

Scripture reading: Psalm 46

Sermon title: Be still & know: Our courage-God's character

God is our refuge and strength,

an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:1-11

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an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
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Courage is not the denial of reality, it's defiance in the face of it.

²³ This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom
or the strong boast of their strength
or the rich boast of their riches,

²⁴ **but let the one who boasts boast about this:
that they have the understanding to know me,**

that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”
declares the Lord.
Jeremiah 9:23-24

“It is not okay, but I am okay, because God is God.”

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart ³² and ***the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions.*** ³³ They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. ³⁴ At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, “The earth is going to swallow us too!”

³⁵ And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.
Numbers 16:31-35

Resist the tendency to let a hard experience hold the character of God hostage.

There’s no part of the past beyond the reach of grace.

⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Confidence in God’s power & goodness produces courage in our lives

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

I have the ability to make time to be with Jesus.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35

Create & protect a specific time to be with Jesus. (Share it with a friend)

Meditate on & celebrate an attribute of God.
(Share it with a friend)