

SAFE IN THE LORD

Jesus gives us cause to celebrate. He dearly loves us and has reconciled us to God even though there was no possible way for that to happen. He wrought a wonder.

Not only has God opened lines of communication between Him and us, but He lavishes us with His love, in no way dependent on our behavior. We are not up to it. But He's revealed a mystery to us, if we'll believe it. The mystery is that just as the Spirit dwelt in Jesus on this earth, He dwells in us and we are to make our abode in Him through faith.

For safety's sake we need to hold on to faith to avoid making shipwreck of it (1 Tim. 1:19).

Matthew 6:34 says there's enough trouble in one day, so don't think about tomorrow. "Give us this day our daily bread" applies to spiritual meat too. Our Lord wants us to succeed in Him and gives us words from the Bible to stand on to keep us steadfast. If we don't know any of Bible, it's like not eating. Our lack of sustenance may not show outwardly, but by our fruit it will become apparent. Our spiritual weakness brought on through lack of hearing from God in His Word is a detriment to us and to others.

If we don't hear, how can God help us? He may be saying how to avoid a danger, yet we can't heed that warning because we don't hear any warning. On the other hand, how wonderful it is to be kept safe from following our own inadequate understanding and to sense God's knowledge and direction for us.

PROTECTION AGAINST THE ENEMY

Until the Lord comes and reigns in His kingdom He has given us defensive and offensive weapons to make every enemy under Jesus' feet. We are in a spiritual war right now. We must remain vigilant and sober to guard against the deceptions and snares of the devil.

THE WONDER OF THE WORD: HEB. 4:12,13

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

WAYS OF ESCAPE: 1 COR. 10:11-13

Now all these things happened ... are written for our admonition. . . . Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD: PSALM 91:1,3-5A

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid.

The sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon that pierces through deceptions.

The breastplate makes vulnerable spots tough.

A spiritual helmet keeps our thoughts secure.

Girded with the belt of truth, we are kept upright.

We keep better footing and advance with good shoes.

We have a shield to quench thoughts from the enemy.

OUR REFUGE

When we receive the Lord's life-giving seed of the Word through believing it, we are not who we used to be. We may look like it and feel like we are, but God's Word says otherwise. His Word is the mirror into which we look to see what we look like or feel like. He says we are healed, then we are. If we don't believe it, it's our carnal minds that need to be changed to the truth of His report. He has abundant goodness and He doesn't lie.