

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - FRIDAY, 8th MAY, 2020.

Ps 3. v.3 "But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COQ6cni_TG8&list=TLPQMMDMwNTlwMjAID-MPXvF7vA&index=1

StF 332: Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises;
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way,
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high. (Rick Founds)

Matt. Ch 14, v 22-33. - Jesus Walks on Water

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o'clock in the morning^[a] Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"^[b]²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong^[c] wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

32 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Several times, over the past few weeks, the Lord has turned my thoughts to this event from scripture - - the disciples in a boat struggling against the storm . I am sure that, whatever their anxious feelings at that time, we can identify with them, as the heavy waves of wind and storm swirl around our lives and our circumstances just now. Jesus is not with them and they are battling the elements alone.

Despite all their fishing experience, they find themselves unable to cope with their situation. **AND JESUS COMES TO THEM!**

There, in the middle of the lake, in the middle of the storm, Jesus comes to where they are, and he's walking on the water. With his customary words of assurance he says, **"Don't be afraid, Take courage, I am here"**.

Oh how we need, constantly, to hear those words of Jesus, speaking to us at this time.

Peter calls out "Lord if it really is you, tell me to come , walking on water, and the invitation is - "Come" - and while Peter fixes his eyes on Jesus HE CAN DO IT. It is only when he allows himself to look down, at the tossing seas that he begins to sink. On another occasion, when Jesus fed the 5,000 with a boys picnic lunch, he didn't concentrate on the small amount of food that was in his hands, he LOOKED UP for the blessing.

The rainbow is a popular picture of encouragement just now as children join in to bring glimpses of joy to us. I believe God is saying to us Look up - see the bigger picture - and don't let the things around you distract you from the powerful presence of Jesus in our midst.

We used to sing a chorus, years ago - words which challenge us today - "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace. "

I'm sure that each one of us has done this so many times, over the past few weeks - I know I have - turned to Jesus - reminding ourselves that He will never leave us to fend for ourselves and, like us, you KNOW the truth of these words. It is only when we get our sights in focus and acknowledge the presence of Jesus with us, within our circumstances, that we can experience the peace that knowing Him brings.

Hebrews, ch 12 v 1a-2 remind us:- Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus on whom our faith depends from start to finish."**

I have found so much assurance within the words that I have shared with you - I pray you will find them helpful too.

PRAYER

Holy God, we are scattered, but together in this moment of worship and prayer, we look up to You.

In this new day You call us in love to remember Your goodness to us. We thank and praise You.

Jesus Christ, we thank You for the forgiveness we have in You and your promise to be with us. Help us to see You in the people and circumstances of each day.

Holy Spirit, come to us in our weakness and uncertainty to strengthen and empower us in our witness for God.

We pray for our family, friends, and community and for those across the world who are in need at this time.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one and one in three; Holy God, we worship and Bless Your Holy Name.

AMEN

LOOK UP -
EVEN THE BIRDS HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENTL_li4GbE

StF In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid'
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till here turns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty (b1974) and Stuart Townend (b1963)

May the Lord keep our eyes focused on Him and grant us His peace. Amen.