



FROM PRESIDENT DEBBIE

## Held by God's Word



I love to imagine I'm an artist. I dabble in watercolor, oil, and acrylic painting. As I begin each painting, I must begin with a foundation; watercolor paper, canvas, or a board must be primed and ready. As a living being I need food, water, shelter, and air to breathe. God has provided all of these things. As a Christian I need a solid foundation and the assurance of Jesus' love and forgiveness. Our Lord has given us these gifts in His Holy Scripture. Let's explore together a few passages.

The Lord provides water and food to sustain our spiritual life. We have been washed in the waters of Baptism where we receive the Holy Spirit. And Peter said to them, *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit* (Acts 2:38). We are given the promise of everlasting life in Christ, who is the Bread of Life. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life ... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."* (John 6:47-48, 51).

The Lord has provided shelter in this life. He is our refuge and our fortress throughout eternity. *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty* (Psalm 91:1).

The Lord has given us air to breathe and His very breath gave us life. *Thus says God, the Lord who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it* (Isaiah 42:5).

Jesus is our Rock, our foundation, and He is the Word made flesh. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1). *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14).

The gift of God's Son, given for the forgiveness of our sins, is a gift beyond comprehension. And the gift of Scripture, which shows us His love and mercy, is a gift of unfathomable grace. *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105).

During this spring and summer's COVID-19 pandemic we look to the Bible for comfort and peace. We are held by God's Word and we are HIS! Please join me in prayer: *Gracious Father, work in our lives as we read and study the Scriptures, that we may reflect Your love, righteousness, mercy, and grace. Make us delight in sharing Your Gospel with others. We ask this in Jesus' name and to His glory. Amen.*

Walking by faith, surrounded by HIS grace.

Debbie Larson