

7/17/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Before Hurricane Irma hit Florida, we made lots of preparations. The news hours related where the hurricane was, how big was, how powerful it was, and where it was going to make landfall. A previous resident of the parsonage in North Fort Myers called to tell us that if he had to ride out a category 5 hurricane it would be in this parsonage. Bullet proof windows, concrete walls, and a sturdy roof would keep us safe. We rode out the hurricane in the bathroom that had no windows. We thought that the sturdy house would keep us safe from the violent hurricane.

There are some storms in life that we just can't hide from. You know the kind: the sudden illness, the financial mess, the unexpected death of a loved one, the heartbreaking betrayal of a friend.

These storms can sweep into our lives quickly and suddenly or build up over time until they are raging all around us. When they come, they threaten to shake us to the core, and there is nowhere we can hide from them. Or is there?

God alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Psalms 62:2

The psalmist talks about a fortress in which we can hide. This fortress is so strong, so impenetrable that safely inside we cannot be shaken even by the fiercest storm. God is our fortress. The powerful God who created this world and everything that exists, who

has power even over death itself, is the fortress we can run to when the storms of life blow all around us.

We know that we can trust his power to protect us because he has proven his love. The same love that moved him to sacrifice his Son in our place on the cross moves him to use his power to guard and protect us in our lives.

When those storms blow in, and you know they will, find your security in the ultimate fortress. Hide yourself in the loving and all-powerful arms of God. Trust him to keep you safe and do not be shaken.

***Prayer:** Almighty God, I cannot stand up to the storms of life on my own. I need courage. I need protection. Be my fortress that I may never be shaken. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

“Life is fragile. Handle with prayer.”

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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