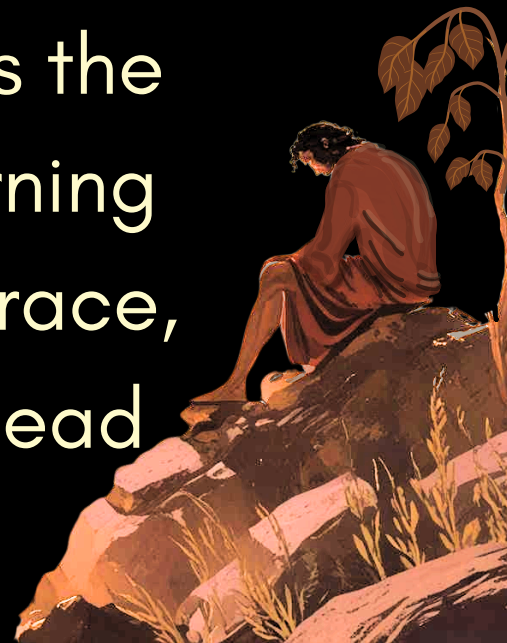


Numbers 6:24–26 ESV (Aaronic Blessing – read this as a prayer)

24 The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

This passage is known as the Aaronic Blessing. God commanded Aaron and his sons to pray this over the Israelites. This prayer emphasizes that it is God that you depend upon for blessing, keeping, grace, and peace. Take a moment and pray this prayer to God. Your sin is the cause of suffering, working to separate yourself from God, turning away from God and pursuing dark places, bringing about disgrace, and seeking chaos. Ask for and receive His forgiveness and plead for God to mercifully shine His face upon you!



Psalm 37:28 ESV (Preserve)

28 For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are
preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

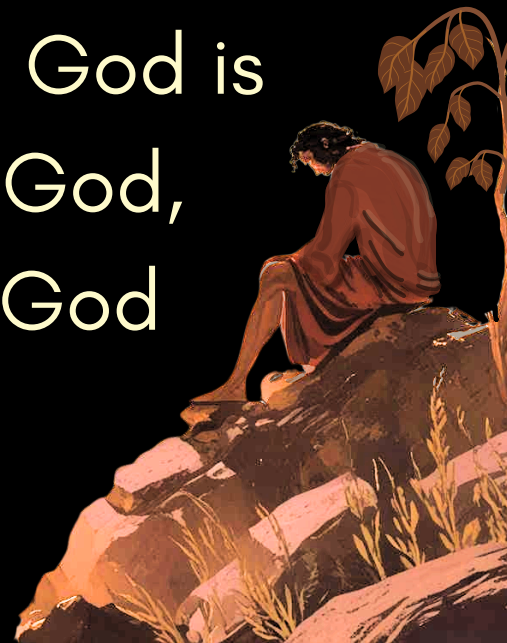
The Psalmist writes that it is God's just love that causes Him to remain close to His people (saints). This love and remaining keeps God people (preserves). You belong to God and His love will cause Him to remain close to you, even when you try to abandon Him. Pray and ask God to preserve you, even against yourself. God mercifully keeps you!



Psalm 5:11 ESV (Protection)

11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy,
and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name
may exult in you.

God directs His people to take shelter in Him. Those who depend upon
God for protection will continually rejoice forever. What an amazing
thing for you. When you shelter in God, there is joy. When we lack joy,
we're protecting ourselves. Sin deceives us that we can protect. God is
the only shelter that is true and sure. When you take shelter in God,
grow in love of His name and person and we dwell in victory. God
mercifully protects you!



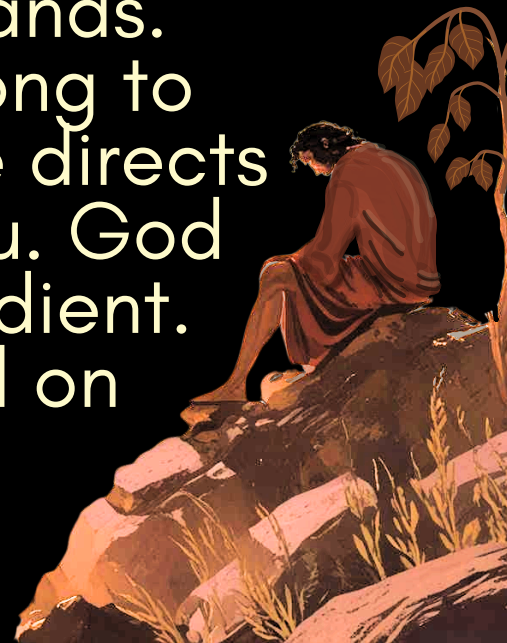
Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV (Posture)

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

A corrupt and hardened heart is a result of sin. This causes our position to God to be one of risk and suffering. We don't risk losing our salvation, God preserves us, but we risk being ignorant and rebellious. God declares that through faith, you have a new heart and a new spirit. He takes a hardened heart that is ignorant and rebellious and softens it making it responsive to Him. God removes the human spirit of rebellion and gives us the Holy Spirit. This changes our position and posture towards God. God causes us to walk in His decrees and give great attention to God's commands.

God's words, statutes and rules, are precious and good. You belong to God and want to bring God joy and find your joy in doing what He directs and tells you to do. This changes our posture. God looks upon you. God lifts your face to see Him. You grow less rebellious and more obedient.

You are weighed down less by the burden of sin, and you stand on firm ground in righteousness. God mercifully postures you toward Him!



Luke 8:24 ESV

24 And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

The storm that Jesus and the disciples are in is different from Jonah's storm. Jonah's storm was God correcting and revealing Jonah's sin. The storm that Jesus and the disciples are in reveals Jesus' authority and power as God and glorify Him. Jonah and Jesus are both asleep in a storm, but their sleep is not the same. Jonah was spiritually ignorant due to his sin and rebellion. Jesus was perfectly obedient and is at peace having all authority over nature. The same God who commanded the wind, waves, boat, and lots to expose Jonah's sin, commanded the waves and wind to cease and bring peace. Jesus mercifully keeps you in God!

