

Have no fear

It was a beautiful, showery autumn day; I was walking in the forest singing praises to God.

Suddenly I became aware that I was being watched! A large bull, sharp horns protruding from his head and a brass ring through his nose, was following me with his eyes, head turning slowly as I walked along the path beside his field. I stared back at him for some time then carried along the path continuing happily at the same steady pace, knowing I was completely safe.

So, dear reader, I wonder if you're curious; why did I feel no danger, no fear?

Well, that's because between me and this 2,500 lb creature stood a secure, barbed wire fence. Since it was camouflaged against the backdrop of the field the fence was hardly visible, yet I knew it was there. Although my eyes were fixed on the bull I felt the security of the fence separating me from him.

As I continued on my walk the following thought came to mind: Isn't this how our walk with God should be?

Life brings challenges, dangers and threats. We have to acknowledge and confront these trials just as I acknowledged the presence of the bull. But, in the same way as the fence separated me from the potential danger of the bull, we have One far greater who stands between us and the dangers of life. I didn't need to question whether the fence was there, I just knew it was and so I felt no fear! In the same way, as we face life's trials we can be assured of God's love and protection for us; our security is in Him

*When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze. Isaiah 43:2*

But with this encouragement came a challenge: How often do I, do we focus on the potential danger, the threat and the fear, rather than resting in the secure knowledge that He is our shield, our protector?

*Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him,
for he shields him all day long,
and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders.*

Deuteronomy 33:12

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Psalms 18:2

Without the fence to keep me safe I could potentially have been trampled to the ground by this huge creature. Likewise the storms of life can potentially knock us off our feet. But I am reminded today that our Invisible God is our Protector, our Shield, our Defender and our Comfort. He stands between us and the dangers of life. Though we cannot avoid the pains and pressures which life brings He is willing and able to take the weight of these dangers upon Himself and keep us safe.

So be encouraged today, my Friend; He loves you, He is your protector and your Shield. Whatever challenges come your way rest in the secure knowledge that He stands between you and the danger.

He will never let you go.

Amen

