

April 7, 2020 Devotion "Stuff"

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength:

God's power to guide me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's eyes to watch over me;  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to give me speech,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to shelter me,  
God's host to secure me.

### **Irish - first millennium - Bridgid of Gael**

Psalm 71:17-18 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Since my youth, God, You have taught me,  
and to this day I declare Your marvelous deeds.

<sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, my God,  
till I declare Your power to the next generation,  
Your mighty acts to all who are to come.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

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Our family has a favorite word we use frequently use to describe things that fall into an unknown category, "stuff". I use it a lot! I wonder how many of us could say we have a lot of stuff. Anyone who has been around children, teens, or college students know they have a lot of stuff! Toys, clothes, shoes, electronic things, they accumulate stuff just like we have over the years. Newly married couples quickly accumulate stuff also. Those of us that may have a grey hair or two might look around our home and wonder 'where in the world did all this stuff come from?'

In the last three weeks we may have realized that we can live pretty simply, and the stuff in boxes in the attic or basement may not be as important as we once thought. People are going back to basics, eating meals together and having conversation, playing games or watching a movie together. Those of us who live alone may look around and think what am I going to do with all this stuff?

So, we begin to go through boxes and we find something that brings back a memory. Maybe it's an old picture or a letter. We begin to reminisce about an event or person. What we may not realize is that these memories are like a piece of fabric or a quilt, remnant pieces of fabric or thread are memories are woven into a whole piece and we have a beautiful piece showing our life. This is what our faith is like, pieces woven together over time.

Our scripture begins with, "God has taught us since we were young", through the Bible we learn the story of the faithfulness of God to His people, the gift of Jesus, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. All woven together in the writings of Prophets and Disciples. What if we take the stuff of our lives and weave it together to make a story of our own lives, our own faith story and share it with family and friends.

We might start with the stuff we have, maybe a picture of someone who had an impact on your life and faith. Share the picture and tell the story. We can do this in a phone call, we might write it down to share when we are all able to be together or create a diary with picture.

In our lives people come in and go out, always teaching us something. It may not always be a happy memory, but what did you learn from it, how did your faith guide you. Happy memories of special holidays, Christmas and Easter we learn the story of Jesus' birth all the way to his death and resurrection. Is there a favorite scripture you have? Share it and explain why it means so much to you.

Psalm 71 also says we are to declare the power of God to the generations. This is true, read to young family members from the Bible and teach them what the scripture means to you. Our world is very different from when we grew up, communication has changed. Texting and email are more popular. One of the reasons I chose to do these devotions on FB live is so that you could connect with me and I with you through voice and picture.

Now yesterday had a bit more involved and I hope it gave you a little chuckle.

I tend to like old black and white films. One of my favorites is "The Time Machine with Rod Taylor. He plays an inventor in the late 1800's who invents a time machine. He goes into the future and meets a group of young people who don't seem to have any purpose in life. They know nothing of their history. At the end of the movie the inventor returns to his time and tries to tell his friends what has happened to him. They think he's crazy and leave. One friend stays and speaks to the housekeeper. They notice that 3 books are missing from the shelves, but they don't know which ones are missing. The inventor took the 3 books and returned to the future. If you were going to chose 3 books or things to share with the young generations, what would be your selections?

We are going through a time that will be remembered in history. Maybe you can share your life and faith with young people and then ask them to share 3 things or books that are important to them and why they are important.

Remembering this scripture hopefully will encourage us share our "stuff" with others, our important stuff, our life and our faith.

Let us pray:

God Most High, thank you for signs of your power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give, through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen

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*-Pastor Linda*