

During this time of shortages driven by a pandemic, pandemonium and panic buying, people mistakenly have taken social distancing to mean social isolation. In reality, during times of hardship is when we should turn to face the church and to God more than ever.

Do You Feel More Faithful or Fearful?

Peter treads the line of faith and fear as he, scared by his surroundings gave into fear and almost lost his place in a miracle! Matthew 14:24-32 states:

²⁴...The boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it... ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁹... Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down."

Joy in Adversity

Although Peter faltered in fear, when he focused on Jesus, he was blessed with miraculous protection despite navigating unprecedented waters. In Psalm 91, David was confronted by armies who sought his destruction. His situation was hopeless, he even likens his struggles and fear to the voraciousness of plague pestilence; unlike Peter, David puts his full faith in God and understands the Lord's promises of protection, comfort and care in times of hardship.

Psalm 91: Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. 5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

It's hard to stay afraid when we have full faith in God. If we seek Him, he will protect and rescue us.

Questions:

Who can you take time to call in order to inspire them to put their full confidence in God?

How has God already protected/sheltered you in these times?

How can you help people at risk, at church, or in your community?

What are three things that you are grateful for from the past few weeks of quarantine?