

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## God is Our Refuge

by Gale Conway

When we have difficulty dealing with things that confront us in this life, whether it be people treating us badly, illnesses that beset us or loved ones, predicaments that we have no control over; we need to remember to go to the word of God for assurance, understanding, comfort and strength to deal with these situations.

II Samuel 22:3 tells us, *"My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my savior, thou dost save me from violence."* Psalm 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* **Trust in Him.**

Matthew 5:44-45 reminds us, *"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rains on the righteous and the unrighteous."* **Believe Him.**

Romans 8:28 tells us, *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* **Love Him.**

Romans 12:21 makes us mindful of the fact, *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* **Be Christ-like.**

James 1:17 says, *"Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."* **He provides salvation through His Word.**

I Peter 5:6-10 brings to remembrance that we are to *"Humble ourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."* **God is love.**

Let us remember those in our prayers who suffer for the sake of the Lord God.

# The Wooden Bowl

A frail old man lived with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Father," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

*There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother." Proverbs 30:11*

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## **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16*

## **Westlake Families – Mark Your Calendars:**

- ✓ Sunday, September 20 – Men's Meeting at 3:30 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday, October 4 – Congregational Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Saturday, October 10 – Distribute flyers door-to-door, Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ Sunday, October 11 – Bring a friend Sunday