

THE BULWARK

"A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE..."

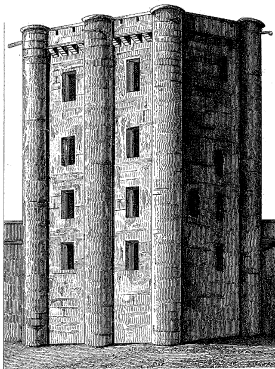
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*"Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following"*
Psalms 48:13

Hard to believe, but here was our youngest son, stretched out on a bed in the ER, with tubes and medical devices attached to his body. He was wracked with pain to the point of uttering from the depth of his being a low gut wrenching moan. How could this strapping 6 foot 3inch, 200 plus pound young man be in such dire pain? After all earlier in the day he was the picture of robust health; setting up equipment for a friend's band who was performing in a park. Now doctors and specialists were trying to isolate what the problem may be, concerned that it may even be life threatening.



As the day drew into night, there was talk of amputating his legs just below his knees. My wife and I, along with our son issued forth an impassioned plea to consider other options. With some reluctance, the doctors agreed. Sitting beside the bed both my wife and I offered up prayers as day one of his ordeal drew to a close. Those prayers did not cease as the days drew out to ten plus. But we knew with each passing day God was hearing out petitions. The words of James echoing in our heads, "...pray for one another, so that you may be healed..." (James 5:16)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea" (Psalms 46:1-2) No matter what life presents, God must remain as

the constant in our life. Once again, take notice of what is seen from the hand of David, this time in Psalms 55:22. *"Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken."* What a blessed thought on which to hold.

Now some months later, our son is walking although with a halting gait, but we know that it is an answer to prayers, not just ours but others of the household of faith. Day by day we continue to pray for his physical and spiritual well being. Following the directive set forth by Paul to the brethren in Thessalonica. *"Rejoice always; pray with out ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* (1Thessalonians 5:16-18) All glory and honor belongs to God.

As life presses each one of us, we will face issues that will challenge us to the furthest limits of what we think we can endure. However, we can find comfort and courage in the knowledge that our heavenly Father will never forsake us. He is ever present. *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"* (Isaiah 41:10) Take some time and fully digest what is found in Matthew 11:28-30 as well as Philippians 4:6-7. Then blend in the thoughts of Paul in Ephesians 3:20-21. Lock in on the words, *"exceeding abundantly beyond"*. (wbe)