

My Loved Ones:

Psalms 40:12 says, "For innumerable evils have surrounded me; / My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; / They are more than the hairs of my head; / Therefore my heart fails me."

There's an old hymn which says "O, Jesus, I Have Promised to serve Thee to the end." In it, there is a line which admits "my foes are ever near me: around me and within." Here, David admits that he has external persecution and internal pressures.

John Newton said at one time that he felt that his soul was like a besieged city: enemies surrounding, and within a traitor called our "flesh" who is in constant communication with the enemy outside (Satan and the world).

Loved ones, our lives are often like this. May we stop and remember, though, that our greatest dangers are never around us; they are in us. The greatest danger to us is always our flesh; our flesh would only add more corruption to the present bad situation.

Jesus, when on the cross could pray this prayer. He was surrounded by enemies, and the iniquity of the universe was placed on His account. His heart, when pierced by the spear, brought out blood and water - congestive heart failure; He died of a broken heart that failed Him, because He died for you and me.

There are times in which it may feel that we have pressures without and within, when maybe we've even sinned and made it worse, and get discouraged because it seems that things are more numerous than the hairs on our heads. But remember, that God has the hairs of our head numbered, and He does that to prove that He cares about us. If not one hair falls but that He knows, and not one sparrow falls but that He cares, don't you think that He cares for us when we're in bad situations? Doesn't a Father care for His children, even when they do wrong?

Yes, it looks like the problem may be part of David's own making; sometimes we get in situations like that, too. But God still cares in spite of our suffering trials and sinful tendencies. But remember that Jesus died for us: the shame of our sins - He couldn't lift His head. The sum of our sins - more than the hairs on our head. The sight of our sins - our heart gets discouraged. Since Jesus knew what He was doing for us, we know that He cares for us. We have a High Priest to Whom we can go and know that He knows what we experience. Trust Him that He cares for you.

We love you and are praying for you today, loved ones.