



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 33, Issue 15

April 14, 2024

## "Praying Through Conflict"

I always appreciate learning more about how to pray, how to talk to God. Especially when troubled, or in trouble. Psalm 4 is a pattern for prayer.

This prayer offers a great pattern for dealing with conflict, whether your issue is with a human or with bad spiritual forces using the weaknesses of humans in your life to afflict you.

First, the Hebrew term *selah* is thought to be an instruction to *pause in God's presence and ponder these words before you move on*. It's a good thing. You have relieved me in my distress; be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

The pray-er addresses God first, calling on God to hear his prayer. He affirms that God has helped him before, and humbly asks him to extend him the grace to hear him again.

Now verse two:

How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception?

The pray-er stops addressing God and speaks to the offender.

Why the shift? The picture I get is that, having asked God to attend his prayer, the pray-er has turned, so to speak, to voice his accusation with God standing by him, attending and acting as a witness to his complaint.

Then, *a pause*. Why? We can't read the pray-er's mind:

In speaking the words out loud, the pray-er can really hear what he's thinking. It is valuable to verbalize the words of your accusing heart, to see if it seems as true "out there" as it did in the recesses of your mind.

God, hearing your charge, now has an opportunity to weigh in. That is, IF you listen for it. In other words, you're not spit-firing accusations and multiplying words in anger, but soberly coming before the Judge, stating your case, and waiting to see if He affirms your cause.

Moving on to verses three and four:

The pray-er affirms to the offender he is committed to honor God by living a godly life, adhering to God's values. This gives him confidence that God hears His prayers. When added to verse four (warning his offender essentially to *cut it out!*) we have a picture we can all relate to from childhood.

The pray-er puts the offender on notice that God will back him up; i.e., "*You're not just dealing with me, you're coming against the God I'm joined to by covenant. He will avenge me if you keep sinning against me.*"

That's a real thing, people. The pray-er's confidence comes from his covenant union with God through Christ!

I wonder: is the pray-er saying this to remind *himself* or the *offender*? The answer is likely, *both*!

Following all that is another *pause*, just so the enemy can let THAT news sink in.

Now verse five:

It seems to me that the pray-er is now preaching to the offender!

He has moved on from accusing and warning, to reminding them that if they honor God and His ways, *they too can have God for friend and defender*. In the midst of being offended, the pray-er has not forgotten how much we all need the Lord.

Now verse six:

It appears the pray-er turns back to address God once more.

First, he refers to the fact that few men, if any, are considered to be truly good. This strikes me as a humble acknowledgment, even having testified against his offender, that he is likely not perfect either.

This reminds me of the time when someone addressed Jesus as "good teacher" and he responded, "Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone." That was an amazing show of humility!

Whatever he means by his statement, the pray-er wisely asks for God to reveal Himself to both of them — which is what it means to shine his face or countenance upon them. To bring His light and truth to the matter which has put these two parties at odds with one another.

This, beloved, will always bring the best outcome for all.

There have been times when I was absolutely certain I judged something right, but when God leaned in with His light, I saw better. The point is, in all conflicts we should always desire for God to be revealed, not just have our way.

Finally, verses seven and eight:

The pray-er finishes by affirming that God is the source of his joy, and of the peace in his heart and mind. He feels safe with God at his side. In this the pray-er is testifying to God, to himself, and to his adversary.

I hope to open your eyes more to notice things like these structures when you read the Scriptures, especially the Psalms. It matters.

Consider that, if you are indeed going to have a serious talk with another about your offense at them, you can frame your meeting as a prayer by inviting God to attend, putting yourself in a posture of humility as you state your complaint. This positions God in the middle of your conflict to the best of your ability. Even if the other party doesn't believe, know or understand that, you and God do, and that can make all the difference.

Even when this kind of prayer is not spoken in the presence of a human offender, but only to God and to your spiritual enemy, it offers a powerful pattern, and I'm sure you'll recognize how to adjust for that.

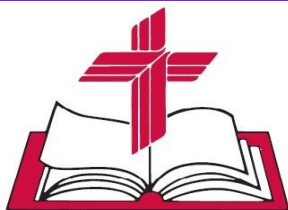
You may see differently and even more. I pray the Spirit will personalize it for you. May the Spirit help you learn just what you need to know in handling your own conflicts, and how to bring the Lord in the middle, right where He belongs.

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### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Eleanor Galik  
for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the Word may live in others.

### Living Word Lutheran Church

16301 South Wolf Road  
Orland Park, IL 60467

livingwordorland.org  
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study

# This Week at Living Word

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>14</b> 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Blended Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool  10:00am Push Prayer	<b>17</b> 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool  12:00pm Call Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00am—12:00pm Preschool  7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>

## April Celebrations

## Stewardship Snapshot

## Church Contacts



Happy Baptism Birthday!

**Apr 14**    Alissa DiGrazia

April 7th

**20** Worshipped, **19** Communed  
**3** Watched Live  
**10** Watched Later  
**33** Total  
Financial Support for April 7th  
**\$834.00** General Fund Deposit  
**\$100.00** Mission of the Month (Tech Fund)  
**\$1,581.00** Mission of the Month (Bibles)  
**\$2,515.00** Total Deposit

Church Contacts

intouchlwc@yahoo.com

Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel

dianamotel@yahoo.com

Leadership Team

**Neal Hartz** - President  
**Ken Marks**—Vice President  
**Bill Merchantz** - Treasurer  
**Diana Motel** - Secretary  
 Paul Huang

## Devotional Time

### Opportunities to Connect with God

**PUSH PRAYER** meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to pray for our church, community and world. We welcome requests (call 708-403-9673) or visit our website to send in your prayer request, or join us for 30-40 minutes each week.

### RADIO & TV OPPORTUNITIES

- **Worship Anew**—8:00 a.m. Sunday - Comcast channel 184 (TLN) & 8 (SD) , WPWR channel 50, AT&T U-verse channel 1008 (HD) & 8 (SD), Dish Network # 8495; 10:30 a.m. Sunday - DIRECTV channel 377 (TCT)
- **The Lutheran Hour** 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays on 1230 AM; and 9:30 a.m. Sundays on 1580 AM



**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. - 1 John 3:6 (NLT)*

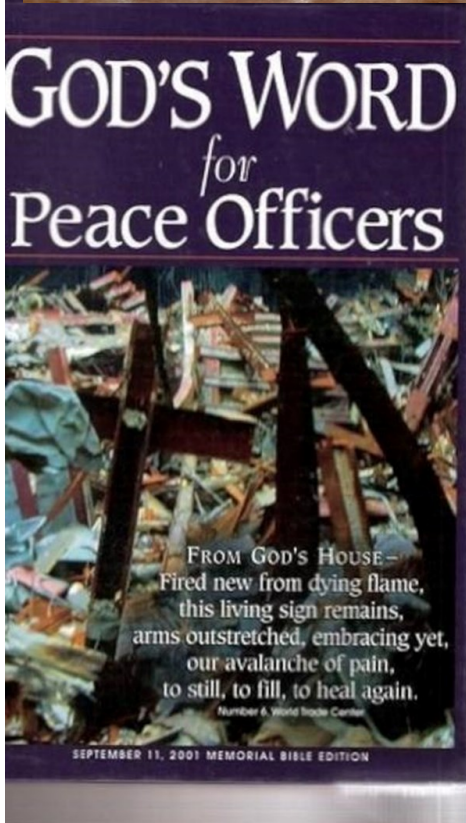
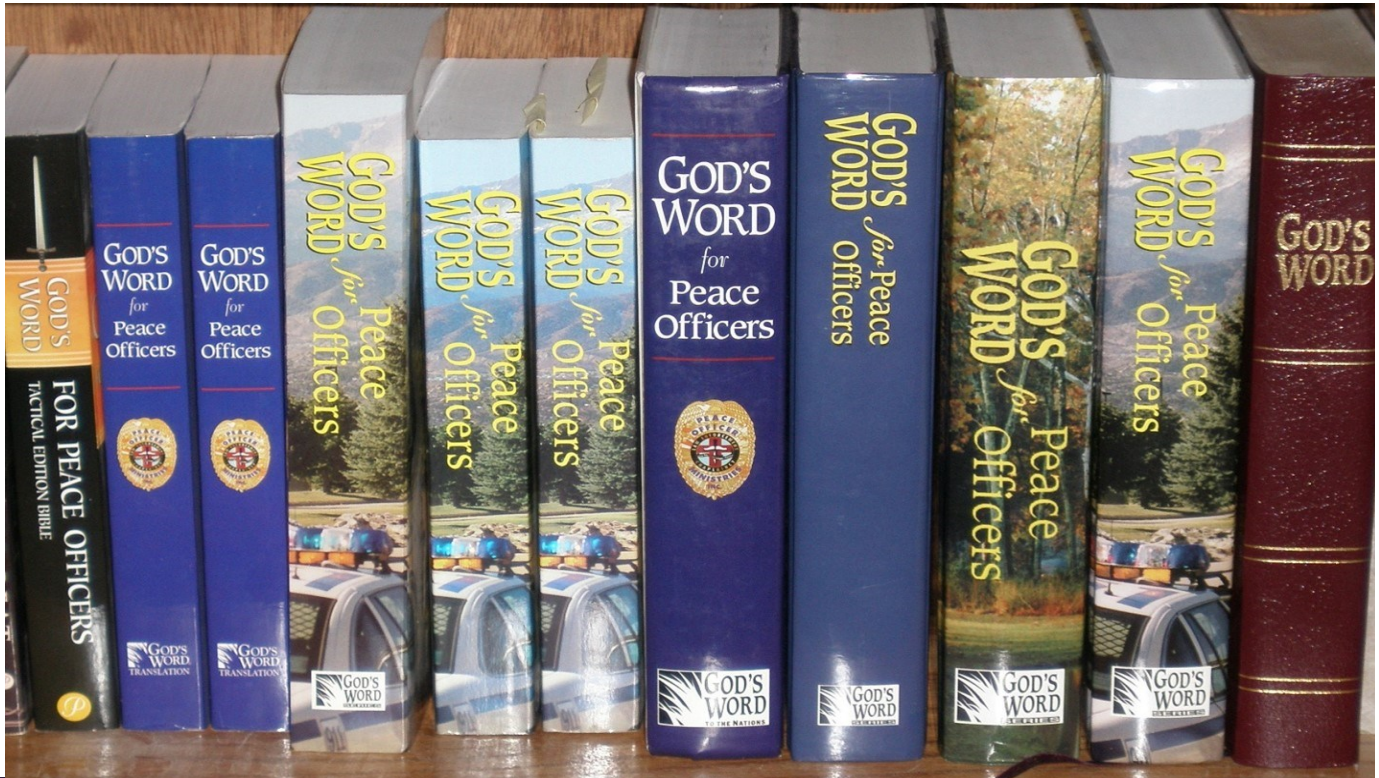
Following God is a lifelong journey. If you really desire to experience God's righteousness, it should show up more and more in the way you live. Where are you on the journey of surrendering to God? Are you daily asking God to reveal your sin so you can deal with it (in the power of the Holy Spirit)? If not, today's a great day to start.

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** to Larry Andorf's family. Larry who was a long time member of our Living Word family had passed away on March 17th. He was 92 and is now reunited with his loving wife Blanche. Larry was laid to rest on March 22nd. We were told that he had fallen from the top of the stairs back in January and was in the hospital with a broken hip among some other issues. It was shortly after that when had suffered a serious stroke. The family apologizes that they had not known who to call and had not thought of calling the church with any of this information. Please join me in keeping them in your prayers.

**PRAYER REQUEST OF THANKSGIVING** for Pastor John as he was in the long-term care facility of the Victorian Village. He is still weak and a fall risk, but as they had re-evaluated his condition and moved him to the regular assisted living building. He is now able to join in the meals in the dining area and/or any activities that he can participate in, just as long as he has someone with him. His new room number is at the bottom of this page. He has expressed that he is up to having visitors again. Just plan on short visits with him so he doesn't try to overdo it and won't get too overwhelmed. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they are very concerned about Pastor John, but are very thankful for his improved condition. If you would like to send cards or well wishes or to call him, here is the complete address: John Bucka, C/O Victorian Village, **Rm #108**, 12600 Renaissance Circle, Homer Glen, IL 60491. Phone number for Victorian Village is 708-578-7091, so just ask for Pastor John Bucka when they answer.



## April Mission of the Month



### GOD'S WORD for Peace Officers Mission of the Month April 2024

“The Mission of GOD’S WORD for Peace Officers Law Enforcement Bible Project is to publish and place into officers' hands our special edition Bibles with a 96-page forward, written by former local/federal law enforcement officer and Chaplain Steve Lee, explaining how God's Word provides them spiritual backup in their life and work.”

### Council and Call Meeting News

**COUNCIL MEETING** is scheduled for this coming Thursday, April 18th at 7:00pm. If you would like to have anything addressed or brought to the council, please see Neal, Bill, Diana, Ken or Paul. As of right now, they will be discussing the list of names that the Call Committee has received from the District, Preschool open house update, worship services and of course financial updates.

**TRANSITION TEAM** will be meeting with Pastor Schauer on April 17th to go over the list of pastor's names that he received from the district. The list now has 5 names for us to consider to choose from for the Call process. Afterwards, Ken Marks will call these pastors to see if they are still possibly interested in accepting a call from a church.



# Greetings From the Wetzel Family

HELLO TO OUR FAVORITE CHURCH!

## WETZEL FAMILY

★ ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 ★

Home Sweet Home: 5857 Monet, Roanoke, VA 24018

### Coming in 2024-25

- Trips to our favorite places in Illinois
- Camp Fisher
- Jordan's HS Graduation
- Hosting Wetzel Cousin Reunion in VA
- Road Trips to Visit JoJo at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville
- Trips to visit Grace in CA and Grace Coming Home

### Highlights for the Year

- ◆ Arianna & Harrison Chromy's Wedding
- ◆ Kent & Laura's OH trip for friends' concert & visit w/Rich & Rose Baringer
- ◆ Laura's Royal Treatment at The Redweik's Lake Home w/ The Chromy's
- ◆ Chicago Manley Family Dinner Meetup on a Thursday!
- ◆ Kent & Alan attend Wainwright's Last Game & Concert @ Busch Stadium
- ◆ Surprise Visit From Aunt Marianna & Uncle Kirk for JoJo's XC State Meet
- ◆ Thanksgiving in Cali including hikes & 5K with Grace and Jessie
- ◆ Laura & JoJo Proud Member's of Kelley's Waving Crew at FCC
- ◆ Laura & JoJo's Multigenerational Weekly Bible Study
- ◆ K & L FCC Life Group
- ◆ Said Farewell to Kahlua, Our Loyal Pup of 15 years
- ◆ Guest appearance Enjoyed With: Kirk & Marianna Manley \*\* All are Welcome 😊



Caleb 24

- ◆ Implementation Analysis for RhinoFin Consulting
- ◆ Long Awaited VT Grad Bash in Roanoke & Fisher w/Surprise Guests
- ◆ Carla's Annual Float on the James
- ◆ Trip to Wisconsin For Harrison's Bachelor Weekend
- ◆ Multiple Zach Bryan Concerts, including NY w/ Mom & JoJo
- ◆ Groomsman in Harrison Chromy's Wedding
- ◆ Road Trips w/Friends to Outer Banks & Raleigh
- ◆ Trips to the Gym
- ◆ Little League Coach



Grace 22

- ◆ Promotion to Sergeant; Reenlisted & Staying in CA
- ◆ Home for Camp Fisher & Time with Friends & Family
- ◆ Trip to Elmhurst, IL w/ JoJo to visit Uncle Kirk & Aunt Marianna
- ◆ Cross-Country Road Trip to CA from IL
- ◆ Leading Bible Study @ Rhythm Church
- ◆ Trip to Hawaii to Visit Margaret Jo
- ◆ Volunteering w/ Kids @ Church
- ◆ Reading Lots of Books
- ◆ Having Fun Traveling With the Marine Corps



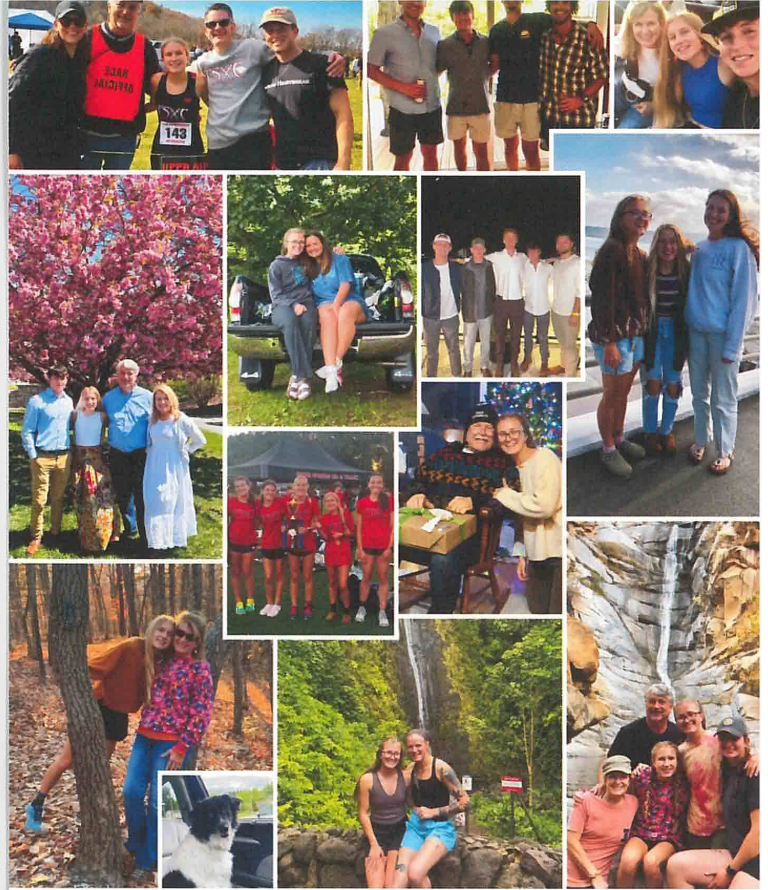
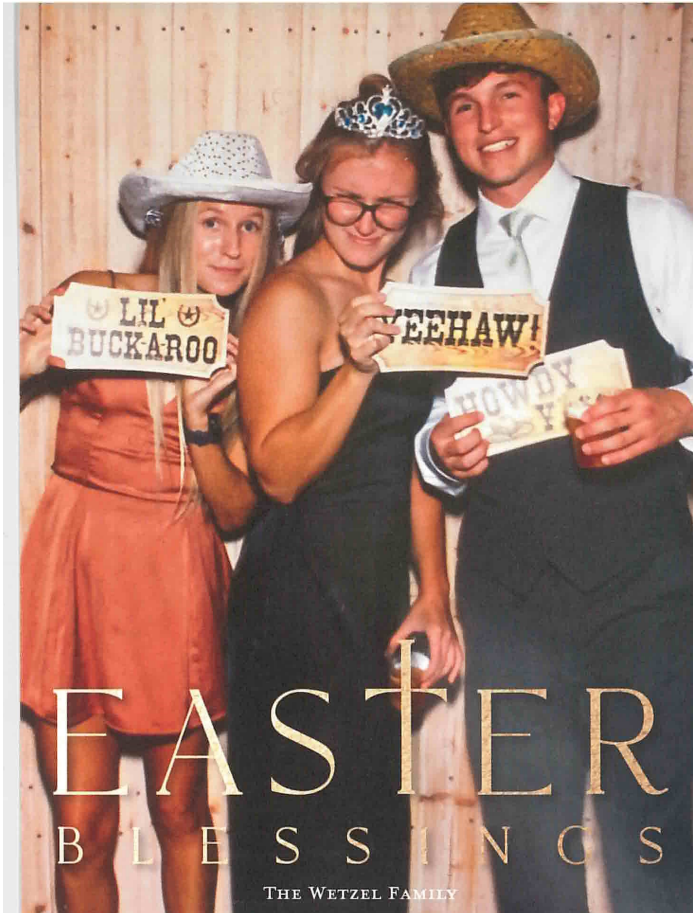
Jordan 18

- ◆ Senior at Cave Spring HS
- ◆ CSHS Cross Country
- ◆ CSHS Indoor & Outdoor Track
- ◆ Attending HS Girls Bible Study
- ◆ Camp Counselor for Future Knights Soccer Camp
- ◆ Ed Sheeran Concert w/ U. Kirk, A. Marianna, & Grace
- ◆ Noah Kahan Concert w/ Grace
- ◆ States for XC & Indoor Track 4x800m Relay & 3200m
- ◆ Shadowing Architects and Engineers at Balzer & Assoc.
- ◆ Impromptu trip to CA w/ Grace
- ◆ Babysitting & Pet Care

LOVE HUGS & PRAYERS XOXO

## HE HAS RISEN!

LOVE KENT, LAURA, CALEB, GRACE & JORDAN



## Living Word News

**THANK YOU** to Laura and Kent for sending us Easter greetings and blessings. It is always so wonderful to hear from you guys and to see what wonderful things your family is doing. It is just so hard to believe how grown up your Caleb, Gracie, and Jordan are. We miss you all so much, and we always keep you in our prayers.

**CARE MEALS HAVE RETURNED!** We have started up our Care Meal Teams again. I am hoping to be able to organize a few teams of volunteers to help or assist with cooking or buying different dishes for meals for our families that are going through medical issues, hospital stays, treatments and those who might have lost loved ones recently. We currently have 5 volunteers, and we will always accept more people to step up to give a helping hand. We don't need you to have to cook anything, one will donate money when need be. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me or Diana know. There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the fellowship hall as well. We have already made a meal for Ken Marks' mom late last year, and we have made several meals and bought snacks and frozen meals to John and Jay Gabrielson at the end of the year also. Thank you in advance for your service and support towards this ministry.

**PRESCHOOL IS AT CAPACITY** This is now her biggest class yet since the fall of 2019. She now has 10 students. Please keep spreading the word about what a wonderful teacher Mrs. Diana is and what a wonderful program that she has at the preschool. Check out all of the crafts they have made this month. She changed everything out last weekend, as it is a new month coming up, so it's a new theme for her students. The theme will be Down on the Farm. Make sure you check out her farm in the Dramatic Arts Play Room. The kids will love learning all farm animals. They even got to plant a garden on Thursday. Don't be too surprised if you see baby chicks and caterpillars in our preschool room.

**NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE?** Please contact me in the office if you're in need of a different Christmas Tree for next year. With all of the truly generous Christmas donations within the past couple of years, we are looking to pass the generosity forward to anyone who is need of a tree. It is never too early to think about Christmas and decorating for the festive holiday, lol.



**IF YOU NEED TOILET PAPER,** we have changed over to a different brand of toilet paper this past week as our older toilet and sewer system needs a touch more of tender loving care. Please feel free to help yourself to the toilet paper that will be on the counter in the fellowship hall.



**“In Safety”**

Psalm 4 says: “You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety...”

**1) God keeps me safe in SOLOMON’S COLONNADE.**

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You dis-owned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. <sup>17</sup> “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3:11-21

**2) God keeps me safe in what I SEE.**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! ... The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 1 John 3:1-7

**3) God keeps me safe in the promises of SCRIPTURE.**

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” <sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence. <sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:36-49

