

EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/MAY 2014

Psalm 146

[1] Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! [2] I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. [3] Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. [4] When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. [5] Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

BLESSED IS HE WHOSE HELP IS THE GOD OF JACOB, WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE LORD

[6] who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; [7] who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; [8] the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. [9] The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. [10] The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!



Where is Your Trust?

We have many ways to describe the various facets of a condition we've all struggled with: some refer to it as people pleasing, others insecurity. Some call it by the diagnoses co-dependency, while others merely call it shyness or self-consciousness. But whatever the name, the root is the same: the fear of man.

This weekend, I crossed the finish line of my first 5K. The crowds lined the

streets offering shouts of encouragement and praise: "You can do this!" "Way, to go!" Unaware that for years my desire to run was unfulfilled because I feared them.

I was the woman who, while taking walks in my neighborhood, would feel the desire to run well up within me. Then I'd look to see if anyone could see me before I began my few seconds of running. I was enslaved.



TEACHING TIP. John wrote in his third epistle, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." Are you emotionally invested in seeing your students walking in the truth?



TEACHING TIP. "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." (1 Peter 1:24-25) May the flowers of spring remind us of the matchless glory of God.



TEACHING TIP. Help your young students recognize the importance of honoring their mother; not only on Mother's Day, but by how they heed her instructions every day. (Proverbs 1:8)

We are so easily tempted to fear man, to seek our security, or place our hope in others rather than the Lord. Over and over again Scripture addresses this problem.

Speaking of the coming day of the Lord, Isaiah warns, "Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?" (Isaiah 2:22)

"It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes," declares Psalm 118:8-9.

God says to people of Judah, "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord." (Jeremiah 17:5)

The fear of man lays a snare in our lives. We become enslaved when we seek to find our safety, security, and salvation in one another. Yet we are safe when our hope rests fully in the Lord our God.

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

Imprisoned at Ravensbrück concentration camp for illegally sheltering Jews during World War II, Corrie ten Boom reflected, "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest."

In the midst of unspeakable wickedness and conditions we might not immediately recognize as safe, Corrie

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Doug Liefeld

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.

If you've attended one of our training events, then Doug was probably one of the first people to greet you. For decades, Doug has faithfully served as part of our registration team, welcoming attendees to our training. Doug, we are grateful for your quick wit, welcoming smile, and attention to detail that helps each training get off to a great start.

found rest in God's providence and protection by placing her trust in Him.

Jesus taught us this kind of trust when he instructed his disciples, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell," (Matthew 10:28) all the while reminding us of our special value to God and His intimate knowledge of us—even down to the number of hairs on our head.

I'm turning from the fear of man, so that I can freely run the race of my life as a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10) Will you?

FROM THE EDITOR

I pray you'll invite the Father to open your eyes to ways you may be ensnared because of your own fear of man. Then replace it with a steadfast trust in Him.



With trust may come many changes. Another change for me will be transitioning from serving as the editor of Equipping U to serving more specifically to women through speaking and writing. I'll miss you and I'm grateful for the years we've grown together. May our trust grow more and more until we see our Savior's face!

Serving Christ with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen

SAVE THE DATE

The 2014 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference is scheduled for October 18. Save the date and watch for details and registration information this summer!

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