

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?

(verses 3-4)

I am realizing more and more how much I let fear control my life. I sat and read these two verses and let the tears flow freely down my cheeks. I wondered aloud, "What am I so afraid of?" Ultimately, am I scared of being alone? And if so, why? I don't need a man to take care of me or provide for me. God can and *will* do that.

Am I afraid of being a disappointment, or maybe even an embarrassment? Again, why? My identity is in Christ, not in anything of this world. His love for me is far greater than anything I can even imagine.

"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do,

and it gave him great pleasure."

- Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

I am a daughter of the One True King. And that love is bigger and deeper and stronger than the closest thing I can compare it to, which is the love of my parents.

You keep track of all my sorrows You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.

(verse 8)

Being that I cry all the freaking time, this verse just really tugs on my heart. It's like this painting of the best friend I could ever dream up... Holding me, rubbing my hair, tickling my back, and whispering that I am loved. That I have worth. That my life means something. And not only is He there for it all, He remembers my hurts because of His love for me. Truly, that's mind-boggling and remarkable!

This I know: God is on my side! I praise God for what he has promised; Yes, I praise the Lord for what he has promised.

I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?

(verses 9-11)

And that's exactly it...why should I be afraid? The Bible is so full of promises meant for me! Why live in fear when I can live in HOPE and in LOVE?!

I will fulfill my vows to you, O God, and will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving for your help. For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping.

**So now I can walk in your presence, O God,
in your life-giving light.**

(verses 12-13)

Just like always, we come back to gratitude. A sacrifice of thanksgiving. What I think is really cool is that I read this and in the same week, painted a piece called "Start Each Day with a Grateful Heart." It's already hanging in my kitchen. What an awesome reminder to start every day with praise for the blessings poured out on me. For the promises God has made me. For the fact that there is *nothing* I need to be afraid of. I can walk with faith and hope and love and grace because God has called me into His family. And that's a pretty great feeling.