

because Jesus died for us; and this rough road we are going through, leads to heaven. Satan does everything in his power to get us to doubt this, so we will spend all of our time worrying about ourselves instead of serving God and helping others.

Doubting your salvation does not mean you are not converted. First John five says: "I am writing this to you who **believe** on the name of the Son of God, so you **may know** you have eternal life" (5:12-13). Assurance comes **by faith** and not by **feelings**. If you get in a lifeboat and are terrified that it will not take you to shore, your feelings have nothing to do with getting you there. It is the strength **of the boat**, not the strength of your faith that matters.

Our boat is the Bible and its promises. If you have thoughts about God *not* being your Father, thank Him for being your Father, as John 1:12 says. The greatest hymn we ever learn is the first hymn we ever learn, "Jesus loves me this I know / for the Bible tells me so."

"Our Father" is the proper place to **stare**. We have our eyes on God who never meets a sin He won't forgive; never meets a person He does not love; never meets a person He cannot help; never meets a burden He cannot lift and never meets a problem He cannot solve.

Peter did a good job of walking on top of the water in a terrible storm; but when he stopped looking at Jesus and "**saw the wind and the waves**" he went down (Matthew 14:22-33). Worry and fear come from looking at our problem; peace comes from looking at God. David did not see how **big** Goliath was compared to him; he saw how **small** Goliath was compared to God.

In World War II, a fighter pilot heard a terrifying sound – rats were gnawing at some wires in the plane. This could bring the plane down, so he turned the nose of the plane upward and went higher and higher and higher and reached the altitude where rats cannot live.

"There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God
A place where fear cannot molest
Near to the heart of God"

God can, but may not always calm the storm **on the outside**; but He will always still the storm **on the inside**, when we give our situation to Him.

In Acts 12, Peter is in jail the night before he is to face Herod, who had just killed his friend James. God sent an angel to rescue him, who appeared in a brilliant flash of light. And he had to shake Peter to wake him up. Facing the prospect of a horrible death (be-heading), he was sleeping like a baby. God was his Father and everything was going to be alright; because he knew he would live to serve Him on earth or in heaven.

Beginning with "Our Father" is the proper place to **share** your situation. The word "our" means we are part of the people of God everywhere; who are, right now, going through what you are going through. Jesus cried out from the cross, "**My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?**" He was quoting an Old Testament child of God in Psalm 22; who felt the same way He did a thousand years before Him.

If your child has died; if your husband or wife has left you; if you have just learned you have cancer; at the very moment you pray, hundreds or perhaps thousands of Christians all over the world are lifting up that same burden.

One of the great blessings of being a Pastor is this: when someone tells me they can't "make it" through their pain; I tell them they can, because I have seen person after person "make it" by holding God's hand. And when God helps us, we are to use what He did for us to help others. Second Corinthians 1:3-4 says:

"The Father comforts us when we are
burdened; so we can comfort others who
are burdened, with the same comfort
He gave to us."