

Wisdom Not Worry
Friday, May 1, 2020
Psalm 91:9-10

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

"No harm will overtake you." What a staggering promise! "I've assigned my angels to guard you," says the Lord. "You won't even strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12).

Here's the problem - We know of devout Christians who are experiencing far worse than a stubbed toe! It is enough to make us wonder if His angels fall asleep on the job from time to time. Is the Lord true to his promise of protection against harm or not? The answer rests, I believe, in the difference between *hurt* and *harm*. The promise is a guarantee against *harm*, not *hurt*. To *hurt* is to experience pain whereas to suffer *harm* is to be damaged. Being Christian is not a free pass on hurt. To the contrary Jesus says, "In this world you will have pain" (John 16:33). Peter urges us not to be a bit surprised by hurt (1 Peter 4: 12). But as a Christians, we can be sure the hurt will never lead to ultimate harm. Because of Christ, Christians are like cats. When we fall, we always land on our feet! With the Psalmist we say "Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up" (Psalm 71:21).

Jesus suffered immense hurt but he was not ultimately harmed. Though He was stricken, smitten, afflicted, pierced and crushed (Isaiah 53:4-5), He was raised to life and seated above "all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Ephesians 1:21). Oh yes, in this world we will have trouble. But Jesus says, "Take heart, I have overcome the world." In him, so have we.

Grateful,
Ben