

Daily Devotion For December 14, 2021

“The Lord is our refuge and strength **a very present help in times of trouble.**” Psalm 46:1

Yesterday as I was watching the news of the horrific tornado that hit Mayfield, Kentucky, one cable news anchor was asking a Methodist pastor “what do you tell your congregation about where God was in the midst of this tragedy?” My initial reaction to that question was, why is this anchor trying to place the blame on God? And yet, that is a question that many people ask when tragedy, sickness, hardship or death strikes, Where is God? How could God allow this to happen to me? And perhaps you have asked yourself that same question when faced with the trials of life.

I appreciated the response of that pastor. Rather than questioning or blaming God, he spoke of **the presence of God** in the midst of this tragedy that has taken the life of a two month old little girl to an 88 year old.

During this season of advent, we are reminded that God came to be our Emmanuel, “God is with us.” This wonderful name for Jesus reminds us that God is present with us and knows our problems and our pain. Hebrews 4:15 says this about Jesus, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin.”

**Thought For Today:** Because Jesus came to earth as our Emmanuel and as our high priest, he knows and understands the sorrow and griefs we experience in this life. He is a very **present help in times of trouble.** No matter what happens to us, we can have confidence that God will help us and see us through.

**Today’s Prayer Focus:** Praise God that He is Sovereign and in control of all of life’s circumstances. He has promised that he will never abandon us and leave us alone. Continue to pray for those devastated by the tornado and storms and that they would know God’s presence and peace. Deo Volente.