

Thanksgiving On The Rock

FBCG - November 22, 2020

Psalm 40:1-17 (NIV) I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴ Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. ⁵ Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare. ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. ⁹ I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly. ¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. ¹² For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. ¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. ¹⁴ May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. ¹⁵ May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame. ¹⁶ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!" ¹⁷ Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.

1 Samuel 2:2 (NIV) ² "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (NIV) ³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just..

Psalm 18:1-2 (NIV)

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV) ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV) ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV) ¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Testimonies of Thanks – Standing on the Rock

*I want to give thanks to God Almighty. He cares for every detail of our lives. He is so faithful. When I broke my ankle into 14 pieces, He led us to the doctor He knew was best. The doctor was able to fix the worst of the damage with 2 plates and 15 screws. But God knew there was more wrong. My knee did not look right, and there was a bone bulged out under the skin below it. I was not able to put pressure on the leg, and was in a wheelchair for about three months. We knew it got badly twisted, since I fell forward with my foot caught, but landed on my back. The doctors checked for breaks in the knee, but nothing seemed broken. We all thought it was a bad sprain. But, God... . One night, when I shifted my weight in the recliner, I heard a loud snap, and my leg and kneecap shifted to the left and clicked in. It must have been out of place. The bulge of bone under my knee was less, but still there. The knee started to feel better. Then, a few weeks later, I shifted position in the recliner and heard a loud snap in my ankle. Now, the bone bulge was gone. The ankle must have been dislocated and clicked back in place. The knee pain is just about gone, and the knee now looks normal. I am walking on the leg with the walker. My ankle is healing, and the doctor said he thinks 12 months is the appropriate recovery time. I know God is working, through the doctor, and through the mighty works of God. God helped and guided the doctor with the surgery, and corrected the rest Himself. He is the Great Physician and perfect Healer. He has blessed me through this. He has shown me His mighty works through this accident, and I am very thankful. I praise Him for who He is, and I am so thankful for all that He is teaching me through this. Praise be to God. **Cindy Rice***

*I could list for you many things that I am thankful for and that list would be endless for I am blessed beyond measure. Instead, let me share with you that for which I am most and always grateful - my Lord and Savior. He is my Everything, my Savior, my Healer, my Constant Companion, my Friend. He knows my every thought; He knows my every need. And what He asks of me is to be in relation with Him with my entire being. We must trust and obey for there is no other way. With our Lord and Savior beside us, we can handle anything! God's blessings on each of you. Love, **Ellen Van Arsdale***

*I, Pat have been using the word "thanks" quite a bit lately. I stopped to think just what I am thankful for, was I just saying thanks as a reflex reaction or did I mean it. I wanted every one of these "thank you's" to be heartfelt and I believe they were and are. These past eight months have been the hardest. Can I be thankful in the midst of such pain, could I mean it? As God provided people to lovingly move toward Nadine and me I truly felt thankful. As I watched Nadine being in pain, losing my brother Tony and close friend Joe, was I resting in the love of Jesus and could I be thankful for it. I wrestled with these realities and although the battle will never stop I have been able to say, and mean it, "Thank you Jesus", for loving me, for giving me a beautiful wife for me to love. He has shown me how to love by the growing desire to love him through loving Nadine, he is the focus my eyes need to be on. He has given me the grace and freedom to be a part of his family and promised me that I will always be with Nadine, Tony and Joe. This promise of heaven is something to be thankful for. **Pat Pileggi***

Nadine here:

*I feel so blessed and thankful for what God is doing and has done in my and my family 's life through my journey with cancer. I have been so blessed by God's people in this church and feel so supported and loved by many I don't know. I feel covered in prayer by family, friends and so many praying for me. God has been my constant hope and encouragement through Psalm 139 which I was able to commit to memory early on. And He has been and is present with me through it all - "darkness and light are alike to You". I don't know how many days, months, maybe even years will unfold but He has shown me He still has a plan for my life and I can live a fully alive and joyful life in Him now. I never was in control of my life or death so things really haven't changed, but with my eyes on Him I am changing and I feel so thankful and blessed to experience His true gift of life in a deeper way. **Nadine Pileggi***