

## SETTLED CONFIDENCE

Sermon by Bill Johnston

October 22, 2017

### IN UNSETTLING TIMES THERE IS A SETTLED CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God...

#### 1. GOD IS OUR P\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 46:1-3, 2 Corinthians 12:9a, Psalms 118:5, Psalm 56:4

We need a settled confidence in God when we are facing times of \_\_\_\_\_.

We need a settled confidence in God when it seems like everything is \_\_\_\_\_.

THE OUTCOME: C\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. GOD IS OUR P\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 46:4-7, Ephesians 3:20

We discover a settled confidence in God when we realize God is greater than the things that \_\_\_\_\_.

Settled confidence has everything to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ within us.

THE OUTCOME: C\_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. GOD IS OUR P\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 46:8-11, Luke 8:22-25

We discover a settled confidence in God when we stop \_\_\_\_\_ about our circumstances and start \_\_\_\_\_ God.

“Peace doesn’t come from finding a lake with no storms. It comes from \_\_\_\_\_.” John Ortberg

THE OUTCOME: C\_\_\_\_\_

## All Kinds of Trouble

(James 1:2a)

Job 5:7 says “People are born to have trouble. And that’s just as sure as sparks fly up.” What kind of trouble have you faced in your life? Think about it in terms of 3 (or more?) kinds.



Trouble I made for myself	Trouble caused by others	Trouble brought on by circumstances

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## IN UNSETTLING TIMES THERE IS A SETTLED CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God...

### 1. GOD IS OUR PROVISION

Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

2 Corinthians 12:9a But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Psalms 118:5 When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place.

Psalm 56:4 (NASB) In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid.

We need a settled confidence in God when we are facing times of uncertainty.

We need a settled confidence in God when it seems like everything is falling apart.

THE OUTCOME: COMFORT

### 2. GOD IS OUR PROTECTION

Psalm 46:4-7 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

We discover a settled confidence in God when we realize God is greater than the things that disturb us.

Settled confidence has everything to do with the presence of God within us.

THE OUTCOME: CONFIDENCE

### 3. GOD IS OUR PEACE

Psalm 46:8-11 Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Luke 8:22-25 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and left. As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep. A storm came down on the lake. It was so bad that the boat was about to sink. They were in great danger. The disciples went and woke Jesus up. They said, "Master! Master! We're going to drown!" He got up and ordered the wind and the huge waves to stop. The storm quieted down. It was completely calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. They were amazed and full of fear. They asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him."

We discover a settled confidence in God when we stop fretting about our circumstances and start trusting God.

"Peace doesn't come from finding a lake with no storms. It comes from having Jesus in the boat." John Ortberg

THE OUTCOME: CALM

# A SETTLED CONFIDENCE

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## Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'All Kinds of Trouble' activity is related to the line in Psalm 46:1 that God is an 'ever-present help in trouble'. Read James 1:2a ("My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble." NIRV) to set the idea up about what kinds of troubles we may have in life. The page is divided into 3 kinds but maybe there are more (eg. trouble you make for others). Give time for participants to consider some of the difficulties they've faced in their lives and then take turns sharing responses.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Read [Psalm 46](#). Does anything from this passage stand out to you?

Bill shared about an unsettling situation he faced when his niece was involved in a serious car accident. What is an example of a circumstance you have faced that caused you to be 'unsettled'? Why does it seem that our minds so easily go to the 'worst-case scenario' in these situations?

Bill referred to the unanswered questions that come with our current church season of pastoral change. How are you doing with this transition time/loss of our pastor?

Bill pointed out that it can be helpful when facing difficulty if you've been through something similar before. Have you found this to be true? Have you been through a pastoral change before?

## 1. GOD IS OUR PROVISION

Focuses on [Psalm 46:1-3](#), [2 Corinthians 12:9a](#), [Psalms 118:5](#), [Psalm 56:4](#)

We need a settled confidence in God when we are facing times of uncertainty.

We need a settled confidence in God when it seems like everything is falling apart.

THE OUTCOME: COMFORT

Bill shared that the word 'trouble' can be translated as 'tightness'. Can you identify with that description? When have you experienced this?

Bill said that he felt it shouldn't have taken his opening of the ambulance door to relieve his anxiety and fear (ie. that he should have experienced 'a settled confidence' without the evidence). Does that seem possible/reasonable to you when in the midst of a possibly tragic situation?

Discuss Bill's statements that it is not that God just gives us the strength (& refuge, & help) but that He is that strength (& refuge, & help). What does it mean to have God as our actual strength, refuge and help?

## 2. GOD IS OUR PROTECTION

Focuses on [Psalm 46:4-7](#), [Ephesians 3:20](#)

We discover a settled confidence in God when we realize God is greater than the things that disturb us.

What does having God's 'protection' mean to you? Is it a guarantee of freedom from harm? (ie. will He take away whatever 'disturbs us'?)

Settled confidence has everything to do with the presence of God within us.

Can you recall what Bill said that the presence of God dwelling in us does for us? (guides, comforts, helps, protects – would you add more?) Why do we tend to forget about these things when facing a difficult circumstance? What can we do to help us remember?

THE OUTCOME: CONFIDENCE

## 3. GOD IS OUR PEACE

Focuses on [Psalm 46:8-11](#), [Luke 8:22-25](#)

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THE OUTCOME: CALM

Bill pointed out that we tend to want to eliminate trouble but what does God want to do with it? (to use it, to make it an opportunity to show the kind of God He is, to help us through it)

Read [Luke 8:22-25](#). What new things do you see in this passage? Does it surprise you that the disciples were 'full of fear' after this miracle? In this story Jesus calms the storm but what about situations you face where you seem to be in the midst of the storm? How does Jesus presence help you (ie. even if He doesn't take away the storm)?