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## Safe From Harm – Your Divine Right

By Elise L. Moore

Everyone deserves to be free from intimidation, free from bullying, attack, injury, disease. You deserve to feel safe and be safe. Whether a threat is maliciously aimed to hurt you, or you're unintentionally or ignorantly affected, you can find genuine safety and freedom from harm through reliance on God. God is not a human being, defending us one moment, then rushing off to handle another problem the next, leaving us vulnerable. God is infinite and always present Love. This divine Love is universal and operates continuously as a law of security and safety. Under this law, everyone is cared for. Just as mathematics operates on fixed principle, each individual can claim safety under the spiritual law of Love.

Acknowledging the supremacy and practicality of divine Love on earth is the first step to true security. You can begin by acknowledging that God is loving you right now. God knows you, cherishes, guards, and cares for you. God is your only Creator, your heavenly Father-Mother, and will not abandon you. Because of this, you are never alone. Love is always with you, and you can call upon divine Love's help at any moment. Even if you feel you've put yourself in harm's way, at this moment you can turn toward God and claim your eternal relationship as Love's daughter or son. In this instant, you can acknowledge God as supreme. This opens the gates of prayer, awakening us to our permanent connection with God, through which the law of Love operates to provide safety. And even without that acknowledgment of God as supreme in our lives, divine power still operates unseen or perhaps misunderstood.

We can prove this divine power by turning to God in a time of need rather than relying merely on human resources. Years ago, I was saved from rape by relying on this law of divine Love to keep me safe.

An acquaintance had stopped by my apartment to chat. When it was time for him to leave, he suddenly locked and blocked the door, violently grabbing me. He was a former football player, and I was instantly pinned and physically unable to resist. In that moment, I turned my thought completely to God in

prayer.

I've found that turning thought to God is like doing a mental "180." We can look forward in a spiritual direction and not peek back to examine details of our circumstances. Although I was still physically facing a strong attacker, I turned away from him mentally and faced God, divine Love, instead. I tuned out what the man was saying and doing. I wasn't ignoring danger, but was seeking a power beyond my own to defuse and destroy evil.

Perhaps it was natural for me to pray for help because I'd received guidance, protection, and healing from God since childhood. When I was ten, turning wholeheartedly and obediently to God had saved me from being kidnapped from a movie theater. And in the late 1960s, my mother and I had prayed for protection while leaving downtown Dayton, Ohio, as a violent race riot erupted and swept around us. I'd also been healed of the effects of a bee sting, chickenpox, and other childhood ailments by turning in prayer to God as ever-present divine Love. I didn't need to convince myself that God existed. I didn't doubt that God loved me, because I'd felt His presence. The Scriptural phrase "God is love" had been aptly illustrated in the operation of divine care throughout my life (I John 4:8). So I was already convinced that Love was present and more powerful than the strength of a football player.

I immediately turned my thought to the supreme power at hand, expecting instant help. And I got it. An inspired thought came to me. It was a Scriptural name for God that I'd been studying and striving to understand better: All-in-all.

Paul used the phrase in the Bible (see I Cor. 15:28). And Mary Baker Eddy, a remarkable healer, 19th-century theologian, and the founder of this magazine, reiterated it as a name for God in her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. She wrote this, describing God and creation: "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all" (p. 468).

By studying Paul's references and everything Mary Baker Eddy wrote about this name for God, All-in-all, I'd come to understand it as an inspired description of Him as all-embracing Love. The All-God, infinite Love, includes and embraces the totality of creation, including all men and women. When the phrase, "God is All-in-all," came to me, the spiritual insights and revelation from my research came with it. I felt God with me and knew I was safe in Love's embrace. At the same moment, I saw that divine Love was also

present with this man, embracing him, and keeping him safe from doing harm. This simple revelation and conviction was my prayer.

Safety is not reserved just for those who consider themselves to be spiritually minded. Safety, as the law of divine Love, is available to absolutely anyone. For those who might not have experienced God's love and healing power, it is still possible to follow these three guideposts to safety: 1) Acknowledge the supremacy of God, Love, on earth; 2) Turn to God; 3) Understand something about God and your relation to Him/Her.

I hadn't been pleading with God for release. Instead, I was receiving an inspired message that changed my view of the situation—and apparently changed the man's thought as well. A few minutes after the struggle began, this man left quickly without doing me harm. I had no fear of his returning. I never saw him again. But later, I learned that he'd been fired that day, and that he'd used drugs and alcohol before coming to my apartment. I felt that God had not only defended me but saved this man from doing something he would have later regretted.

Jesus taught his followers how to pray, and this approach can apply to moments of danger. In his Sermon on the Mount (see Matt., chap. 6), he instructed us to go into the prayer closet, or our inner silent thought. There we shut the door, or silence information coming from the five senses, and listen for inspiration coming from spiritual sense. This isn't so much an intellectual exercise as a spiritual discipline. Training our innermost thoughts to seek spiritual sense instead of struggling through the torrent of input from the human scene can take practice. But the result is being able to recognize and utilize the law of Love for defense and healing.

The spiritual law of Love not only protects and saves from the attack of evil but can also prevent problems. It delivers from dire situations and can act like an early-warning system. Ironically, such experiences become non-events. Since nothing bad happens, there's very little evidence to confirm evil's "non-occurrence." But the person who is praying, consciously utilizing the law of Love, can see the preventive effect.

During the Vietnam War, an angry crowd of college students surged past me as I was walking down the street. They were intent on occupying the main street in the community. Windows had been broken and businesses damaged in a previous siege. As soon as the mob swept past, I returned to my dorm room to

pray.

In praying for peace and safety, I thought about the original Hebrew word for peace, shalom. This word is rich in spiritual significance. The definition includes "peace, completeness, wholeness, safety, well-being, health." Instead of expecting something bad to happen outside, I began to acknowledge that every individual involved was already complete and safe in divine Love. Divine Love was present, and the law of safety was already governing demonstrators, police, and property. I prayed until I felt a certain conviction that each individual was God's child, protected from frustration and empowered to do only good.

I found out later that the demonstration had been peacefully resolved. No students had been harmed or arrested, nor was any property damaged. I'm sure I wasn't the only person praying that afternoon to preserve peace. But because I was praying, I was made aware of how powerful divine Love could be in preventing violence.

It's never too late to pray. Never too late to acknowledge God as supreme, and as able to bring healing and safety to your life and the lives of your loved ones. It's never too late to stop the hurt. You can take a mental stand at this very moment to neutralize the effects of random evil or senseless accidents. In fact, it isn't fair to yourself or others to let evil thoughts continue to fester, poisoning your thought and life. We need to neutralize this influence with divine Truth and Love.

I've found that the way to do this is through the Christ. Christ is the expression of divine Love. It's the message coming from God to heal and save humankind. Christ is not so much the person as the divine nature expressed and embodied by the personal Jesus. While Jesus has ascended, the Christ is still present to renew, restore, and save. Whatever has happened in your life, you can be saved from hurt and allow yourself to feel God's comfort and care.

Dropping the past is also essential in order to move forward into the present. This isn't ignoring a problem. It's giving ourselves permission to think differently. Willingness to stop rehearsing an event will help us be receptive to a solution.

One minister I met felt overwhelmed by all the challenges facing him. He was going through a crisis of faith and felt God had abandoned him. As he was

talking about this one day, I told him, "But you have heard the voice of God speaking to you, and God saved you." I said this not because I knew anything about his past experiences, but from a deep conviction in the operation of divine Love. He was silent. Then, he told me about something that had happened to him while he was a soldier in Vietnam. He was awakened one night by a thought telling him to get out of his bunk and walk away from his sleeping quarters. He did, thinking it was an officer giving an order, and a rocket landed right where he'd been sleeping. He was safe and unharmed.

Relating to me his own experience of God's protecting love changed the way he was thinking. It sparked spiritual renewal right where discouragement seemed strongest. Christ, the activity of good, began to regenerate his faith. He found employment. He was able to let old hurts go and see the evidence of the law of Love and safety operating in his life.

I haven't seen this man in 15 years, but his example still inspires me. It reminds me that no matter what has occurred in their life, each person has already heard the Christ, has already been saved by Love. As the Christ awakens each individual to acknowledge the supremacy of divine Love and understand something of the activity of God in his or her life, healing, progress, and increased safety are the result. God is present with you at this moment. The law of Love is governing, guarding, guiding you. God is always keeping you safe. And you can feel the presence of divine Love.