

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me."  
(Psalm 69: 1-2)**

I can imagine God responding to David, the author of this Psalm, by saying, "I know the waters have come up to your neck, because that's where I stopped them! I have stopped them from going any higher so that your head is still above water." After all, God is sovereign, right? He is in control of all things. He sets the limits for all things. In describing His sovereign reign in the world, God said to Job: "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed.'"

The reason it is concerning when the "waters have come up to my neck," is that it wouldn't take much more for them to cover my head. In the Psalm, David also says that he can't find a "foothold." He can feel the muddy earth with the tips of his toes as he tries to keep his head above water. Could it be that the reason the water is up to his neck is that he is still trying to keep his feet in contact with the ground beneath the water? The more he reaches for the ground with his feet, the harder it is to keep his head above water.

Maybe faith has to do with forgetting about our "foothold," and simply treading water. If I am in the deep end of a swimming pool, the water is only my enemy if I want to keep my feet on the floor of the swimming pool. But if I tread water, then my head remains above the water so that I am able to keep on breathing and stay alive.

God has a way of using the struggles that I am facing as His means of keeping me close to Him. When Peter kept His sights on Jesus, he was able not to just keep his head above water, but to walk on the water as if it were solid ground. It was only when he took his focus off of Jesus that he sank in the water. Staying focused on God and His promises is what allows me to stop trying to get a foothold under the water, and to simply tread water; that is, to let God keep me afloat in the very thing that has come up to my neck.

For right now, "normal" has been put on hold. In other words, we need stop trying to keep our feet in touch with the ground beneath the waters, and just tread the waters that we are in. Faith isn't intended to be a tool for removing our problems from our lives, but rather to keep us at peace even while we are in the midst of our problems. The Apostle Paul wrote: "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12: 10)

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim