**POWER OF PRAISE**

by: Liz Wahl Andre’

“Trusting God”

If we are being asked to entrust our lives to someone, we have to know that this person has the power to keep us from danger, threats and violence or our trust is misplaced. God has the power, wisdom, love and willingness to preserve His people. God is able to guide us individually as well as countless multitudes through various crises and difficulties.

He is almighty, infinitely wise, and a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Our God is the very essence of love. The Apostle Paul declared, ***“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”*** ([2 Timothy 1:12](http://bible.faithlife.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim%201.12)). In other words, Paul said, “I have put my life in the Lord’s hands. And I am persuaded he won’t betray my trust. He will faithfully keep His word to preserve me because He is both able and willing to do so. He has kept me throughout every danger and trial.”

The storm clouds are gathering as we live in these perilous last days before the return of our Lord. We only have two choices in our earthly sojourn: we can either surrender our lives into the Lord’s hands, or we can be responsible for keeping and preserving ourselves—an insurmountable task when God is shaking everything that can be shaken. We can only find peace and contentment when we resign ourselves into God’s capable hands, no matter what our situation. Our Heavenly Father desires for us to be able to go about our daily business without fear or anxiety, totally trusting in His loving care.

Casting our cares upon the Lord has a very practical effect in our lives. The more we rely upon His care and keeping, the more indifferent we’ll be to the ever-changing circumstances that surround us. Trusting God to work in our behalf means that we won’t be constantly and anxiously trying to figure out the next step. We will not be fearful by the bad news swirling around us, or overwhelmed as we think about the future. If we have entrusted our lives, families and future into our Lord’s hands, we can live in a state of peace that surpasses all understanding. ***“Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; he will not be afraid…”*** (Psalm 112:6-8).

Consider the pastoral scene of a shepherd leading his flock to open pasture. The sheep are not frightened or anxious because they are totally submitted to their shepherd’s leadership. The shepherd will deal with every predator and threat to their safety. Likewise, we are the sheep of Jesus Christ, our great Shepherd. Why should we ever be concerned or worried about our lives and future? Jesus knows perfectly how to protect and preserve His flock because He leads us in love and has laid down His life for His sheep. Jesus said, ***“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep… I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep…” (***John 10:11, 14-15)

Satan seeks to oppose and dismantle the believers’ simple trust in God. Our trust in God will be challenged as the powers of darkness attempt to flood our minds with doubt and fear. The devil hates a heart that wholly relies upon God, he will stir up frightening situations to drive us away from God in unbelief. The enemy seeks to keep us focused on how bad things are going to get rather than God’s promise to never leave us or forsake us. God will keep us in calm composure as all hell is breaking loose around us. This is actually evidence of Satan’s defeat and our salvation when we are ***“…not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God”*** (Philippians 1: 28). We have a fiery guard of angels surrounding us and a God who is bound to His promise to carry us through any disaster we may face.

If we want to face the coming storm with quiet confidence and peace of mind, we must surrender all of our own ways and means of saving ourselves and commit the keeping of our lives entirely to God’s care. Jesus is our good Shepherd who is faithful to see us through it all. When we prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in all our ways, we can enter His rest and allow the peace of God to fill our hearts and rule our spirits. If God is with us, who can be against us?

 ***“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:***

***“For Your sake we are killed all day long;***

***We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”***

 ***Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*** (Romans 8: 31-39)***.***