



A ministry of Revitalizing Churches, Inc.  
P.O. Box 30177 Phoenix, AZ 85046  
[www.stoptoprayer.org](http://www.stoptoprayer.org) [sara@stoptoprayer.org](mailto:sara@stoptoprayer.org)  
602-992-8808

November 2023

---

May God's faithfulness in the past encourage you to trust Him in the future as shared by David Jeremiah. Isaiah 25:4

---

### ***Shelter in God***

"As we move through coronavirus pandemic of 2020 and begin to think of its impact and effect, many people are asking what is going to happen next. I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet—although I do have a prophet's name. I cannot tell you all that God is going to do with this time of sheltering.

But I can tell you what God has done during and after times of sheltering in the past. And once you review the truth of history as I have described below, I think you will know what He is going to do this time.

God sheltered Noah and his family one year in the Ark until Noah emerged to become the father of all the nations of the world.

God sheltered Jacob in the home of his uncle Laban when he needed to escape the wrath of Esau, his brother, and twenty years later Jacob emerged with a new family, new wealth, and a new identity. He became Israel the new name for God's chosen people.

God sheltered Joseph from his seventeenth year to his thirtieth, but his slavery and prison became the school where God prepared him for greatness.

God sheltered Moses in a remote desert for forty years, but Moses came forth to liberate the Jewish people from Egypt.

God sheltered Naomi in the barren land of Moab until she nearly became bitter but she and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, traveled to Bethlehem to participate in one of the greatest love stories of history.

God sheltered David for fifteen years after he'd been anointed King of Israel. When David finally assumed the throne, he was a man after God's own heart, and he gave us many of the Psalms.

God sheltered Elijah by the brook Cherith and after the sheltering He stood alone against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

God sheltered Jonah for three days and three nights in the belly of the whale. When the sheltering was over Jonah went to Nineveh and preached history's greatest revival.

God sheltered Daniel for seventy years in Babylon where he wrote this Old Testament book bearing his name outlining the future of God's dealings with His people.

God sheltered Esther while in the palace of the Persian king and she saved her people from destruction.

God sheltered the disciples in the Upper Room for ten days until the Holy Spirit descended in dramatic fashion to form and fashion the church.

God sheltered Paul in the Arabian desert for three years and when he came back, he turned the world upside down. God later sheltered Paul in a Roman prison. By the time the apostle was free he had written the prison epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

God sheltered the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos and the book of Revelation, the greatest prophetic document of all time, was given to us.

Lastly, and most incredibly, God sheltered Jesus in a tomb for three days and on the third day Jesus came forth in power to bring salvation to the whole world.

So no, I don't know all the details about what God is going to do. But what I do know is what He has done! And that is what we can count on. The God who sheltered His people in biblical days won't stop now. So, come what may I'm trusting in the sheltering God to be my refuge and so can you." -- David Jeremiah

---

## No matter what the future holds . . .

"God will still be in charge. His throne will still be occupied. He will still manage the affairs of the world." – Max Lucado

A story is told about a young man who was looking forward to watching his team play in the Super Bowl. He was disappointed, however, when he discovered that he would have to miss the game due to his work schedule. He recorded the game so that he could watch it after work. On the way home he stopped at the store to pick up some snacks and while there he saw a friend who excitedly told him, "Wasn't that an awesome game -- our team won!"

"What's the use of seeing the game now", he thought to himself. But with snacks in hand and nothing else on the agenda, he decided to watch the game. It ended up being the most enjoyable game he had ever watched! Why? At half time his team was down by two touchdowns, but he didn't worry because he knew how the game ended!

I appreciate this story because it reminds me that no matter what is happening at "half-time", we don't have to live in fear because we know how the story ends from the promises in Scripture!

Philippians 4:4-7 is so encouraging. Gene's thoughts on this passage (which I've shared in the past) are a reminder . . . to **rejoice** in the Lord always and in **everything with thanksgiving** to present our requests to God.

**Rejoice!** Well, that's easy when something good, exciting, or uplifting has happened to us. When the Lord sends an unexpected blessing, it is a time for celebration and thankfulness, isn't it? Yet, the verse quoted below tells us to rejoice "always", which I take to include those things which, from my human perspective, are difficult, unpleasant, discouraging, and sometimes, downright depressing.

***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

This picture is that of the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace, England. The picture speaks of security. The high walls keep all distraction, noise, and danger outside. The guards, stationed at each entrance, further convey that this is a place of stability and strength. The Queen of England can conduct the business of state within those walls in serenity and peacefulness, knowing that the walls and guards keep all unwanted annoyances outside. The Queen and her diplomats enjoy peace inside the walls; regardless what is taking place outside the walls.



The Philippians passage quoted above, tells us that ". . . **the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**" functions like the walls and guards of Buckingham Palace in our lives. We can experience God's supernatural peace inside our hearts even when all that touches our lives is raging and in turmoil outside us. The Apostle Paul gives us the secret for experiencing this calm and peace.

First, **remember that Jesus is "near."** This can mean any one of three things: a) Jesus is soon to return, b) He is nearer to us than our own breath, because when we received Him, He came to live in our hearts, and c) Jesus is "present" with us when we walk through tribulations Psalm 23. His presence with us, moment by moment, should brighten our countenance and revive our hope!

Second, **do not to be anxious.** He wants us to "let go" of whatever person, circumstance, memory, disappointment that is causing us to be anxious. By faith we release whatever is bothering us into His control. That's difficult when you are in the center of a storm, but necessary if we are to see the Lord work on our behalf.

Third, **thankfully present ALL your requests to God.** We must thank the Lord for even those things which seem to be so overwhelming to us. Here again, we must pray about everything by faith, even though we may not want to do so or "feel" like doing so. When we apply these three steps by faith, the Lord Jesus causes His supernatural peace to descend upon our troubled heart, just as if we were sitting in a beautiful courtyard within Buckingham Palace!

I have personally experienced God's supernatural peace in this way so many times that I'm embarrassed to say that there have been too many other times when I failed to present my needs to Him, even though He was so near. Jesus said to His disciples: ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."*** John 14:1 What cares, worries, circumstances do you need to place in His care? As you do so, He will build a great wall around your heart so that you can enjoy His supernatural peace even as the storms of your life rage.

*From Inside the Palace Walls,  
Gene*

*"Because God is omnipresent, we are never alone. He is "with" us everywhere, even when others isolate, reject, look down on, mock, misunderstand or abuse us. He truly is **the God who is there**. All the time. Every day. No exceptions. No extenuating circumstances. No fine print. **I will never forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5) is a promise we can count on. **Always.**" – Dr. Bing Hunter*

Isaiah writes, **"Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And He counts them to see that none are lost or have strayed away."**



Scientists estimate that there are ten billion trillion stars in the universe, or about as many stars as there are grains of sand on all of our planet's seashores. If all the stars were divided equally among the people of the world, each person would receive almost two trillion stars. -- Dr. Bill Bright, *God: Discover His Character*

As I think about God's infinite power demonstrated in creating His awesome universe, filled with trillions of stars, galaxies, nebulae, black holes, quasars, etc., I am **reminded** that He is able to call into existence whatever we need: love, hope, encouragement, closeness of family, employment, etc. He is willing and able to provide it and for that I am eternally grateful!

**Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** (Matthew 6:19)



**"Let's say you spend a week at Motel 6. How likely would it be for you to take all your money and spend it decorating your motel room? How probable is it that you would clean out your bank account to purchase van Goghs or paintings of Elvis on velvet or whatever it is that your taste runs to?"**

*Not very. You wouldn't even be tempted because the motel room is not home. You're only going to be there a little while. It would be foolish to waste the treasure of your one and only life on a temporary residence. Smart players are clear on what lasts and what doesn't. So, Jesus says it is wise to store up treasure in what's eternal: God and people.*

*This is Motel 6. Your "room"--- your home and furniture and clothes and possessions --- will last the equivalent of a few seconds compared to the eternity that will be occupied by your soul. It's not bad to stay in one place and enjoy it while you're there.*

*But Jesus says don't store up treasure in Motel 6. It's not home. You're only going to be here a little while. If you're going to stay up nights dreaming, dream about something better than how to upgrade your motel room.*

*The object of life, according to Jesus, is breathtakingly simple: Be rich toward God. When the game is over, all that will matter will be God's assessment of our lives. Wise people build their lives around what is eternal and squeeze in what is temporary. Not the other way around." When the Game is Over IT ALL GOES BACK IN THE BOX - by John Ortberg*

---

## Time with Precious Friends

---



Five years ago, the Winters flew me to Tennessee to celebrate Joanne's birthday. On August 30<sup>th</sup> Ken went to be with Jesus after struggling with dementia for two years. I was thrilled that Joanne and her daughter, Leslie, came to visit me recently. What a precious time we had together -- we even took a trip to Sedona!

Joanne is still deeply missing her sweetheart, but her trust is in the LORD. Please pray for her. May the Lord refresh her with His tender care, His amazing grace, His comfort, and His sweet presence and peace. Oh, how I love her and Leslie!



---

## The Case of the Lost Keys

---



The LORD often uses everyday experiences to teach, remind and/or convict me of a spiritual truth. Such was the case recently when I lost my keys. I turned the house upside down; took everything out of the trash cans; spent 1 ½ hours searching! Jennifer was home and involved in the search with me. We prayed and decided to pray again. Jen suggested I look one more time in the garage - the last place I remembered having them...and there they were in plain view hanging on a nail! Nothing was more important to me at that moment than finding my keys!

I had to ask myself: *Am I as concerned about the spiritual well-being of others as I was about finding my keys?* I wept as I thought about those who don't know Jesus and how sometimes I'm too tired or too busy to care. II Timothy 4:2 says: **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.**

I will never forget the red-eye flight I took from Kansas. Prior to boarding, they announced we could each have our own row. Great News! I was tired and looked forward to getting a little sleep. I prefer the aisle seat and was just settling in for my nap, when a woman coming down the aisle stopped and asked if the window seat in **MY ROW** was taken. I thought to myself, *"Ma'am, what part of you can have an entire row to yourself don't you understand?"*



Maybe the Lord didn't realize that I had "clocked out" not wanting to talk to anyone about spiritual things – not because I didn't love to do that, but I was tired, and I was content to be "out of season" at that moment! BUT He wasn't as concerned about my being tired as He was about meeting the need of a woman who needed encouragement. I smiled and told her that **MY** window seat was available. I can't remember everything about my conversation with her, but I do remember she was hurting and needed encouragement and we chatted during the entire flight. I confessed to the Lord that my initial response was unkind and uncaring. I'm thankful that my walk with Jesus is saturated in HIS grace and forgiveness!



I recently went to get my blood drawn and while walking out I met Jean. She was walking with a cane, and I debated about exiting out the other door in order to reach my car faster and be on my way - I had a lot on my agenda! BUT the LORD in His patience, directed my path down the long hallway to the other door. I walked slowly with Jean, and we engaged in delightful conversation for about 30 minutes in the parking garage. The Lord opened the opportunity to talk about spiritual things. I shared how Jesus had changed my life and gave Jean a **Would You Like to Know God Personally** booklet and the **Hope Cards**. I left filled with JOY knowing I had been involved in what mattered for eternity!

***Every human being you see is a cleverly disguised receptacle of eternity.*** — John Ortberg



I shared in my last letter how I met Ana while getting injections for my RA. She gave me my injections again this month. I was delighted to hear more of how she and her entire family came into a personal relationship with Jesus and how He changed ALL their lives. What a powerful testimony! I never tire hearing about the transformation Jesus makes in lives and Ana is a shining example of a changed life. I told her how she encouraged me last time and hearing more of her story was such an incredible blessing! She loves and is using the **Hope Cards** I gave her last month. I'm hoping to connect with her over coffee – so thankful the Lord has allowed our paths to cross!

---

## Please pray for Cathy's memorial service on November 18

---

Cathy asked if I would help plan and speak at her memorial service. I told her I would be honored to do that. The service will be **November 18**.

Please pray that the Lord will give me wisdom as I prepare the message He wants me to share celebrating Cathy's life. I know it will be an emotional time.



***What a JOY to be His Ambassador!***  
**Sara**

***"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."*** Psalm 100:4