

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

activated

Vol 10 • Issue 10



THE SAFETY BUBBLE

Perfect protection, perfect peace

Salvation in a Mineshaft

Coincidence or the hand of God?

A Sound Mind

How to be worry free



PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Every so often we read or hear about some happening that defies reason, like this personal account by *Activated* correspondent Misty Kay in Taiwan:

About thirty concrete steps led down to the parking garage under the apartment complex in Taipei where my husband Andy and I were living with our four small children. I had taught the kids to be very careful when negotiating that stairway, and was especially concerned about Chalsey, who was still a wobbly toddler. A fall down those stairs could be fatal.

One day I was helping one of her sisters put on her jacket when Chalsey took off running ahead of me. Even as I rushed after her, I could tell I wouldn't get to her in time. I also knew that at the speed she was running she wouldn't be able to stop herself when she came to the top of the stairs. Just beyond my reach, I watched in what seemed like slow motion as she tried to stop, lost her balance, and lurched headlong over the steps. My heart skipped a beat, and I silently screamed a split-second prayer.

The only word I have to describe what happened next is "miraculous." Chalsey froze in midair, then fell *backwards* and sat down on the top step. It was as though an invisible hand had caught her, lifted her back up, and set her down. I held her in my arms and thanked God over and over for His loving care.

Was this, as Misty believes, a miracle? Can God bend His own rules, the laws that govern the physical realm in which we live? If so, why does He sometimes intervene and sometimes not? Who qualifies for such divine intervention? What parts do our faith and prayers play? Besides the immediate result, is there a higher purpose He hopes to accomplish? The articles on the following pages offer some answers to these questions—and some of the answers may surprise you.

Keith Phillips
For *Activated*

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FLIGHT TRACKER

“THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE IN EVERY PLACE.”¹

BY ABI F. MAY

THIS MORNING my husband Simon left suddenly to the USA, after receiving word that his elderly mother's health had taken a turn for the worse. We couldn't afford trans-Atlantic airfare for two, so here I am, home alone and already missing Simon.

I've been combating loneliness by keeping busy, and between catching up on housework and checking email, I came across a real-time “flight tracker” on the Internet. Since then I've gone back to that screen every couple of hours to follow Simon's progress as his plane passed over the vast expanse of ocean, reached land-fall, and is now making its way down the eastern coast of North America. Even though Simon has no idea I am “watching” in this way, knowing where he is at the moment gives me a curious sense of comfort.

A few minutes ago the thought struck me that this is how God is with us. He's always watching and knows right where we are in our flight schedule, and unlike me,

He doesn't take His eye off the “screen” even for a moment. “His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps.”²

Three thousand miles across ocean and land. That's how far Simon has traveled since he left home. But with God, there is no such distance. He is always right here with us. The psalmist David wrote, “If I ascend into heaven, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.”³

The flight tracker is showing his approach to Philadelphia now. The Lord is always tracking us too. Are we heading in the right direction, walking in the path of His choosing, the path that leads to happiness and Him? “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy.”⁴

I just checked the screen again. Simon's plane is descending. Dear Lord, please give them a safe landing. “The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in.”⁵

“If I ascend
into heaven,
You are there”

No matter where life takes us, we have an invisible guide who is watching, loving, never neglecting us for a moment, and taking care of us each step of the way.

I'm considerably cheered up—and look, my prayers have been answered. The plane has landed.

ABI F. MAY IS A MEMBER OF
THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN
EUROPE. ✂

¹Proverbs 15:3

²Job 34:21

³Psalms 139:8–10

⁴Psalms 16:11

⁵Psalms 121:8



THE SAFETY BUBBLE

BY MARIA FONTAINE

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER offers us incredible security and peace from the evils of this world. Through His divine care and intervention, we can live in a bubble of protection from the bad things that go on around us and that could also happen to us if He wasn't constantly keeping them at bay.

God can protect us from anything, but only when we give Him our cooperation. We do that by staying close to Him in spirit—by loving Him and doing our best to live by the principles

He's laid out in His Word—and by taking the necessary physical precautions. When we do those things, we have nothing to fear and can count on Him to deliver us from harm.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”¹ Greater is He who is in us than anything this world can throw at us.² His love in our hearts will cast out any fearful thoughts or worries, because His Spirit will fill us with power, love, and a sound mind.³ We are surrounded and sheltered by Him and His angelic forces.⁴ We don't have to fear anything the devil or bad

people can try to do to us, because our great protector has promised that not a hair of our head can be touched without His permission.⁵ We can rely on Him to fulfill all of those promises and more, and through faith in them we can have peace of mind, regardless of the circumstances around us.

Sometimes, for one reason or more reasons, He lets something get through that bubble of protection, but even then “all things work together for good to those who love God.”⁶ When those seemingly bad things happen, there is usually a lesson for us, and often it is that we need to be more prayerful and more vigilant in the physical realm. If we've never experienced a robbery



PROTECTION AND POWER

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WORLD for you is close to God and where He wants you to be. No matter where that is or what's against you, He will keep you. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."⁷

God has promised to protect His own, but has anything bad ever happened to you since you've accepted Him into your heart and life? Has the Lord ever let you suffer in some way through an accident, affliction, or other trouble?

Look at what happened to Job!⁸ Were all the calamities that befell him and his family his fault? Was God punishing him for his sins? No. All of these things happened because the devil asked God if he could test and tempt Job to see if he could break Job and make him lose his faith. The Lord let the devil take away all Job's wealth, then his family, and finally his health. It was all a test, perpetrated by the devil but allowed by the Lord in order to show that Job would continue to love and honor Him in spite of it all. And when Job passed the test, God blessed him with twice as much as he had lost.⁹

Don't worry; God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear.¹⁰ He doesn't let the devil give us more than we can take, but He does sometimes let the devil test us to see if we'll depend on Him and His promises in the Word even in difficult circumstances. And once we've passed the test, God will deliver us, just like He did Job.

All through the Bible the Lord miraculously empowered and protected those who turned to Him for help. And the same miracles of power and protection that occurred back in Bible times can happen today. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!"¹¹ If Jesus could do those miracles in His day, then He can still do them today. God is still the God of miracles, and what He's done before He can do again.

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth!"¹² That's a lot of power! And if you've accepted Jesus into your life and heart, you have access to that power as well. God has not only promised all this power and protection, but He's promised it for right now and for you, if you believe! 🌿

or a break-in or a mugging or some other frightening or life-threatening situation, it's hard to imagine it happening to us, and that can lead to a false sense of security, which is dangerous.

People do desperate things when they're at the end of their rope, and there are also people whose hearts are very evil. We live in dangerous times, but as long as we do our part, we can count on His unfailing counsel, forewarning, protection, and care. We are blessed! 🌿

¹Psalm 46:1

²1 John 4:4

³1 John 4:18; 2 Timothy 1:7

⁴Psalm 34:7; 91:11

⁵Matthew 10:29–31

⁶Romans 8:28

⁷Proverbs 18:10

⁸See Job 1:6–19

⁹See Job 42:10–16

¹⁰1 Corinthians 10:13

¹¹Hebrews 13:8

¹²Matthew 28:18



Path of Destruction

JAKARTA, MAY 13, 1998

Caught in the heart of citywide riots that had been sparked by anti-government student demonstrations, God was our only defense—but He was strong enough! What could have turned into trauma and tragedy for us became instead a thrilling testimony to the power of God.

Our third-story apartment doubled as housing and base of operations for our volunteer work. In the previous few days we had left only for emergencies.

“Have you heard the latest?” someone whispered. We kept our voices low, as we didn’t want to upset the children. “Crowds are rioting all across the city!”

Lydia peered out the window, being careful to stay out of sight behind the curtain. “It’s all quiet around here,” she said. “Almost too quiet.”

“We’re safe here for the time being,” John replied, putting his arm around Lydia. “We’ve prayed for our situation, so we know we’re in the Lord’s hands.” We had been praying about trying to leave the city, but kept feeling that the Lord wanted us to stay put.

“Now seems like a good time to try to talk to some of our neighbors,” John said.

Lydia looked out the window again, this time at the men who stood guard at the outer gate of our housing complex. Their show of force might be enough to deter a few would-be looters, but what could they possibly do if they were set upon by an angry mob?

John and Lydia prayed for the Lord’s protection, and then set off down the stairs and out of the building. They hurried past the evacuated shops on the ground floor, then over to the front gate of our complex where a few neighbors mingled and talked with the guards.

“Quick!”
one of them
shouted.
“Get out of
here! A mob
is headed this
way!”

The Secret Place

A Meditation on Psalm 91

ADAPTED FROM DAVID BRANDT BERG, BY RONAN KEANE

PSALM 91:1: HE WHO DWELLS IN THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL ABIDE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY.

Where is the “secret place of the Most High”? It is found in intimate fellowship with God. The phrase “shadow of the Almighty” symbolizes God’s protection. When you’re in close personal fellowship with God, you’re under His shadow, under His protection.

That’s a promise, but it comes with one condition: you must stay close to Him. You do that by reading His Word and doing your best to follow it, by keeping Him and His guiding spiritual principles in your thoughts.

VERSE 2: I WILL SAY OF THE LORD, “HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS; MY GOD, IN HIM I WILL TRUST.”

In Bible times, stone fortresses provided the best protection in times of trouble or war, but God is an even surer defense.

VERSE 3: SURELY HE SHALL DELIVER YOU FROM THE SNARE OF THE FOWLER AND FROM THE PERILOUS PESTILENCE.

A snare is a trap, set for a bird in this case, and the devil is the fowler.

VERSE 4A: HE SHALL COVER YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS, AND UNDER HIS WINGS YOU SHALL TAKE REFUGE.

The picture is of God keeping us safe, like a hen spreads her wings over her chicks to protect them.

VERSE 4B: HIS TRUTH SHALL BE YOUR SHIELD AND BUCKLER.

A buckler was a small shield, about the size and shape of a dinner plate and fastened to the wrist, which soldiers used to protect their sword-wielding hand. A buckler was a lot more maneuverable than the full-size shields that most ancient soldiers also carried.

What is the truth of God? Jesus once said in a prayer to His Father, “Your word is truth.”¹ Another passage tells us to carry “the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”² Faith in God’s promises is our best protection.

VERSES 5–6: YOU SHALL NOT BE AFRAID OF THE TERROR BY NIGHT, NOR OF THE ARROW THAT FLIES BY DAY, NOR OF THE PESTILENCE THAT WALKS IN DARKNESS, NOR OF THE DESTRUCTION THAT LAYS WASTE AT NOONDAY.

You have nothing to fear, whether physical or spiritual, because you have the following promise:

¹John 17:17

²Ephesians 6:16

VERSES 7–8: A THOUSAND MAY FALL AT YOUR SIDE, AND TEN THOUSAND AT YOUR RIGHT HAND; BUT IT SHALL NOT COME NEAR YOU. ONLY WITH YOUR EYES SHALL YOU LOOK, AND SEE THE REWARD OF THE WICKED.

Even if danger is on every side, God can bring you through it unscathed.

VERSE 9: BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE THE LORD, WHO IS MY REFUGE, EVEN THE MOST HIGH, YOUR DWELLING PLACE...

If the Lord is your refuge and dwelling place, where does that put you? In a sense you're already dwelling in heaven, because that's where God lives and you've made your home with Him.

VERSE 10: NO EVIL SHALL BEFALL YOU, NOR SHALL ANY PLAGUE COME NEAR YOUR DWELLING.

But, you may argue, bad things *do* happen, even to people who pray for God's protection. They get hurt, seriously ill, and have plenty of other problems. How could the statement "no evil shall befall you" be true?

Well, consider what is "evil." When the Lord lets seemingly bad things happen to His children, they're often to teach us something or to strengthen and build our character. When our wise and loving heavenly Father allows this, He does so for our own good, and it "yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."³ If the purpose and outcome are positive, how can these things be evil? In fact, He also promises that *all* things work together for good to those who love Him.⁴

VERSES 11–13: FOR HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, TO KEEP YOU IN ALL YOUR WAYS. IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE. YOU SHALL TREAD UPON THE LION AND THE COBRA, THE YOUNG LION AND THE SERPENT YOU SHALL TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT.

Thank God for His angels, who watch over you continually, including your personal guardian angel, whose job is *you*.

VERSE 14, GOD SPEAKING: "BECAUSE HE HAS SET HIS LOVE UPON ME, THEREFORE I WILL DELIVER HIM; I WILL SET HIM ON HIGH, BECAUSE HE HAS KNOWN MY NAME.

Again, there are conditions attached to His promises: God protects those who know and love Him. Your love, trust, and faith in God and His ability to deliver you are what activate His power on your behalf.

VERSES 15–16: "HE SHALL CALL UPON ME, AND I WILL ANSWER HIM; I WILL BE WITH HIM IN TROUBLE; I WILL DELIVER HIM AND HONOR HIM. WITH LONG LIFE I WILL SATISFY HIM, AND SHOW HIM MY SALVATION."

As we fulfill these conditions, what are the five things the Lord will do for us when we call on Him for help? 1) He will answer us, 2) He will be with us in trouble, 3) He will deliver us, 4) He will honor us, and 5) He will show us His salvation. ✠

³Hebrews 12:11

⁴Romans 8:28



SALVATION IN A MINESHAFT



BY NATALIA PROKHATSKA

BORN AND RAISED in a small Ukrainian mining town during the Soviet era, I grew up in an atmosphere of atheism. One day I came across a book titled *Not by Bread Alone*. Being an avid reader, I read it in a single sitting. The book offered a simple plan of salvation, followed by a prayer to receive Jesus as my personal Savior. The concepts of God, faith, and prayer were all foreign to my thinking, but something about the book captivated me. When I repeated the prayer, I had a feeling that was both marvelous and a bit scary, as though my soul was being elevated to the ceiling.

Several years later I left my hometown to study at the state university, and there I met members of the Family International who led me from A to Z into a life of faith and service to God and others.

The next time I visited my parents, I explained how Jesus had changed my life and that He could do the same for them. My mother received it gladly, but my father was skeptical. I promised to pray for him.

At the start of each workday, my father and the other coalminers descended the vertical shaft two by two. Part of their safety gear was a heavy belt that was anchored to the shaft's wooden framework by a rope. My dad never used that belt, however, as it was bulky and uncomfortable. Instead he wore a lighter one that he trusted would serve the purpose just as well.

One day someone had taken his light-weight belt, so he was forced to use the heavier one. He and his partner went down the shaft and were soon busy mining, my

father under their support pier and his partner on the top of it.

Suddenly my father's foot slipped, he lost his balance, and fell into the black abyss. The safety rope caught him, but for several minutes he dangled under the pier. Shards of coal rained on him, cutting his head, face, and body.

Finally his partner, who hadn't heard my father's cries for help over the din of the machinery, stopped working to check on him, saw what had happened, and helped him up.

When my father recounted the incident to me later, he said that his whole life had passed before his eyes as he hung in the darkness. "I felt your prayers holding me tight," he said, "and that was when I decided to receive Jesus as my Savior."

My father's favorite old belt? He thanks God that someone had taken it that day.

NATALIA PROKHATSKA IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ARGENTINA. ✂



greater works

BY KARAND JOSHI AS TOLD TO CARINA E. HARROP

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do."—Jesus, John 14:12–13

I had gone for a drive with friends one evening, when all of a sudden our car died on the highway. We couldn't make out what was wrong with it, so two of my friends went for help.

In the meantime, the rest of us got out of the car and stood around talking along the side of the road. I happened to glance over the railing of the overpass where we had come to a stop and saw, just a few meters away, some homeless people camped on the side of the road. A moment later, one of them, an elderly woman, began choking violently. She couldn't breathe, and the others, who turned out to be her family, gathered around her and began doing all they could to help her. Nothing worked. "She's dying! She's dying!" they cried frantically.

I froze, not knowing what to do as the scene played out before me. I wasn't prepared to see a helpless person die, but I wasn't a doctor. What could I do?

Earlier that week I had read from the Bible about Jesus' power to heal, and there is a verse of Scripture that says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."¹ All I could think to do was cry out to Jesus to heal her, so I began praying desperately. As soon as I finished praying, I looked at her and there she was, beginning to breathe normally. From a hairsbreadth from death, life had been restored to her. Her color came back, and her family wept tears of joy. My hair stood on end. I had witnessed a miracle and direct answer to prayer.

KARAND JOSHI IS AN *ACTIVATED* READER IN INDIA. ✨

I wasn't prepared to see a helpless person die, but I wasn't a doctor. What could I do?

If you haven't met the Man who has the power to heal, protect, and grant eternal life, you can right now by inviting Him into your life. Simply pray this short prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming and dying for me so I can be forgiven my sins, experience Your love and care here and now, and have the promise of eternal life in heaven. I open my heart and invite You in. Amen.

¹Hebrews 13:8





a sound mind

by marie péloquin



I AM BY NATURE
SOMETHING OF A WORRY-
WART. I'm almost constantly
preoccupied with one worry or
another.

I am also a multitasker. I can do just about anything and worry at the same time. For example, this morning I was trying to take my daily quiet time, reading a few pages of devotional material and reflecting on it (I say "trying," because at the same time I was worrying about the week's work ahead of me, ongoing health problems, and an upcoming trip) when this sentence jumped off of the page: "In the Bible, the admonition to 'fear not' is used more than 100

times." I guess God knew our inclination to worry and fear.

As kids we are afraid of the dark, the boogeyman under the bed, and the dentist.

A couple of years later we've learned that the boogeyman doesn't exist and the dentist knows what he's doing, so we're afraid of bullies at school, being embarrassed in front of our friends, and making a poor grade on the Tuesday math quiz.

A few more years later and we're afraid of pimples and braces and not being popular enough.

Soon enough we fear that first job and worry about the future and what we'll become. We fear failing academically and failing in relationships. We fear disappointing family and friends. We fear economic failure, we fear for our children's happiness and well-being, and we fear sickness and death.

We outgrow fears, but we never seem to outgrow fearing.

It also doesn't help that these days there seems to be more and

more to be afraid of. Just read or watch the news and you'll see what I'm talking about—war, crime, terrorism, new strains of deadly diseases, natural and manmade disasters, and of course the miserable state of the world economy and the ramifications that brings with it.

In the Bible, God has an answer for each of those fears:

"Trouble at work? Nasty coworkers threatening to cause trouble for you? Don't worry! Put your will on My side and I'll take care of the problem!"¹

"Worried about war and terrorism? Don't fear! Entrust your life and your family to Me, and I'll take care of you."²

"Afraid of natural disasters? Worried about earthquakes, tsunamis, or hurricanes? Don't be! I've got you covered. That's the best insurance policy you could ask for!"³

"Are you suffering physically—perhaps even battling a life-threatening sickness? Don't be afraid. I will be with you through



I realized that God had a contingency plan for every possible calamity

it all, to comfort you and hold your hand.”⁴

“Have you been wrongly accused and therefore worry about saving your reputation and future? Don’t. I know the truth, and I’ll make sure it comes out in the end.”⁵

“It can be a scary world out there! There’s a lot of bad stuff going on. Maybe you live in a dangerous area and that worries you sometimes. Don’t be afraid. If I take care of the birds and the flowers, what makes you think I won’t take care of you? You’re worth everything to Me.”⁶

“I see you’ve been worried about how to provide for your family. It’s been difficult to make ends meet, and the bills are piling up. Don’t be afraid. The world and all that is in it are Mine, and it is My pleasure to meet every one of your needs. Just ask.”⁷

As I thought about it more, I realized that God had a contingency plan for every possible calamity. For every worry, He has a solution at His fingertips.

What’s more, it’s His pleasure to take care of us! He doesn’t consider us an annoyance when we come to Him with our fears and worries. Rather, like the loving Father He is, He picks us up and gently says, “I understand. Why don’t you leave that fear with Me, and let Me handle it for you?”⁸

“God has not given us the spirit of fear,” the apostle Paul wrote, “but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”⁹

MARIE PÉLOQUIN IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN MEXICO. ✨

¹Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

²Isaiah 54:14: In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

³Psalms 46:2: Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

⁴Psalms 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

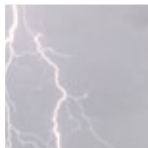
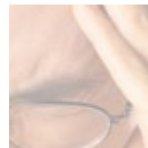
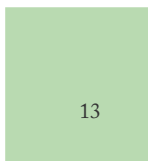
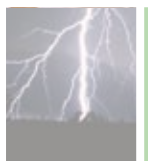
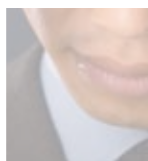
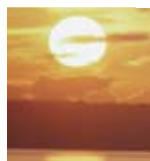
⁵Isaiah 51:7: Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is My law: do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults.

⁶Luke 12:7: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁷Luke 12:32: Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

⁸1 Peter 5:7: Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

⁹2 Timothy 1:7: For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



A VOICE IN THE NIGHT

BY RANDY LANGSTON

PULL OVER AT THE NEXT GAS STATION! Jesus spoke to my mind very clearly.

“I don’t need gasoline,” I argued. “Besides, the gas will be cheaper in Stuttgart. I’ll be there soon.”

Tankstelle, 3 km. The sign announcing the next highway service station flashed by.

Pull over at the next gas station!

“But Lord, I’m tired and it’s already 3 AM. I’ve got to get home. If I stop now, I’ll lose another 15 minutes and ...”

Tankstelle, 1 km.

Like a father speaking to an errant child, Jesus spoke to me more firmly. *You must stop!*

Early the previous morning I had driven from Stuttgart to Frankfurt, Germany, to attend a meeting. It had stretched late into the evening, and it was almost midnight before I began the long drive home. I was exhausted! The exit sign came into view. *Ausfahrt.*

I flipped on my turn signal and checked the mirrors. I was already in the slow lane and was on the tail end of a line of Dutch holiday

Red tongues of flame erupted somewhere in the wreckage, illuminating what now resembled a battlefield.

makers heading for the Black Forest. I lifted my foot from the accelerator, eased the VW van off the highway, and coasted to the gas pumps.

As I opened the van door, the chilly night air was pierced by the sound of screeching rubber, followed by the sound of crushing metal, more screeching tires, and more crushing metal. Red tongues of flame erupted somewhere in the wreckage, illuminating what now resembled a battlefield. In a matter of seconds, a dozen vehicles had been mangled and strewn across the roadway.

A gas station attendant alerted the police, and fire departments and paramedic squads rushed to the scene. Wailing sirens and flashing lights announced their arrival.

I stood mouth agape, my senses reeling under the impact of what had happened. As the numbness gradually subsided, I was struck by a thought that sent shock waves through my system so strong that they caused me to jump off the ground. *If I had not stopped, I would be right in the middle of that carnage!*

As I viewed the blackened, twisted metal, the words of the psalmist echoed in my ears. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.”¹

RANDY LANGSTON (1949–2006) SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL FOR 35 YEARS. ✝

¹Psalm 23:4



The Will of God

The will of God will never take you
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the arms of God cannot support you,
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
Where the army of God cannot protect you,
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.
—*Author unknown*

FEEDING READING

Our Best Protection

The Bible is full of amazing stories of how God protected His children who looked to Him when things couldn't have looked worse—stories that can strengthen our faith that God will also protect us. Here are a few that have encouraged millions down through the ages.	<i>Delivered!</i> 2 Samuel 22
<i>The great escape</i> Exodus 14	<i>The invisible army</i> 2 Kings 6
<i>A giant challenge</i> 1 Samuel 17	<i>Four in the fire</i> Daniel 3
	<i>A night in the lions' den</i> Daniel 6
	<i>Assassination plot revealed</i> Matthew 2

MIRACLES COME NATURALLY TO GOD

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

We usually think of things that are beyond our comprehension as supernatural or miraculous, but those things aren't supernatural to God because He operates in the spiritual realm where everything is "natural" to Him. There is nothing that's impossible for God.¹ A lot of things God does are beyond our power and grasp of things and what we consider natural, so when they happen we say they are supernatural. But with God nothing is impossible, so nothing is supernatural to Him.

God can do things that are contrary to what we consider His natural laws. When someone is healed of an incurable disease, for example, we call it a miracle because we're seeing the evidence or manifestation of some of God's laws that link the spiritual and the physical realms—laws that we know little about. To God, on the other hand, it's simple! He knows how to undo whatever damage the disease may have done and thereby creates what to us is a miracle—a supernatural act that is beyond our capabilities.

God is always ready, willing, and able to work miracles on our behalf—miracles of healing, supply, protection, or whatever else we may need when we ask Him to in faith and claim the promises from His Word. We can't work miracles; we can only pray for Him to do them and marvel at His power when He does. ✠

¹Luke 1:37

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE ●●●●

hideaway.

Everyone is worried about the future these days—and it's no wonder. The way things are going, everyone has reason to fear what will happen to them, their family, their city, their country, their world. This planet has become a frightening and stressful place to live. Sometimes you wish you could find a hideaway, nail the windows and doors closed, and keep the world out.

It doesn't do any good to pretend the problems aren't there, but you don't have to be afraid, because I'm looking out for you. When fears overwhelm you, hide away in Me. When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, call on Me for help and then rest assured that I will be there to protect you. When you can't watch over your loved ones, commit them to My care. When a national or international crisis erupts, I will provide a safe haven for you and yours.

And even if the unthinkable happens—if you or your loved ones are taken from this life—know that a better life awaits on the other side. Heaven is where all this world's wrongs are made right.

So you see, although there's plenty you could worry about, you don't have to worry about a thing. I'm taking care of you!

