



# APPNOTES

**Date:** Apr 20-Apr 24, 2020

**Series:** On Edge

**Psalm 46: 1-11** Multiple times in the Bible God encourages us to not fear. But it's hard to dwell in peace when the world is falling apart. That's why the Lord reminds us in His Word that He is in control no matter what our circumstances may look like. In a time when we are told to shelter in place, let's remind ourselves that God is our ultimate shelter. He is the refuge where we can hide from the storm. When everyday activities like work, school, and sports are snatched away without warning, you can run for protection into the arms of your Lord. Although some opportunities have been taken away, other ones have opened. Families are dining together more, playing together, and strengthening relationships. People are looking for ways to help their neighbors and friends. And here's your best opportunity—the opportunity to build your relationship with God. He is your source.

**Deuteronomy 31: 8** Joshua had good reason to be afraid. Moses had transferred to him the authority to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Joshua had been tutored under Moses' authority and now it was his turn to lead. But how do you walk into territory you've never seen? Venturing into the unknown is unsettling at best. Joshua needed to know he wasn't alone as he led the nation into a land of hostile people who had no respect for Israel's God. In the midst of Joshua's uncertainty, God answered. God told him that He wasn't going to leave him without help or protection. He would always be there. God understood his discouragement and fear. Therefore, He comforted him with these words—do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. In uncertain times, God still speaks these words to us. He will never leave you because He loves you.

**Isaiah 43:1** As an invisible virus tries to flood your heart with fear, remember Who made you. You are not an accident. In the beginning, God did not throw a handful of molecules into the air, wondering which ones would sprout into something good. He had

a plan from the start, and every particle was created with meaning. God fashioned you on purpose, redeemed you from sin, and summoned you by name. You were not born by random chance; God made you for a specific reason, and that reason is good. When floods and flames invade, your Heavenly Father provides safety and comfort. You don't have to endure them alone. You can tell fear to flee because God said you don't have to be afraid.

**Luke 12:6-7** You may not be a bird watcher, but I'll bet you've seen sparrows. Sparrows are common birds and often nest near cities and in buildings. Jesus picked the sparrow to illustrate a point because His audience often saw these ordinary little birds. There is nothing showy or spectacular about a sparrow; however, God cares for every one. He knows their activities, whereabouts, and future. Some may think sparrows are not important, but they are important to God. He has not forgotten them, and neither has He forgotten you. In the midst of turmoil and upheaval know this: God still loves you, still protects you, and still desires to fellowship with you. God can meet your need in every situation. When what you depend upon suddenly crumbles, turn to Him. Pray and spend time seeking Him. He will answer your cries.

**Romans 8: 14-15** In ancient Roman culture, the upper class often adopted children. These adoptions carried significance we rarely think about in modern times. The adopted child was deliberately chosen by the adoptive father to continue the family name and inherit his estate. Adopted children carried the same status as a natural born child and were in no way inferior. Adoption changed the life of that child forever. All debts from the original family were wiped out and nothing from the child's past could be counted against him. Remember that our Father God has adopted you. You have been welcomed into the family of God with all its rights and privileges. You don't have to live in fear. Your loving Father has swept you into His arms and you bring Him delight. Let Him carry you through every challenge in life.

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