

Psalm 46 (NIV)

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.
- ¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Take a few minutes to meditate on this psalm and let your meditation lead to praise and worship. When you're ready, continue on to the next page. Feel free to stop at any point and use the other pieces of the guide later. It can be used altogether or in chunks as you wish. While most of this guide surrounds COVID intercession, the last page is Riverside requests.

April 2020 Prayer

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

God, You are our refuge and strength; You are ever-present with us; You are our help in this time of trouble. We pray for your mercy to be upon us. We pray for mercy for our leaders, both governmental and health, both local and national. Be their strength. Be their protection from this virus, from fatigue, from discouragement, from all that the enemy throws against them as they lead and serve. Grant them strength in every way—physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Draw them nearer to You and enable them to know Your grace more personally during this time. Give them Your wisdom and guidance in every decision they make. May they bring glory to You.

Almighty God, we also need to Your help. We pray for your strength to glorify You in our homes. Make our love increase and overflow for one another. Help us to abide with You and allow Your Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, perseverance, compassion, gratitude, contentment, purity, mercy, forgiveness, and grace. Protect our marriages and families from Satan's attacks. Bring unity where there has been division, peace where there has been chaos, bring comfort to the disappointed, and trust in You where there is confusion. Strengthen us to put our hope in You and live for what is eternal.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

We lay our fears and anxieties down. Our confidence is in You, Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. You are still on Your throne. You are holy. You are good. You gave us Your Only Son while we were yet sinners, so know You love us; You have already intervened. We rest in You.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

April 2020 Prayer

You are Emmanuel, God with us. We stand firm in You. Your compassions are new every morning. Though the world is an uproar, You are sovereign; You are infinite in wisdom and perfect in love. We pray Your saving hand to be upon us. Advance Your Kingdom. Draw people to Jesus. You are our fortress, and we want more to know You. Bring healing to those who are ill. Bring comfort to those who are grieving. Bring strength to those who are serving those in need. Bring encouragement to those who are lonely. Bring provision to those who are lacking. Increase the faith of those who doubt. Bring salvation to those who don't yet know You. May all find refuge in You. May we be Your instruments to bring hope and healing.

Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^(a) with fire.

Though You bring desolations, You also bring peace. Your ways and thoughts are higher and greater than ours; Your plans are too wonderful for us to understand. We know that You are working many good things through this trial. We have just a glimpse of a few Kingdom-growing blessings that are taking place--drawing people to Yourself, strengthening families and marriages, building unity, transforming Your people and more. Enable me to participate in Your Kingdom work. May we trust You when we see or experience the hard stuff. We know You make everything beautiful in its time.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Father in Heaven, enable me to slow down, be still, and know You more intimately. Enable me to see You more clearly. Keep my eyes on You. You are on Your throne! Be exalted among all the nations of the earth! Be exalted in this nation and in this community! Be exalted in my home! Be exalted in my life! You, Lord God Almighty, are with us. You are my fortress. May I rest in You.

I encourage you to choose a verse or two from this psalm and meditate on it throughout the week.

Specific requests for Riverside

- *Wisdom for Reverend Johnsrud as he begins leading us at such a time as this.*
- *Continued wisdom, guidance, unity, creativity, strength & energy for LT & staff during this time. They continue to lead, minister, and serve in numerous ways.*
- *Pods to be able to continue to meet effectively and grow Up, In, and Out.*
- *Discipleship to be happening in homes & families from those 0-151.*
- *Everyone to be able to connect to others and experience God's love in meaningful ways.*
- *Faithful and generous giving.*
- *Riversiders to use our gifts & passions to fulfill His purposes in our community and beyond, faithfully loving our neighbors—wherever, however & whomever they may be.*
- *Riverside would qualify for the new Payment Protection Program.*