

GOD IS LIKE A MIGHTY FORTRESS

God is our caring and powerful protector.

1. He HEARS Us

(Psalm 18:4-6) The ropes of death were wrapped around me; the torrents of destruction terrified me. The ropes of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. I called to the Lord in my distress, and I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.

(Psalm 5:1-2) Listen to my words, Lord; consider my sighing. Pay attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for I pray to You.

- A. God hears us because He is REAL.
- B. God hears us because He is LISTENING.

(Psalm 34:15) The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry for help.

- C. God hears us because we are His KIDS.

2. He HELPS Us

- A. What God DOES in response to our cries.

(Psalm 18:7-19) Then the earth shook, and quaked; the foundations of the mountains trembled; they shook because He burned with anger. Smoke rose from His nostrils, and consuming fire came from His mouth; coals were set ablaze by it. He parted the heavens and came down, a dark cloud beneath His feet. He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring on the wings of the wind. He made darkness His hiding place, dark storm clouds His canopy around Him. From the radiance of His presence, His clouds swept onward with hail and blazing coals. The Lord thundered from heaven; the Most High projected His voice. He shot His arrows and scattered them; He hurled lightning bolts and routed them. The depths of the sea became visible, the foundations of the world were exposed, at Your rebuke, Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He pulled me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my distress, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out to a wide-open place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.

- B. Our Mighty God rallies to our defense.
- C. It's all because He delights in us.

3. He HIDES Us

(Psalm 18:1-3) I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my mountain where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies.

- A. Strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, mountain, shield, salvation, stronghold.

(Psalm 91:1ff) The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ...He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield.

- B. When the storms of life hit, it's safe to hide in the Lord.