

Your Life is in His Hands

Acts 18:1-18

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Introduction: “Fear not...I am with you!”

- A. How often our dear Lord speaks these words to encourage His servants!
1. He said them to Abram when He came to him in Genesis 15 and the child upon whom all of God’s promises depended had not yet been given
 - **Gen 15:1: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”**
 2. He told Moses not to be afraid when He sent him to stand before Pharaoh and demand that Israel be released—He said, “I will be with you.”
 3. When He sent Joshua to conquer Canaan, He said,
 - **Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**
 4. He said similar words to Gideon, to David, to Hezekiah, to Elijah, to Jeremiah, to Ezekiel—and to many others!
 5. When He sent out His apostles on various missions,
 - He told them time and again not to be afraid
 - And when He gave them the great commission to evangelise the world, He said:
 - **“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**
 - In essence: “Fear not...I am with you!”
- B. Our gracious Lord brings this same encouragement to Paul in Acts 18 when Paul is in Corinth, in weakness and fear.
- Look at verse 9-10, and you can see how the Lord does this...
 - **Acts 18:9-10: Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”**
 - 1. If you can believe it, Paul was afraid when he went to Corinth!
 - You might be surprised at that because Paul always seems so courageous, but he was afraid...
 - There are two ways we know for sure that he was afraid.
 - a. First, because of the verse that I just read in Acts 18:9...
 - The reason the Lord commanded him not to be afraid was because he *was* afraid...

- In the original, the tense is present middle imperative which indicates that he needed to stop being afraid.
 - And not only that, but the words are added—“speak and do not be silent,”
 - indicating that Paul was in danger of stopping his preaching because of fear as he had done in Thessalonica and Berea.
 - Not that he was cowardly, but in prudence, he had to escape when his enemies were closing in on him.
- b. But to make it all the more certain that Paul was afraid, we know because he says that he was afraid—in his letter to the Corinthians...
- In 1 Cor 2:3, he says,
 - **1 Cor 2:3: “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.”**
 - Again, this is not that he was a coward,
 - He was just wondering as the Jews were plotting against him if it was time to leave.
 - He knew that the cross was offensive to the Jews and foolish to the Greeks,
 - but instead of changing the message and trying to put on a show of worldly wisdom,
 - he must continue to preach with plainness, and that is what he says he did in 1 Corinthians 2.
2. And you see here in Acts 18 that he continued because the Lord told him to continue.
- The Lord actually added two specific reasons to encourage Paul to continue without fear...
 - two specific reasons in addition to the foundational promise that He would be with Him.
- a. First, He told him that “no one will attack you to hurt you.”
- Jesus was not going to let that happen this time as He had at Lystra and at Philippi.
 - They would oppose, but *this time*, they would not hurt the apostle.
 - Jesus Himself had determined it.
- b. Second, He told him that “I have many people in this city.”
- In other words, He wanted Paul to stay there for a while because there were a lot of people He had purposed to save!
 - They were already His sheep, and Paul was to gather them into the fold.
 - Paul did not need to be afraid that his ministry would be stopped at Corinth because the Lord had a lot of work for him to do there.

- c. But the essence of the promise was the same as it was to Abram and Moses and Joshua and Gideon and David and Elijah and Jeremiah and Hezekiah and Ezekiel and to all the apostles...
 - **Do not be afraid, for I am with you!**
- C. My brothers and sisters, this essential promise is for **you too** if you are serving Jesus!
- Don't expect it to come to you in a vision because you already have it in the Word!
1. This wonderful promise is universally applied to every believer in Hebrews 13:5-6 where we are reminded that:
 - **Heb 13:5-6: He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"**
 - You are given warrant to apply the promise of God's presence to yourself in whatever circumstances you are in!
 - So if you are a believer, this promise applies to you too!
 - You do not need to be afraid, because the Lord is with you and will never leave you!
 2. You do not have the specific promise that Paul had at Corinth—that no one will attack you to hurt you...
 - They may indeed do so,
 - but you still do not need to fear because God is with you and even though they may be able to kill your body,
 - they cannot kill your soul, and God will raise up your body at the last day.
 - What's more,
 - You don't need to fear because you are in His hands the whole time.
 - It's not as though He looks away and the enemy grabs you!
 - No, if they seize you and torture you, you can be sure that the Lord has purposed for you to serve Him in that way.
 - He was with Paul at Philippi when he was arrested and beaten, and at Lystra when he was stoned, and at Thessalonica when he was driven out of town,
 - just as much as He was with him at Corinth when He did not let anyone harm him.
 3. This makes your task a whole lot easier!
 - Instead of having to worry about what is going to happen to you,
 - Instead of being afraid,
 - You can know that you are in the hands of the Lord!
 - You can know that His plans will never fail, and that if He has planned to protect you, He will...

- If He has planned that you be cast into the lion's den, He will be with you there...
- If He has planned that you should be killed for His name, He will also be in that and He will with you...
 - You need not fear or fret.
- Acts 18 is helpful because it shows us that we are in God's hands and that He can do whatever He wants to do in every situation.
 - If we are serving Him, we can be sure that He will look after us and provide all that we need in order to do what He wants us to do!
 - And when I say, serving Him, I do not just mean in full time Christian work...
 - I mean in whatever way you, as a disciple of Christ, are serving the Lord—He will be with you to accomplish His purposes!
 - Truly, we should not look at ourselves as consumers,
 - but as servants of the Lord for whom He faithfully provides all that we need to do His will!
 - If you are a consumer, you look to Him to provide whatever it is that you want.
 - But if you are servant, you leave it to Him to provide what you need to do whatever He wants.
 - If He wants you to be sick for Him, you will have grace to do that for His glory.
 - If He wants you to die for Him, you have all that you need to do that for His glory.
 - If He wants you to win nations to His salvation, you will have what you need for that work as you look to Him.
 - If He wants you to be a mother, He will equip you for that work as you look to Him.
 - We do not need to be afraid because He is with us—our life is in His hands.
 - If you focus on what you want, you will be afraid and frustrated and discontent...you are a consumer...
 - But if you focus on what He wants, you will not fear because you are a servant in your master's hands.
 - Your life is in His hands!

TRANS> This is what we find at the heart of Acts 18:1-18.

- And now I want to consider from our text some of the many ways that He takes care of us as we serve Him.

I. First, see how He provides the friends that we need in order to do His will.

- A. See how the Lord had brought Aquila and Priscilla to Corinth for Paul.
1. It seems that Paul went from Athens to Corinth alone, but God had this wonderful couple prepared to receive him.
 - Look at verses 1-3:
 - **Acts 18:1-3: After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.**
 - Aquila and Priscilla became great friends and co-labourers in the gospel with Paul.
 - It appears that they were already Christians when Paul met them because there is no mention of their conversion.
 - And also because Luke mentions that they were among those Jews who had recently been expelled from Rome!
 - The Emperor Claudius had issued the edict to expel the Jews in 51 AD because, according to Suetonius the historian,
 - the Jews from Rome were “**indulging in constant riots at the instigation of one Crestus,**” probably over Christ.
 - You see, at Pentecost, there were those from Rome who returned to their synagogues with the good news...
 - And this caused such division in the synagogues that Claudius banished the Jews from the city.
 - So here was this Christian couple, prepared by the Lord to host Paul when he arrived in Corinth alone.
 2. They were just what he needed!
 - See how God used them...
 - a. First, they provided much needed Christian companionship.
 - Paul needed companions to encourage him in his work as he zealously proclaimed the gospel.
 - b. Second, he needed a place to stay—and although this couple had just been banished, they cheerfully opened their home.
 - c. Third, he needed work in order to provide for his necessities,
 - and Aquila and Priscilla just *happened* to be tentmakers, the same trade as Paul, so Paul immediately had work...
 - Indeed, Corinth hosted the biennial Isthmian Games (a kind of Olympic games that was actually bigger than the Olympics),
 - and those who attended would often be in need of tents!

TRANS> So you see that the Lord provided just what Paul needed in these friends.

3. With regular work during the week, he faithfully ministered at the synagogue each Sabbath...
 - as verse 4 says,
 - **“persuading both Jews and Greeks.”**
 - In this way, Paul was able to gradually begin his ministry at Corinth.
 - The Lord was with him and provided just what he needed in Aquila and Priscilla to get started at Corinth.

B. And then, at the appropriate time, the Lord brought his old friends and fellow labourers in the gospel to Paul—Silas and Timothy.

- **Acts 18:5: When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.**

1. What an encouragement the arrival of these friends was to the loving Apostle!

- This is not just speculation—he tells us in his letter to the Thessalonians what a tremendous boost it was to have them come:
 - In 1 Thess 3:6-10, he says:
 - **1 Thess 3:6-10: But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you— therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?**
 - Paul had been very concerned about the Thessalonians because they had just received the gospel and were so sorely persecuted,
 - but Timothy refreshed him with the good news that they were continuing faithfully in the gospel!

2. Besides that, these friends came with a monetary gift for Paul’s support from the people of Macedonia.

- Paul speaks of this in 2 Cor 11:9 where he says:
 - **2 Cor 11:9: And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied.**
- With this gift, Paul was able to devote himself fully to the work of the gospel—
 - In Acts 18:5, the word *compelled* means *occupied himself in...*
 - The idea in that case is that Paul devoted himself fully to the work of testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.
 - They were already looking for Christ the Messiah to come;
 - so Paul was now devoting all his time to persuading them that He had come and that Jesus who was crucified was He!

TRANS> So you see how the Lord used these friends who were fellow-labourers as well as Paul's friends from Macedonia to enhance the work of the gospel.

3. My brothers and sisters, Jesus is also with you and that means that He provides the friends you need to do what He has called you to do too!
 - a. Some of you may feel that you do not have all the friends you need.
 - Perhaps you are lonely or wish you were married.
 - But that can be a selfish desire.
 - I did not say that Jesus always gives you all the friends you want, but all the friends you need to serve Him.
 - Again, you are not a consumer but a servant!
 - b. The big question is, *are you busy about serving Him?*
 - Is your great concern in life to glorify God and to enjoy Him?
 - Then it may be that He wants you to serve him in a solitary way for a while...
 - It is no matter to you—His provision is just what you need and you can trust Him that this is so.
 - He always provides what we need to do His will.
 - c. The same thing is true with your monetary provision.
 - We often feel that we do not have enough—but if our goal is to serve Christ and honour Him—and if we are serving Him...
 - We surely do have all that we need—
 - He promises that we will!
 - Of course if you are lazy and not working as you ought, you may not have what you ought...
 - but if you are, and you are poor—learn to live with it—be content with what you have...
 - If you had more, it would draw you away from the Lord.
 - He wants you to honour Him by being content with what you have. That is His will!

TRANS> Our faithful Lord is with us—our lives are in His hands—He gives us the friends and the funds that we need.

II. Next, see how He supplies us with the Holy Spirit whom we need if we are serving Him.

- A. I have already mentioned that Paul was full of fear and trembling when he came to Corinth.
 1. Corinth was the sin city of the Roman Empire at this time—the Las Vegas...
 - It was known for its pride and its immorality.

- They had wealth, beauty, the world famous Isthmian games, political prestige as the capital of Achaia, and a whole lot of prostitution at the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, where a thousand prostitutes served.
 - You might say that Paul was not exactly in his comfort zone.
2. Besides that, he knew what had happened to him at the synagogues in Thessalonica and Berea...
- And now the opposition from the Jews was mounting day after day as Paul continued to preach Jesus to them.
 - You see in verse 6 that their resistance built to the place that they **“opposed and blasphemed”**
- B. Even though Paul was naturally in weakness, fear, and much trembling, you see that he very boldly continued his preaching!
1. When he speaks of that in 1 Corinthians, he says that his speaking was in demonstration of the Spirit and of power!
- 1 Cor 2:4-5 says: **“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”**
 - He explains that while he might have been tempted to adjust his message for the sake of the Jews who were offended by the cross,
 - and for the sake of Greeks who thought the cross to be foolishness—
 - He **“determined to know nothing among them but Christ and Him crucified.”** (1 Cor 2:2).
 - He kept on preaching plainly just as Jesus had told him to do in Acts 18:9:
 - **Acts 18:9: Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent.**

TRANS> The point is that Paul would not have been able to preach as he did unless the Lord Jesus had supplied him with Holy Spirit.

2. Just look at how Spirit’s presence was demonstrated in this trembling Apostle!
- a. First, in that he did keep on preaching Christ to them when opposition rose...
- In verse 5, based on the majority text, it says that Paul’s occupying of himself in testifying of Christ to the Jews was by the Spirit.
 - Even though many manuscripts have *logos* in place of *Spirit* here, it is certainly true that he was empowered by the Holy Spirit to do this bold preaching in the face of rising opposition...
 - We just say that Paul himself says that in 1 Corinthians 2...
 - We are told in verse 11, that he continued on for a year and six months!
- b. Second, the Spirit’s presence is seen in that he spoke very boldly to the Jews who opposed and blasphemed...
- Look at the whole of verse 6 and you can see what he did...

- **Acts 18:6: But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”**
- This was a dramatic action in which a rejected prophet declared that he wanted nothing to do with the place that had rejected the Word of the Lord...
 - No, he did not even want the dust of the place clinging to him.
 - You may have noticed that he did not shake the dust off of his sandals though...
 - He would have done that if he had been leaving the city, but he was only departing from the synagogue—and in the synagogue he would have removed his shoes...
 - so he only shakes off his garments...
 - He declares to them that their blood is on their own heads...
 - As the watchman was told to do in Ezekiel, he had discharged his duty in warning them and bore no more responsibility to them...
 - Now he was turning to the Gentiles!
 - This hardly is the action of a man who was in fear and much trembling—not unless he is filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - And as we saw in 1 Cor 2, he was filled with the Holy Spirit!
- c. Third, the Spirit’s presence is seen in his boldness to continue his ministry right next door to the synagogue!
 - Verse 7 says:
 - **Acts 18:7: And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.**
 - Can you imagine that?
 - Suppose that the families that left the CRC congregation in Kentville had started meeting in the house next door to the CRC?
 - Can you imagine?
 - The members of the old church would see the members of the new congregation going to worship each week!
 - They would see the congregation that was replacing them as a true church of the Lord!
 - What anger there would be!
 - And the Jews were very hot headed as we have seen!
 - And Paul, who had been the target of so much aggression from the Jews openly starts meeting in this house right next door!
 - Clearly an evidence that the Holy Spirit was giving him great boldness!

3. If you are doing the work that God has called you to do, you can be certain that Jesus will give you the Holy Spirit to empower you for that work.
 - You have neither the wisdom nor the courage to do the will of God apart from the working of God's Spirit.
 - I don't care what the work is—loving your spouse, parenting, being a student, fulfilling your vocation, doing good deeds for your neighbours, witnessing to people at work—
 - You can't do any of it to the glory of God apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - What does the Spirit do to help us?
 - One of the main things is that He brings the word of God to us with power—in a way that we really understand it and believe it—fully and strongly believe it.
 - He comforts us by bringing home God's promises...
 - You can be sure that when Jesus spoke to Paul and told him not to be afraid but to keep on preaching...
 - the Spirit worked in Paul so that he fully believed that...
 - He fully believed that Jesus would indeed be with him.
 - Do you see what a help it is for you?
 - How bold you will be if you believe the promise we are talking about today—
 - that Jesus will give you all that you need to do His will!
 - that you ought not to fear because He is with you!
 - How it will change your life if you really believe that!

TRANS> So we have seen that Jesus provides friends and funds as well as the Holy Spirit for those who serve Him...

- Now let's look at the next thing...

III. Next, see how Jesus gives us fruit for our labours—as He pleases of course!

A. We should be very concerned about fruit...

1. A pastor should yearn to see fruit from the ministry of the word and the elders should yearn to see fruit in the congregation they oversee.
 - You fathers should yearn to see fruit in your children and in your wife.
 - And when you go to work, you want to see fruitfulness in your labour for the glory of God.
 - And when you witness to people of Christ, you want to see them believe.
2. If we are not fruitful,
 - It is appropriate for us to cry out to God to make us fruitful...
 - Abraham did that!
 - But you must realize that it is ultimately in your Lord's hands.

- There are times when He, for His own reasons—withholds fruit.
 - He did that with Abraham for a long time...
 - He did that in the time of Isaiah and Jeremiah—and told them He was.
 - He even did that in the ministry of Jesus—very few received Him—and in a way He even did that with Paul...
 - Most of the Jews did not receive the word in most places.
 - But even if there is very little fruit, He is still with us because He promised to be with us as we serve Him—
 - and we need to keep on serving Him with zeal, praying for fruit and knowing that He will give us fruit when it is time.
- B. And know that if there is any fruit at all—it is from Him—it is evidence that He is indeed with us.
1. You could not bring forth any fruit at all apart from Him.
 - When Jesus spoke about fruitbearing in John 10, He said, **“Without me you can do nothing”**
 - And that is exactly what He meant.
 - You can do nothing to the glory of God unless He gives it.
 2. Look at some of the fruit Paul had, showing that the Lord was with him!
 - a. First, there was Justus, whom we have already seen...
 - A God-fearing Gentile—probably a Roman judging from his name—who seems to be the same as Gaius—
 - You know, many people had more than one name...
 - And Paul speaks of Gaius in Romans as the brother that hosted him and the whole church at Corinth...
 - And in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul names Gaius as one of first converts at Corinth.
 - It was a tremendous encouragement to have this prominent man who had a house next door to the synagogue
 - b. And then there was this really remarkable trophy of grace—Crispus—the ruler of the synagogue!
 - 1 Cor 18:8 says:
 - **1 Cor 18:8: Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household.**
 - We saw recently how God reached the Roman jailor...a person that would have seemed impossible to reach...
 - And now here is the ruler of the synagogue coming to Christ!
 - And his entire household, by the grace of God, was converted.
 - This is nothing but the hand of God to give such fruit!

- Any time a person is saved, it is a marvellous thing—it is a new creation—a new heart and a new Spirit that will bring about a new life have been given by God!
 - It is a mighty work of God, showing that He is near!
- c. And look—verse 8 goes on to say that there were many others who were converted.
- **1 Cor 18:8: And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.**
 - Always give thanks when there is fruit like this.
 - It is a reminder that God is truly with us.

TRANS> So now we have seen three things that Christ does when He is with us...

- He provides friends and funds... showing that He is with us
- He provides the Holy Spirit... showing that He is with us
- He gives us fruit for our labours... showing that He is with us
- And now lastly, I want you to see that:

IV. He provides protection for us when we serve Him—according to His sovereign purpose for us.

A. See the special protection He provided for Paul at Corinth...

1. This time, the Lord had purposed that instead of Paul getting run out of town or beaten or stoned,
 - He would prevent anyone from harming him.
 - He promised that to Paul, so He was bound to keep His word.
 - This reminds us that God is over our safety and that He can do whatever He pleases.
 - If He wants to protect us, He can surely do so!
2. Look at the way He frustrates Paul's enemies here.
 - a. The Jews bring Paul before the *bema*—the great judgement seat at Corinth, with an accusation...
 - Look at verse 12-13:
 - **Acts 18:12-13: When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, “This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”**
 - Although it is somewhat ambiguous, it appears that they are arguing that Paul should not be tolerated as a legitimate sect of Judaism.
 - Judaism was considered a superstition by the Romans, but was tolerated and permitted...
 - but Paul is calling for worship that, according to the Jews, was contrary to God's law...

- He is calling for the worship of God through Jesus as Mediator!
 - They hope that they can get Gallio to forbid Paul to go on teaching and perhaps punish him for what he has done.
- b. But Gallio rather surprises them with his response.
- Gallio was the son of Seneca, the famous orator, and he as the brother of the younger Seneca who was a great philosopher.
 - Gallio, who was known for his personal charm, had been appointed to be proconsul at Corinth in the summer of 51 AD.
 - As a prominent Senatorial governor, his decision would have precedent setting power...
 - And his decision is that it is not his concern!
 - He shows his disdain for the Jews and their silly religion, and basically tells them that he has no time for it.
 - It is not a just decision.
 - He is acting on personal bias—but the Lord uses this to protect Paul
 - Look—he doesn’t even bother to hear Paul’s response...
 - **Acts 18:14-15: And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.”**
 - He shows his contempt by saying that it is only a question of words and names and their own law...
 - And then verse 16 says that he drove them from the judgement seat, and verse 17 shows yet more of his disdain toward the Jews:
 - **Acts 18:17: Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.**
 - He allows an act of injustice to be done right before his eyes and says nothing...
 - Sosthenes is apparently the ruler of the synagogue after Crispus had been converted...
 - A Sosthenes appears later as a companion of Paul when he writes to the Corinthians—so Sosthenes may have been converted too!
 - There is no way to tell for sure, but it is quite possible.
- c. Paul must have not quite known what to do with himself!
- It must have been quite shocking!
 - He was always the one who was beaten after such trials!

- He was not used to this!
 - Jesus had kept His special promise to him—
 - and so Paul stayed just as Jesus had told him to do, and kept on preaching and teaching at Corinth.
 - It was Jesus’ plan for Paul to stay in this city!
 - That is why He gave Paul this protection.
- B. You have no cause for fear if you are serving the Lord, because He has the whole situation under His control.
1. In the many times that Paul suffered—that was God’s will for him.
 - Jesus wanted Paul to honour Him by suffering for His name at those times.
 - Paul counted it an honour to do that—to prove his sincerity to all.
 2. You see, it was not a lack of ability on Jesus’ part to control the situation that brought Paul beatings in other places...
 - It all came down to what Jesus had decided to do with Paul in each place!
 - And that is the whole point!
 - Our lives are in the hands of Jesus!
 - We are to serve Him in whatever way He chooses!
 - If He wants to protect us, we are to serve Him as protected ones.
 - If He wants us to serve Him in sickness, we are to do that...
 - If He wants us to serve Him in a loneliness or barrenness, we are to do that...
 3. The message is always the same—we are not to fear because He is with us.
 - Don’t fret and be anxious—
 - Do God’s will and leave the outcome in His hands.
 - He will do whatever He wants with you in every circumstance...
 - And it is for you to serve Him according to the opportunities He gives you.

Conclusion: He is a great Saviour and we should be pleased to serve Him in whatever way He wants us to.

- Don’t be afraid—He will do nothing to harm His children.
 - Whenever suffering is appointed for you, bear it gladly for Him...
 - Whenever freedom from suffering is appointed, give thanks and make the most of the opportunity.
 - He is the best Saviour in the world—and your life is in His hands!
 - How happy that ought to make you!