

Elder Bobby Willis



"thou art mine"

All Children of God face some kind of battle, practically on a daily basis. It may be concerning our children, our relatives, ourselves, or just life itself. These battles may be known only to us and the good Lord, or they may be on-going with many others aware of what we are facing. A Child of God should be exceedingly thankful that we never have to face our battles alone.

In the day of battle (troubles) we have the promise of help from the One Who is **"...our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"** (Psalm 46:1). Paul was of the same mind as David when he spoke of the Lord promising **"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"** (Hebrews 13:5).

However, it is very easy to become discouraged. We are prone to make excuses such as *"I am just human"* or *"I have a right to complain"*, or, *"no body else has gone through what I have"*. Truth is, they have! But, it doesn't take away from the reality of the effects of battles we each face during our lives. They all are very real to each of us in our own way.

I draw comfort in knowing others have walked the same path and were delivered by the hand of the great provider and physician. The prophet Isaiah faced many battles himself and saw first hand the troubles and trials of the Israelites. That is why he could say by experience the words of comfort in Isaiah chapter 43, **"...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine"** (Is. 43:1). **"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee"** (Is. 43:2). What sweet comfort to hear the Lord say, **"...I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:..."** (vs 3) and then to know we are **"precious"** in his sight (vs. 4).

If you have ever been fearful of the unknown, if you have ever hurt with no apparent relief in sight, if you have found yourself at the bottom of the pit of despair; then you have needed to hear these words which Isaiah expressed from the depths of his heart. If you are in this condition now, may you draw strength as I do from these precious truths. **“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles”** (Isaiah 40:31). ***“Think About It!”***