



“THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS”

By Mary Mayko 2006

**Psalm 17:8 NIV “Keep me as the apple of your eye,
hide me in the shadow of your wings.”**

Many people feel as though the LORD has failed to protect when they face problems of life. Surely they would not be suffering or going through such difficulties if they were truly “*under His wings of safety!*” If He is really keeping them as the apple of His eye, *just what is going on now? What is He protecting them from?* The word apple is supposed to be something very valuable! Doesn’t one take steps to guard or secure their valuables?

John 10:28-29 tells us He protects our Eternal Life! No one can take us out of His hand! Jude reminds us the LORD is the One who keeps us from falling away. The LORD protects our prayers. In Hebrews 7:25 He reminds us that He is always praying or interceding for us. 1 Thess.5:23 NIV “May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!”

Verse after verse in the Bible reassures us of the keeping power and watchful eye of our LORD! We need to encourage ourselves when we go through hard times in our lives by looking at His promises again. There is a true sense of security when we are able to put everything in His hands and trust Him to work it all out for our good! He is our watchful Guardian! We *have not missed* His plan for our lives when we experience troubles! His direction is not to keep us from all real life struggles, nor does He keep all pain out of our lives. This is not His goal for us. He promises to be *with us as we face them together!* He gives peace in the midst of turmoil. He gives strength as we need it.

God did not create us to live in some spiritual “*bubble*” where we would never grow and mature. We need sunshine and rain, night time for rest and sleep, as well as day for working and doing needed things. If we ourselves have never suffered, how could we have compassion for others? If we never exercise our spiritual muscles, we become “*weak*” Christians! The problems we face are to help us trust Him and ask for wisdom to handle them correctly. What we face with Him will bring maturity in our walk with Him.

We can *soar on eagles wings* when we endure the realities of life with God’s protection and guidance. The Bible often encourages us to find refuge in our LORD. He knows the many trials we will have and always has a place of safety for us under His wings. What a comfort to know we live under the watchful eye of our LORD! We are of great value to Him! Psalm 36:7 NIV “How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.”

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“MISSING THE MESSAGE?”

By Mary Mayko

Mark 6:1-3 NKJV “Then He went out from there and came into His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him, were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?’ So they were offended at Him.”



As Mary observed her Son Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee, she was probably often amazed at the difference in how Jesus was treated in His own hometown! This passage in Mark is a parallel to one in Matt. 13. When we examine the same subject in the different Gospels, it enlarges and enriches our knowledge and understanding of many things we would otherwise miss! Police Departments hire good Detectives because they know these people focus on the small details many others overlook and help find the truth!

When we read the reactions recorded in Mark, we can see the people missed the Message God wanted to bring to them, simply because they rejected the Messenger! A lack of faith and unbelief often blinds, or keeps one from seeing and accepting the Truth! Think about this! Have you had an important experience or witnessed something personally, yet have been misunderstood because someone failed to listen fully! Maybe they felt you didn’t know anymore than they did, so why listen to you!

The people of Nazareth were very limited in their perception of Jesus! They saw Him as a common laborer, a town carpenter belonging to a local working class family! They were even offended that other towns and people were impressed enough to become His Followers! *They* considered Him their peer, and that *they were equal to Him!* (*They thought!*) How *dare* Him speak as if He had any authority, which they quickly denied and refused! Ever gone to school with someone who later in life became famous for some reason, while those who thought they really knew him, considered him just an average Joe or lower!

Even some of Jesus’ friends thought He was a little crazy! (Mark 3:20-21) New ideas are often difficult for a lot of people to accept! Inventors can be thought of as being a “little off!” Some were not even recognized in their life time as having accomplished or invented something really outstanding! Their gifts and talents were

obscured by the inability or refusal by their peers to recognize them as outstanding in some ways.

When Jesus declared He was the Bread of Heaven and those who believed on Him would rise from the dead someday, they still thought of Him as a mere man and rejected His Message! John 6:35-42 [“We know His parents, Joseph and Mary!”] People are influenced by who our family is and the location we come from!

John1:46 “And Nathanael said unto him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” He was referring to Jesus!

[Matt.12:46-50. Luke 8:19-21] In these passages, Jesus says “Who is my mother and brothers?” Was He rejecting His family by saying this? He was not denying His earthly family, but stating that the spiritual life must be put in proper order. Obeying the Heavenly Father was primary! He understood what the Father had called Him to do, and would allow nothing, not any person, even family, turn Him away from accomplishing it! His love for His family is clearly shown in Scriptures! He made arrangements for His mother, even as He suffered on the Cross!

Take note of this important fact! Only God can save your family! It’s their choice!

Not all our family members will serve the Lord. Some will try to hinder your walk and work for the Lord! Some will *miss the Message* because they will reject the messenger! Your commitments and faith will be challenged! When you are opposed, they will watch carefully to see if you will lose your cool!

As Jesus was determined to complete the work He came to do, we too, should be focused on our calling and not allow oppositions to distract or detour us from keeping our eyes on God! Let’s do as Jesus did!

Isaiah 50:7 describes Jesus’ attitude as He went about doing the Will of His Father! “For the LORD GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.”

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“WHOM SHALL I FEAR? OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?”

Rev. J Kehl Golding

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

“FEAR!”

- F. Fleshly fantasies of the future! All the “what ifs” we can think of!
- E. Emergencies that keep coming Embezzlements! Who can you trust?
- A. Afflictions and adversities! The devil and circumstances seem to have me targeted!
- R. Rebellion in my home and family! Rebellion in the community and in the world!

This is how we spell FEAR in 2009! As a Christian, how do *we* spell it? How much fear consumes *our life*? How do I get rid of it?

What *is* fear? It is anxiety caused by approaching danger!

Our world is getting ready for the Rapture! The culture that we have known all our life is coming to a close. All is being prepared for the Coming of the Son of Man. With that in mind, Jesus knew how it would be, and He addressed that fact in Luke 20:26. “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken... And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 20:28

Much of the earth’s people are not ready to meet Jesus, yet realize “something” is happening, and so the spirit of fear is everywhere! Fear paralyzes us we feel so defeats because it demoralizes us.

But! Here is the GOOD NEWS!

“FAITH comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” Romans 10:17

The answer to getting rid of fear is FAITH!!

FAITH AND FEAR! They cannot live in the same person or area. Think about that for a moment! When tempted with fear, Scripture is the answer! Fear cannot stand face to face

with Scriptures. Therefore we need to have it in our hearts, minds, and on our tongue. Then we can instantly quote it!

Read the benefits to be had when you belong to Him! Below are several to keep in mind. Here, when we are told to “fear” the LORD, we are talking about “reverence” to the LORD, not being afraid of Him.

Psalm 34:7 “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and He delivereth them.” V.9 “O, fear the LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want in them that fear Him.”

Psalm 118:4 “Let them now that fear the LORD say, His mercy endureth forever.”

Psalm 145:19 “He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them.”

Psalm 147:14 “The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear Him.”

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the HOLY is understanding.”

Proverbs 3:7 “Fear the LORD and depart from evil”

Proverbs 10:27 “The fear of the LORD prolongeth days.”

Ecclesiastes 8:12 “Surely, I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Beloved, the quiet, safe place is to be in Christ. When He is your personal Savior, He is IN you, and you are IN HIM!

Remember the old story? A man was sitting and thinking of all his troubles, and those about him. Suddenly “FEAR” knocked at his door. FAITH answered the door—no one was there!!

Our text reads: “God is our refuge and our strength, a very present [Heb. Immediately available] help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Stay close to Him!

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“The LORD is my Light and my Salvation – whom shall I fear or Dread? The LORD is the refuge and Stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1 The Amplified Bible