

Wednesday Word 11/19/2025

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” – Psalms 46:1*

This past week, I got a phone call from an old friend who I grew up with and has since moved out of State. As I talked with him, he shared that his father, who is in his late 70's, had just received a bad health report. He was shaken at the news and called me for some comfort and perspective. As we talked, I realized that how I responded, and how I encouraged him, was going to be his first step as he navigated through this process. As I sat and listened to him, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would give me words to speak and share that would lead to positive and healthy responses.

While what I shared was private between me and him, I think there are some good lessons we all could put into practice.

First, sometimes just being available is the greatest witness and encouragement we can be to someone else. Miracles happen in simple conversation when a discouraged heart finds hope in the comfort that someone else is there. The Godliest thing we can do sometimes is just still when someone else is fragile.

Second, being a part of the body of Christ has requirements and expectations on us that we be ready and full of the Spirit of God, so that when another needs guidance or love, we can be there to offer it with wisdom and understanding. We may not fully understand or be able to relate to their exact situation, but God is. When we have His Word and Spirit active in our life, we are a much more effective vessel to deliver grace and hope.

Third, we truly capture God's heart of compassion for His people. We can overlook the love of God available to us because in today's church culture, we are so focused on the work and function of ministry that we forget that God desires a loving relationship with us. He wants to walk with us through the good and hard times of life. How often we forget this until we are called to show the Love of God. We benefit from the love that we show others because we step into His love ourselves.

The challenge that goes with this is to look at every situation of life as an opportunity to be used by God and to be loved by God!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg