

Holding Cross Reflections

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For God alone my soul waits in silence;
From Him comes my salvation. He only is my Rock and
my Salvation, my Defense and my Fortress,
I shall not be greatly moved.
PSALM 62:1–2 (AMP)

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At the Cross, my need meets his generosity. But why should my need be of any concern to God? Why should it forge the very nails that held him to the wood? Looking upward, I realize I am being stalked by God's passionate and illogical love. I cannot lay aside my need for him, and he is incapable of laying aside his love for me.
CALVIN MILLER

†

I will give you treasures in darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
ISAIAH 45:3 (NRSV)

†

I will listen closely to God's words. I will not let them out of my sight—I will keep them within my heart; for they are life to all who find them and health for the whole body.
PROVERBS 4:20-22 (NIV)

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Wait on the LORD;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!
PSALM 27:14 (NKJV)

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Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.

Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.
MATTHEW 6:9-13 (NKJV)

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“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. You are precious in My sight, You are honored and I love you. ...Do not fear, for I am with you.”
ISAIAH 43:1-5 (NASB)

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Because God is my refuge, the High God my very own home, evil can't get close to me, harm can't get through the door. He ordered his angels to guard me wherever I go.
PSALM 91:9-11 (MSG)

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The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. ... The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
PSALM 145:13-14,18-19 (NIV)

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The Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.
ROMANS 8:26 (NLT)

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I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept. I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

PSALM 3:4-5 (NKJV)

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Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

PSALM 23:4 (NKJV)

†

Merciful God, you know our weakness and distress. Yet the weaker we are, the stronger is your help. Grant that we may accept with joy and gratitude the gift of ... grace, and bear witness to your work in our lives.

HENRI NOUWEN, 1932–1996

†

The final prayer of Jesus was about you. His final pain was for you. His final passion was you. Before he went to the cross, Jesus went to the Garden. And when he spoke with his Father, you were in his prayers. As Jesus looked into heaven, you were in his vision.

MAX LUCADO

†

The cross is the ladder of heaven.

EPHRAIM OF SYRIA, C. 306-373

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From the cross I can see for miles.

GRETCHEN G. MCKEE

†

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21–23 (NIV)

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He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

HEBREWS 7:25 (NKJV)

†

The rhythms of life and death move through our being. Life blesses us and we are grateful. We hold life's gifts dear. There is much that we cherish. At the same time we taste death in its many wrenching forms of denial, rejection, and separation. Yet in the midst of all our death we eventually rise again. Out of the ashes of our lives new roots emerge, green shoots appear, resurrection takes place. The dying and rising of Jesus continues to unfold in our lives.

MACRINA WIEDERKEHR

†

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (NKJV)

†

Jesus, in thy thirst and pain,
While thy wounds thy life-blood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
Thirst for us in mercy still;
All thy holy work fulfil;
Satisfy thy loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we thirst thy love to know;
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

T.B. POLLOCK, 1836-1896

†

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.

JESUS PRAYER

†

Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38 (ESV)

†

The LORD is my Shepherd;
I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside the still waters,

He restores my soul.

PSALM 23:1–3 (NKJV)

†

Grant, O Lord, that In your wounds I may find my safety,

In your stripes my cure,

In your pain my peace,

In your cross my victory,

In your resurrection my triumph,

and a crown of righteousness

in the glories of your eternal

kingdom.

JEREMY TAYLOR, 1613–1667

†

Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall
carry you.

THOMAS À KEMPIS, C. 1380–1471

†

“Jesus, remember me.”

LUKE 23:42 (ESV)

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