

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Author Anna Laetitia Waring
Composer Traditional Finnish melody

Colossians 2: 2-3

John 15: 9-17

Psalms 23: 1-6

Psalms 16: 1-11

Isaiah 45: 1-7

Thoughts on the Text

We humans crave security. We lock our doors, build our fences, and gate our communities. We buy insurance, hedge our retirement, and look over our shoulders. We eat healthy, exercise, and take our vitamins, and we pray for all that we can't protect. Why then shouldn't we be shocked when something gets through our strongholds and brings pain into our worlds.

How many times had I sat and watched the evening news telling yet one more tragedy. And then in the twinkling of an eye I learned: accidents don't just happen to other people. The day came that it was my husband's picture and the pictures of three of our closest friends that were on the evening news. An airplane hadn't come home and the search of thousands of square miles in the mountains of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado held little hope. This wasn't someone else's story; this was my life they were talking about.

After three days the plane was found. In three more days was the last of four funerals. It was in the journey that followed that I learned the true meaning of "abiding" - living in the light of our only true security in this life and in the life to come: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. I found one still point, one anchor for my heart and my soul in a storm I couldn't control. And in that heavenly love, I abide deeply and securely and with great peace.

From an airplane accident to here, my song has been and shall always be:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV)