God is in charge! As I have often quoted: *God can do anything He wants...with or to anyone He chooses...anytime, anywhere, as long as what He does is consistent with His divine nature.*

What is it that has given so many saints through the ages the courage to believe in God’s faithfulness? I believe it has been their staunch commitment to God’s sovereignty, that is, that He would do the right thing at the right time, according to His standard. That He was always in charge in good times and bad.

What gave Daniel the faith to enter the lions’ den, seemingly at the prospect of possible death? It was his faith that God was in charge, a faith vindicated in the early morning when answering to the King: Daniel 6:21-22 (insert text) *Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. {22} My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths and they have not hurt me for as much as before Him innocency was found in me, and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.* Daniel was confident in God’s commitment to him. He trusted in God’s sovereignty.
Daniel’s faith is like that of saints today who believe in God’s commitment to His Word, to His divine nature. But there lies the key: to His WORD! Where do we learn more about Him, enabling us to trust? His Word! There is no shortcut in this process!

Some years ago, a very precious friend of ours, a lady married to a rather well-known pastor, entered a courtroom where he was on trial for fraud. She said her embarrassment knew no bounds and she didn’t know how she could go through with the ordeal facing her. Then, she said, she remembered the words of an old, old hymn, written almost 250 years ago by an unknown poet. Those words sustained her! The song, “How firm a foundation!” The anointed lyrics speak from the heart of a person who is convinced of the sovereignty of God to the point where she lives by that very faith. I give you all the verses:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You whe unto Jesus for refuge have fled.

That stanza is a surprise for those who continually look for somd “new thing - some new word” from God. Everything God wants you to know about Himself or victorious life is carefully laid out ALREADY in His Word, the sacred Scriptures. When you hear someone claim that he or she has a “new word” from God, RUN! Rev. 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,
God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of
the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Next verse:

In every condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty’s vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, or by sea
As thy days may demand shall thy strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow
For I will be with thee, they troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy good to refine.

Even down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love.
And when hoary hairs shall thy temple adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.
The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never for sake.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD MEANS THAT AS RULER
OF THE UNIVERSE GOD IS FREE AND HAS THE RIGHT
TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS. HE IS BOUND BY
NOTHING OTHER THAN HIS OWN DIVINE NATURE
AND SEEKS THE BEST INTEREST OF HIS CREATION,
MANKIND.

Isaiah 46:9-11

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there
is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, [10]
Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times
the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all my pleasure: [11] Calling a ravenous bird from
the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country:
yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have
purposed it, I will also do it.

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he
hath pleased.

Daniel 4:35

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing:
and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and
among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand,  
or say unto him, What doest thou?

Romans 9:20

Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?  
Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou  
made me thus?

One of the most dramatic portions of Scripture is found in the  
book of Job. Job, the faithful man of God, in his suffering  
dared tell God that perhaps He could have done a better job  
taking care of him and his family. To which, God replied:  
Job 38:4-41

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? 
declare, if thou hast understanding. [5] Who hath laid the  
measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the  
line upon it? [6] Whereupon are the foundations thereof  
fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; [7] When the  
morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for  
joy? [8] Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth,  
as if it had issued out of the womb? [9] When I made the cloud  
the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,  
[10] And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and  
doors, [11] And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further:  
and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? [12] Hast thou  
commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the  
dayspring to know his place; [13] That it might take hold of the  
ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?  
[14] It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a
garment. [15] And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken. [16] Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? [17] Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? [18] Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. [19] Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof; [20] That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? [21] Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great? [22] Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, [23] Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? [24] By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? [25] Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; [26] To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; [27] To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? [28] Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? [29] Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? [30] The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. [31] Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? [32] Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? [33] Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? [34] Canst thou lift up thy
voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?
[35] Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? [36] Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? [37] Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, [38] When the dust growtheth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together? [39] Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, [40] When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? [41] Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

Job had enormous nerve to challenge God on His wisdom and His sovereignty. And God answered him soundly. Yet today we will confront God and flaunt what we think is superior wisdom.

I have seen far too many once-strong believers lose their faith by impudent challenge to God when their lives have hit a snag. As I mentioned to you last week, a nurse in the hospital, a believer herself, asked me, “Do you blame God for your stroke?” That impudent thought never entered my mind. Her follow-up question: “Are you mad at God? He could have kept the stroke from happening.” Job’s response: “Though God slay me, yet will I trust Him!” That should always be our response to such queries.
following Jesus, one day at a time!” That’s the schedule for sure – one day at a time.

Our confidence in Him is based upon the solid fact of His sovereignty, that He is always right, that His Word is sure. And He has our best interest at heart:

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

[10] For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

I am still old fashioned, I guess, in that I still carry an up to date Atlas map book in my car. I want to know where I am at all times without having to work an iPhone gizmo. That’s the way the Word of God is to me. He keeps me where I should be if I listen to Him...if I heed and obey His counsel.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN!