

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Proverbs 8.

Isaiah 33:2 "O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for you.

Be our arm every morning,
our salvation in the time of trouble." (ESV)

While I can not say I have carried many people in my arms (maybe my kids when they were younger or my grandkids now), I can say I have put out my arm to help many. "The arm is a symbol of strength." (Barnes)

For years, I took one of our church members to see her neurologist to receive a series of shots in her neck to treat a certain disease. At times, she was fine after receiving the shots, but at other times, I thought I would have to carry her back to my car. Many times, she took my arm as we walked together.

For her, my arms provided stability and strength. She knew she could rely on me to be next to her, to help and guide her when needed. (I was glad she took my arms because watching her take her series of shots made my knees weak.) I was blessed to stand next to her, and she was always so appreciative to have my help. We know we can not always trust in our own strength, and this is when it is nice to take the arm of another, especially God's arm.

God's arms do not mysteriously appear out of heaven for us to grab a hold of, but His strength is always available, and we know we don't have to live in our own abilities. The strength God offers begins before the dawn and does not end at dusk. His power is fresh every day. His grace is always sufficient. His mercies are new, and His compassion never fails.

Just like I would come alongside my friend, the Lord has sent us the Holy Spirit (literally, the One who comes alongside) to come next to us every day to be our strength and help in times of trouble. To be there to protect and defend us.

This was Isaiah's prayer that God would be Israel's strength against the powerful Assyrian army. God spared Judah from certain destruction by the power of His mighty arms. God will do the same for us as we pray, trust, and obey.