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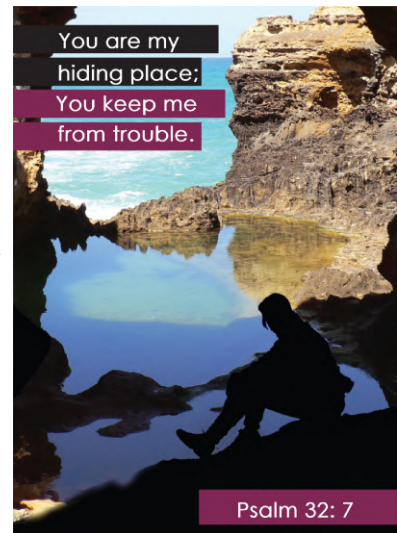
Your hiding place

My wife's sister and her husband adopted a rescue cat. The cat is cautious, taking a while to accept its *new people*. It quickly found a favorite hiding place—a dining room chair where it can sit, hidden by the table cloth. Out of sight and safe.

King David's Psalm 32 is a song of the blessings of being forgiven by God and the goodness of God surrounding him. He praises God by telling Him,

You are my hiding place; You keep me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance.

(verse 7)



He also wrote, in Psalm 27,

on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock (verse 5).

Hiding. The children's game of hide and seek is light and fun-filled. But we know that our threatening, trouble-filled times are anything but a game. Times when we look for, are desperate for, run to a place to hide.

We can try to hide, to escape from tough times to avoid facing them, to find a way so we don't have to go through them. God offers Himself as our hiding place—not to keep us from facing troubles, but to keep us safe and secure, to deliver us as we go through them. We see an example of this in how God provides for the temptations we face. As He tells us through the apostle Paul

No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Notice, the way of escape is being able to endure the temptations, to go *through them* without sin.

Elijah gives us several examples of hiding. After he delivered God's word of drought to King Ahab, God told him to hide himself by a secluded stream where God provided and prepared him. Elijah obeyed and trusted God as he went through that trying time. See 1 Kings chapter 7.

Later, after Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him, Elijah "was afraid, and got up and ran for his life" into hiding. God provided for him. God also addressed the prophet's fears by asking him, twice, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" God spoke, assured the prophet and sent him on his way to face and *go through* that tough time. See 1 Kings chapter 19.

We need a hiding place to find security and strength as we face, go through tough times. God is our hiding place. But how do we actually experience His perfect security and strength? Briefly, note a handful of key points.

- Know and remember that God is with you, always. He never will leave or abandon you. He repeatedly tells us this. See, for example, Deuteronomy 4:31, Joshua 1:5; Psalm 9:10; Hebrews 13:5.
- Rely on God to direct you. The most basic way He directs you is through His Word. Remember Psalm 119:105 which tells us God's Word "is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Connected to that is asking God for wisdom. James chapter 1 tells us God gives wisdom generously to His children who ask Him in faith, to those who trust Him (verses 5-8).
- And that leads us to actually trusting God. Isaiah chapter 26 verse 4 tells us, "Trust in the LORD forever, for in God the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock."
- Follow God's way at all times, knowing that often it is going through the storms of life rather than around them. Paul reminded Timothy that God would rescue him and bring him safely to His heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18). That path was through the storms and trials.

At all times, in all circumstances, thank God for His protection and provision. Determine to stay in Your hiding place every day, in all areas of your life and in all the situations you encounter.

Pastor Lyle