to hold onto in these days where the time ahead is a challenge and uncertain but that

through it all that we might be reminded that
"Forsaking All I Trust Him" will in fact be the
means by which we come through this. Elvis
Presley sang an old Hymn from yester year, the
verse and chorus which said...

*There is no night, for in His light,
you'll never walk alone.*

*Always feel at home,
wherever you may roam.*

*There is no power can conquer you,
While God is on your side.*

*Just take Him at his Promise.
Don't run away and hide.*

It is no secret, what God can do.

What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

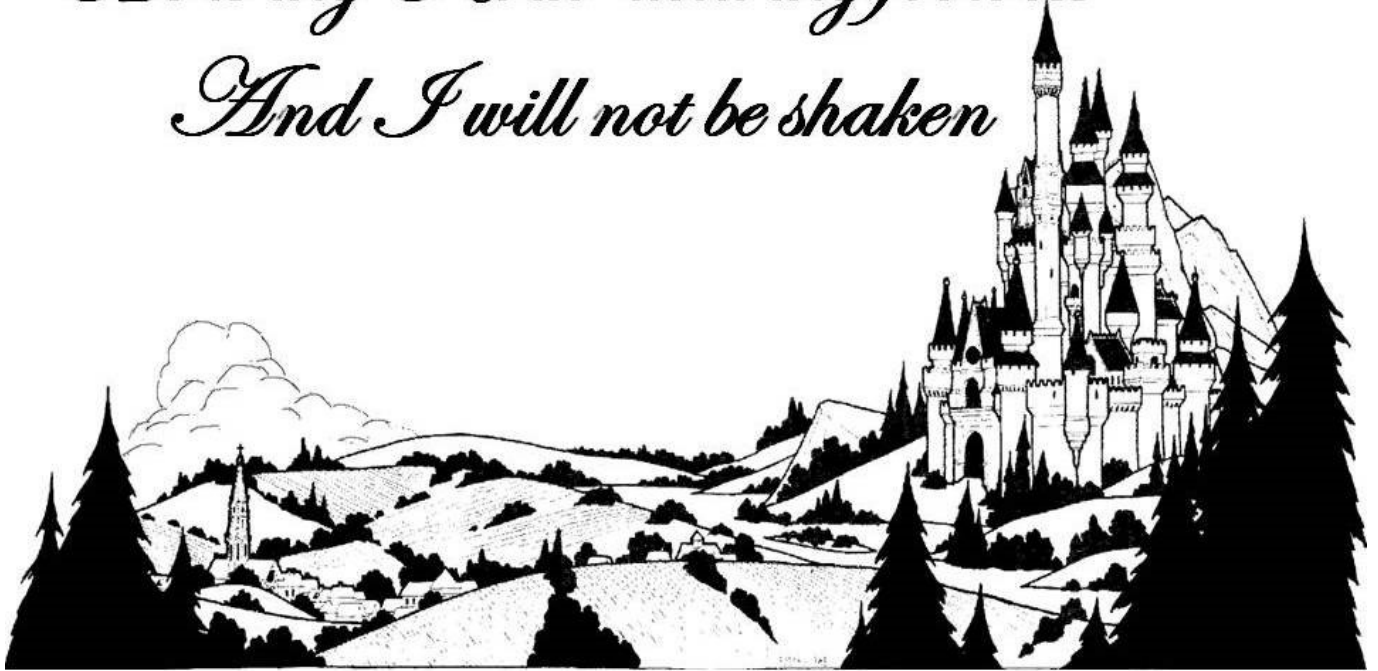
With arms wide open, He'll pardon you.

It is no secret, what God can do!

I have said it before and I trust you will forgive
me for repeating myself, that one day this too
will pass and with the benefit of hindsight I
have no doubts we will see the ways in which we
will have at times "rested in the Shadow of the
Almighty. Stay safe knowing God is always near
even when we don't feel it is so.

————— oOo —————

*He is my Rock and my fortress
And I will not be shaken*



*May the LORD answer you in the
day of trouble;
May the name of the God of
Jacob defend you;
May He send you help from the
sanctuary,
And strengthen you out of Zion;
May the Blessing of the Father,
the Son and the Spirit
Bless you and Keep you,
Guarding over you now & Always
Amen*