



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE OCTOBER 2020

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A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

This month marks the 503rd anniversary of Reformation Day. It remembers the day when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church in 1517, which impacted the movement that, in turn, influenced the spread of Christianity to the Americas and throughout the world.

Psalm 46 gave Martin Luther comforting words and inspired him to write our beloved hymn of faith and praise. The poet Samuel Coleridge said that Martin Luther did as much for the Reformation by his hymns as he did by his Bible translations. This hymn became the battle cry of the Reformation. The Reformers felt that the church had drifted away from the original teachings of Christianity and wanted to restore the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the central article of faith.

This desire gave birth to what is now known as *The Five Solas*, five Latin phrases to summarize their theological convictions about Christianity.

- Sola Scripture (Scripture alone) – The Bible alone is our highest authority.
- Sola Fide (Faith alone) – We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
- Sola Gratia (Grace alone) – We are saved by the grace of God alone.
- Solus Christus (Christ alone) – Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
- Soli deo Gloria (to the glory of God alone) – We live for the glory of God alone.

As of the church of old, we also need to check to see if we too are drifting off course. We live in a world that does all it can to keep us drifting away from God's Word. We need to regularly align our lives with Scripture and work on our relationship with the Lord.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:7

*Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
Psalm 46:10*

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text/Tune by Martin Luther, 1483-1546
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I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31b

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38

Living with God as our fortress means knowing He is our security, our hope, our protection – not our jobs, our friends, family, our way – He is the one we turn to and trust in when things go wrong, or we are scared, or we need help. We focus on Jesus, we pray, we rest in Him, and experience this promised reality that He is indeed our fortress, our refuge and our strength.

In the midst of what we are going through right now – illness, isolation – we need to take time and be still in God's presence, know that He is in control and far greater than the Corona Virus – and that He is our fortress and strength. We are living through extraordinary times, so we can't keep living the way we ordinarily do. We need to make changes and know that God is with us. For indeed He is with us with His good gifts and Spirit, offering strength and victory in Christ.

O Mighty Fortress, bulwark of love and presence, open our eyes to the ways you travel with us each day. Open our hearts for the constant reforming and renewing work of Your Spirit. Don't let us grow content with what is but give us vision for what and who we might become as Your people and as a church. Father, thank You for the way You build Your church. Thank You that while we are prone to wander, You are the Good Shepherd who brings us back. Help us to align our lives with Your Word and Your plans and purposes for our life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE - LWML CNH Retreat, ECCO - Aug 27-29, 2021