

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>:

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." (Psalm 46:7)

I have never been to Scotland, or Ireland or Great Britain, or the Holy Land to see first hand some of the magnificent castles, fortresses. I have seen pictures from those who have traveled to see such sites. I have seen pictures. They are incredible, still standing after centuries after they were built. Some of the walls are six to ten feet thick. Immovable fortresses. Yet these magnificent castles and fortresses do not even come close to the fortress of the Lord of Hosts, our Heavenly Father. The Psalmist declares that our Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Then the Psalmist creates a picture of mountains falling into the sea, even then we don't have to be afraid, for the Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress. Notice, we don't have to seek out the fortress or somehow quickly get to our fortress before trouble over takes us. The Lord of Host is with us. We are fortunate the we live in a time where there is usually plenty of warning that a storm is coming our way; a snow storm, a storm producing hail or tornados or hurricanes coming in from the ocean. With the warnings we can prepare. But other aspects of our lives, don't always have a warning, like a sudden loss of health, a death of a loved one, a job is no longer there as a company downsizes or closes. When we are assailed by such forces of brokenness, we don't have to seek a fortress. Our Lord, our Heavenl