

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1 KJV*

Dear Believer, do you feel vulnerable, troubled, and alone? You verily are not! No matter the chaos and misery of your soul your God is "very present." If you have no comfort or solace it is because you've not sought it in the one place it resides; God's Word! Maybe we don't seek it there, because we are afraid of the rebuke we may find. God's rebukes are for our correction and enlightenment to guide us in the path of provision prepared for us. God desires all His children to



walk with the very best provision. *"Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."* We are often angered by other's actions or words. We allow satanic whispers of retaliation to occupy our thoughts, instead of trusting God to handle things in His time, in His way, and for His glory. We plot, scheme, and manipulate the circumstances to achieve our own desires. God has the supreme advantage of knowing *"the thoughts and intents of the heart."* We often forget that what we perceive about people is often not true. Think back about how many times you have been misunderstood. We only THINK we know what's going on. Clever manipulators know how to construe perceptions to achieve their own ends. Satan is the master of manipulation and he masterfully plies men with their own desires down the path of destruction. If you use or manipulate anything to your own ends, you are Satan's tool and it will ultimately be your own downfall! You do what's right and let God deal with people! Live by feelings instead of faith and you live in the flesh, *"sold under sin,"* full of doubt! *The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.* If you can't see it God's way, you're blinded by unbelief. Faith is not a pick-and-choose option. *"Casting ALL your care upon Him; for He careth for you. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."* If you still have anxiety, you haven't left your doubt in God's omniscient hands. You cannot walk *"uprightly"* carrying the burden of doubt. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there!

When in my deepest woe I doubt,  
That God can ever bring me out,  
To have deliverance I must,  
In God alone completely trust! ~CGP

We get ourselves in trouble by reasoning our own way out of misery. It's like navigating treacherous waters yourself with an expert navigator at your elbow. God is always "very present" in spite of our unwillingness to believe it. Give Him the helm through obedience to His Word and enjoy the trip! It may be frightening, but you'll always find safe harbor! Fret and worry are the straps that bind doubt to your back and blinders on your eyes!

*"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones." Proverbs 3:5-8 KJV*