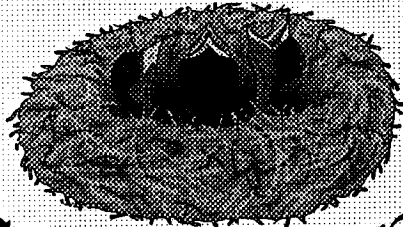
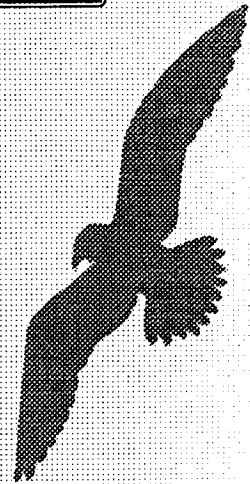


"They shall
mount up...

ON EAGLES' WINGS

... with wings
as eagles."

Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

"Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed:
for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; Yea, I will
help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand
of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10.

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said-
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you thee- O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid,
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand,

"When thru the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with you thee thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When thru fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee- I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

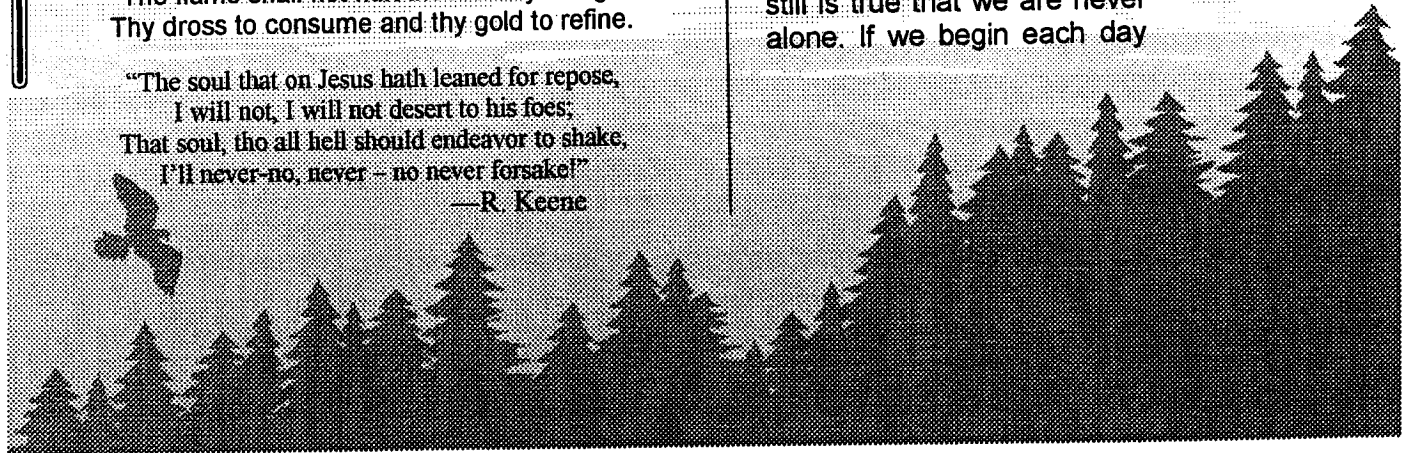
"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never-no, never - no never forsake!"

—R. Keene

Dear Friends,

The words "Fear not" appear 63 times in the Bible. (KJV) The first occurrence is found in Genesis 15:1. Here the Lord says to Abram, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward." The last occurrence is found in Revelation 1:17. Here the Lord says to the apostle John, "Fear not; I am the first and the last." Why do the words "fear not" appear so often? Is it not because our God and Father knew that there would be many times that we would need to hear those encouraging words? We so often allow the things that we read, hear and see to make us fearful.

How good then it is to hear the Lord saying to us, "Fear not." Why should I ever be afraid? The Lord says, "I am with thee." Why should I be afraid if the Lord is with me? He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:6. Is that really true? Yes, it is! That means that I am never alone. Although I may not live in the enjoyment of His presence with me day by day and moment by moment it still is true that we are never alone. If we begin each day



in His presence in prayer and in meditation in His Word it will help us experience the reality of His presence with us. **"In the morning, O Lord; will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up."** Psalm 5:3. When we do this we will not be so easily dismayed or bewildered by the things that we read, hear or see.

There are three things that the Lord wants to do for us as we realize He is with us and has His eye upon us.

1. *He will strengthen us.* We may feel very weak physically but the Lord will give the inner strength to endure pain, sorrow and loss. The apostle Paul prayed three times for the Lord to remove his thorn in the flesh. We do not know what that thorn was but it was something that he felt constantly. The Lord didn't answer Paul's prayer and remove the thorn. Instead the Lord said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10. So, though Paul's prayer was not answered he experienced the Lord's grace and his strength.

What a good lesson this is for us to take to heart! God may not always answer our prayer but He will give us the necessary grace and strength to go through the trials, and sufferings that we will experience.

2. *He will help us.* "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help? **My help comes from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.**" Psalm 121:1,2. This is a help that we can count upon. "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms of love and strength. Deuteronomy 33:27. This help may come to us through a friend coming to visit us or through a phone call. God's eye is ever upon us and though we may sometimes feel alone and forgotten He is always there to lift us up. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, **but I will not forget you.**" Isaiah 49:15. A motto that I have in my office puts this way.

"Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee.
Trust Him when thy strength is small.
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all."

3. *He will uphold us.* Not only will He help us but He will uphold us. Upholding has the thought of supporting. Remember we have an enemy who seeks to trip us up. He is the prince of this world, the god of this world and the prince of the power of

the air. See John 14:30; 2nd Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2. He is the one who through his subtlety would "corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ." 2nd Corinthians 11:3.

But God has provided a spiritual armor for us so that we can stand against his wiles. We have God's truth, His righteousness, His peace that passes all understanding, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Above all we have the power of prayer. See Ephesians 6:11-18.

Yes, God will strengthen us, He will help us and He will uphold us. As we think of these three things I am reminded of Romans 8:31.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:31,32.

Never Alone

How many times discouraged,
We sink beside the way;
About us all is darkness,
We hardly dare to pray;
Then from the mists and shadows,
The sweetest voice e'er known,
Says, Child, am I not with thee,
Never to leave thee alone?

Take courage, way-worn pilgrim,
Tho' mists and shadows hide
The face of Him thou lovest,
He's ever at thy side;
Reach out thy hand and find Him,
And, lo, the clouds have flown;
He smiles on thee who promised,
Never to leave thee alone.

No, never alone, never alone!
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone!

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

For address correction or for a new name addition,

write to:

Leslie L. Winters

or

Christine Albury