

My Loved Ones:

Psalms 46:2 says, "Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, / And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Whenever we see the word "therefore" in the Bible, we have to stop and ask ourselves what the "therefore" is there for! It is there because of the truth in 46:1, about God being our refuge and strength and is present to help in trouble. As a result of that truth gripping our lives, we have Ps 46:2.

It says that "we will not fear." Do you hear a little bit of determination there in the phrase. "I am determined that I will not be afraid. I am making a deliberate choice, and will continue to make that deliberate choice that I will not be afraid. And I'm so determined with this commitment not to be afraid, that I'm going to get others to go along with me and help them so that they won't be afraid!" It's amazing how fear and panic is picked up by other people. It's also amazing that confidence and stability is picked up by other people. Other people are watching you, loved ones, especially the unsaved world. We want make sure that we point them in the right direction: God Himself.

You may say, "I can make the commitment not to fear all day long, but I still get afraid." Then perhaps we need to meditate just a little bit more about the first verse of Who our Strong One really is.

God has made the earth, as far as the land and its mountains pretty stabilized. It's a good thing that we don't have to continually worry about quicksand! Instead, we can count that the land is going to be stable for us. But the psalmist says that God is still going to be our Strong Protector and Provider, and we don't have to fear even though the earth and mountains may quake, shift, slip and totter into the sea and be covered up!

We have had some things in this virus that have been stable for us that have had some pretty big shifts. But God promises that things could be worse: earthquakes and mountains going to the sea. It reminds me of a line from a Gershwin tune "In time the Rockies may crumble, Gibraltar may tumble: they're only made of clay, but our [God] is here to stay" (substituting "God" for "love"). There is great stability in God. So, if I find that I am on shaky ground and experiencing a shaky heart, and I need to get close to the most stable thing in the earthquakes of life: get close to our Strong Protector and Provider.

Luther's hymn is taken from this passage; stop and think about the words. "A mighty fortress is our God: a bulwark never-failing. Our helper, He, amid the floods or mortal ills prevailing." We have many things facing up, loved ones. We don't have to be afraid as long as we keep close and keep running to our great Strong Protector and Provider.

We love you and are praying for you today, loved ones.