

Friday 17th July 2020

“Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,’
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.”

Psalm 139 v 7- 16

The words contained in this Psalm have meant so much to me throughout my life. So meaningful that I wrote them in the blank pages at the end of my Good News Bible which I used at the time. I was made aware of some of the many truths about God and his complete knowledge of me, and his love and protection upon me. He knew everything about me from the beginning even when I was growing in my mother’s womb.

In this digital age we often have to give out personal details in order to identify ourselves. We are instructed to use pin numbers, passwords, photographs, passports and if living abroad often one needs an ID card or visa. In Scotland it is mandatory to wear face coverings in shops, travelling by public transport or by air. Speaking about air travel I wondered what the procedure would be when you arrive at Passport Control with your face covered. How is facial recognition possible? When I put this question to a relative the answer I received was this: the officers would be behind screens, you would be socially distanced from those around you and you would be asked to lower your mask in order to be identified. I suppose there might be some truth in his answer.

At times we can try to hide behind a mask of our own making; using a front in our relationships with others, wanting to appear at our best to gain their approval, wishing to cover up our shortcomings and faults. It might work with others but not with our heavenly Father who knows all about us. Remember the verses written by David 11 – 12. We cannot hide from him no matter what we try. Every single person God has made is special and unique. We all have our own DNA, proof positive

how wonderfully we are created by God, down to the smallest detail. We have our own identity. This Psalm fills me with assurance of who I am in God's eyes as quoted in another Psalm 17:8 David prays "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings"

Is there anything about us that can identify us as followers of Jesus sowing seeds of hope and faith? Part of the answer we seek is contained in the scripture in Galatians 5:22-25:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit"

Heavenly Father, our desire is to be identified as belonging to You and to Jesus our Saviour by showing the seeds and fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, we ask in the name of Jesus that the work that you have begun in our lives you will carry on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.