

The Children of God in Facing Tribulations

The children of God believe in several key facts:

1 - God is the source of faith and protection, and clinging to Him provides peace and tranquility to the soul:

+ *“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me.”* (Psalm 23: 4).

+ *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?... Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.”* (Psalm 27).

+ *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31).

+ *“And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by”* (Psalm 57: 1).

+ *“My soul is always in Your hands...”* (Psalm. 119: 109).



2 - True peace springs first from the heart, and it is a gift from God...

+ *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* (John 14:27).

+ *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33).

+ *“His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.”* (Ps. 112: 7).

3 – Living with Christ gives enlightenment to the soul, peaceful view on life matters, and trust that God will turn things for good to His children and to those who love Him, (Romans 8).

Also, the fervent Holy Spirit in the heart gives us wisdom to face all hardships, to succeed in our dealings under all circumstances, and to avoid evil or being drawn into returning evil with evil.



4 - We believe that God is the Pantocrator (Almighty), the one who governs well for His chosen ones, who keeps His covenant and His mercy for those who love Him with all their hearts. Also, He is always able to turn things around for the benefit of His children and the salvation of their souls.

Like the fish that preserves the sweetness of its flesh in the salty waters of the ocean, thus, Christians keep their sweetness and peace amidst the corruption and troubles of the world. They live in the world and give it light, but don't

allow the world to live in them or defile them with fear, malice, or filth.

Like so, the church sails in the violent waves of the ocean of this world, strong and stable, riding above all storms... calm like a breeze, solid as a rock, fervent in spirit, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense (Song 3:6), bright as the sun, lovely like the moon, awesome like an army with banners, (Song 6:4)..

Fr. Yohanna Naseef

fryohanna@hotmail.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL

