

January 17

Psalm 46:1 (NIV) ¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Proverbs 18:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Living in Oklahoma is quite an experience. At certain times of the year, we joke that we can experience all four seasons in a single day. In addition, living in Tornado Alley means that there are times when we watch the weather with as much interest as the newest movie. We do not have tornado shelter, but our neighbors do. When we get a tornado warning, we immediately begin to pray while watching the weather. When the tornado starts tracking on a path toward our home, we begin to gather our pups and a few things in case we need to run to a shelter. That has happened a few times over the years, and we never hesitate to run to our neighbors, and they never hesitate to let us in.

When I read these verses, I thought of those tornadoes. Most people in this area have tornado shelters. When the weather threatens, they do not hesitate to run to those shelters to take refuge for the storm. When we decide to follow Jesus every day, we will encounter spiritual storms that can be as daunting as any tornado. When those storms approach, God reminds us that He is our fortified tower Who can withstand any storm. He wants us to run to Him just as easily as we run to those tornado shelters. However, pride can, at times, make us think that we can weather such storms on our own. We feel we should be strong enough and mature enough that we do not need help. That is not what the Lord believes. He wants us to know He is there ready to receive us when we run to Him just as our neighbors lovingly receive us. Running to God is not a weakness; it is the wisest decision we can make.