

Thank you for joining us for a time of devotion and prayer. The Bible says, **Psalms 46:1(NLT)** “¹God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.” The next two verses speak of great troubling times across the entire earth. Friends, years ago these words were spoken. “People are like tea bags.” “You put them in hot water and their true selves come out.” I am hearing good stories of how people are helping others in time of need. The stories go like this. At the store a large family was purchasing items and it was easy to tell that they were financially strapped. Another person stepped in, paid their bill and said, “I want you to have enough food for the next month.” Yes, tears were shed from grateful hearts. The family now has enough food for a month. An act of kindness as such goes a long way especially in these troubled times. Everyone around the family saw the generosity firsthand. God has his ways of showing his loving kindness most often when we least expect it.

I am a coffee drinker, but I also appreciate a good cup of tea. I want to pray right now that the Lord Jesus will bring the absolute best out of us as our lives are placed up to our necks in hot water. Let us pray. Lord God, all that is good in this world is because of you. Please use the time that we are at to bring out your wonderful goodness in all who profess Jesus as Christ. We are your people, the sheep of your pasture. Lord you have blessed us to be a blessing. Please show us how we can help one another in this time of need. May the Holy Spirit move us to do random acts of kindness even spontaneously. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Faith in Jesus Christ makes all the difference in the world. Faith is that inner resource given to us by God that causes us to lean on, trust in, and rely upon God for everything. God actually strengthens our faith as He speaks to us in His Holy word. It works like this. We read the Bible and know that it is true. The Holy Spirit personalizes God's truth in our lives so that we live by God's truth and not by how we feel. We are faith led. Emotions can lie but God never does. As the Word of God increases the strength of our faith, our own emotions eventually

follow. That is why we can experience God's incredible peace in the midst of turmoil, Christian joy when surrounded by sadness, and God's perfect love in a world full of hate. Faith impacts our emotions as the Holy Spirit applies God's truth to our lives. We feel strengthened by God knowing that God's resources for us are always adequate to the need. God refuses to leave us. Living by faith increases our quality of life, a life than can only be lived by Christians and of course a life that never ends. God's truth rescues us from the lies of this world. The Bible says, **1 John 5:4(ESV)** "4For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Friends, as we live in this hot water, it gives our faith a chance to come out more than ever and shine ever brightly for the sake of Jesus. Our lives truly can bring glory to God as the hot water brings out the best in us. I close with this verse. **1 Peter 1:7(NLT)** "7These trials will show that your faith is genuine." "It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold." "So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

Let us pray. (Prayed Spontaneously)