**Hi friends, today’s prayer theme is for safety and protection.**

*As we know the numbers for those impacted by Covid 19 are rising in our state and around the country. Many of now probably know people who have been affected. Maybe they are sick now, maybe they have died. Maybe they are quarantined. I have been thinking about you all week wondering how you are doing, and praying for you. Recently, our president and government officials declared war on Covid 19 throwing everything it has at it during this time where it is likely to peak. It feels like we are in a war zone fighting a battle with an invisible enemy. In some ways we are. Like our leaders this morning we too are going to throw everything we have at it as well. And what do we have?*

*We have our faith! We have prayer that we know changes things! We have wisdom to maintain social distancing, to stay home if we don’t need to go out, keep sanitizing the areas we find ourselves in, to keep our immune systems strong through diet, vitamins, minerals, exercise, and alleviating stress. What else do we have? We have God! If we are at war with this virus, there is no better person to go to battle for us than God. When I was a kid and I would tell my grandmother about a trouble I was having, she would say, don’t worry about it! Let God fight your battles for you. That is exactly what we are going to ask God to do this morning in our prayer as we pray for safety and protection.*

*You may want to light a candle and get your bible. I have chosen three passages of scripture to guide us in our prayer this morning.*

***The first is:***

[**Psalms 46:1**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-46-1/) - (To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.) **God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

***The second is:***

[**Deuteronomy 1:30**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+1%3A30&version=ESV)**(God sends a message to Israel)**

**The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes….**

***The third one is:***

Proverbs 18:10 **The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.**

*What I love about these passages is, that they remind us that God is in this battle with us, ready to fight for us, and we don’t have to do this on our own. That God is also a place of refuge and safety that we can run too. We can turn to God to give us what we need in moments like this to get through the day. Israel knew that God had never lost a battle. So, when they were in a fight for their lives they called on the name and presence of God. That is exactly what we will do this morning, as we invite God to fight this battle with Covid 19 to keep us and our families safe. So, thank you for joining me this morning to pray for safety and protection.*

**So, for those of you who have joined me via live stream, I invite you to repeat this prayer with me; or you can simply bow your head and let it wash over you. You can do whatever works for you. If you would like a copy of the prayer go to** [**www.spirituschristi.org/prayer/**](http://www.spirituschristi.org/prayer/) *Let us pray!*

**Prayer:**

*God! Again this morning as you instructed us to, we come boldly and with confidence before your throne of grace, drawing near to it, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need, and in the time of trouble. “*

*These are troubled times and we need your safety and protection.*

*God, we come to you because you are God, and the psalmist reminded us in the scriptures that you are our refuge, our strength, our strong tower! You are a place where we can run too to find safety and protection! So, God be a tent and a dwelling place for us! Be our fortified city! Shield us from this virus and the damage it can do and has done. We call on you to do the supernatural work of building a hedge about us. A wall of protection!*

*Jeremiah asked a question to Israel, when they needed your healing and protection.*  "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?" So God we ask, Is there no balm in Rochester? Be our balm in Gilead, *in Rochester, NY state, Chicago, Georgia, North Carolina, and every state across this nation. And every continent across our world.*

*For God you are the only one who can heal us from all of our sicknesses and diseases! You are our great physician! You have done this before! In exodus 9 when the plague hit the cattle, the horses, the ox, the donkeys and the camel in Egypt and the cattle of the Egyptians died, the story says that you preserved the lives of the Israelites even in the midst of danger and death looming the land. You made death and the plague behave. You have power over plagues, viruses, and even death! So, we call on you to run a protective shield around us where nothing will be able to get through to attack us.*

*We have an invisible enemy called Covid 19 and we call you into battle with us to take it on! Do battle with it for the sake of the people you created. God we pray that you put this virus to flight! In Isaiah 52:12 you said,****for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard****.” So be our rear guard and our front line of defense.*

*In Deuteronomy 33:27 it says that, “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms;****You will thrust out the enemy from before us, and will say, ‘Destroy****!”*

*We ask you to thrust out this virus from among us. Hold us in your everlasting arms, and be our refuge of protection and safety.*

*As this invisible enemy, and threat to our wellbeing comes in like a flood, do what you said in (Isaiah 59:19)*

 *and let* ***the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against it****.”*

 *It also says in Psalms 20: 6“****Now I know that the Lord saves God’s anointed; God that you will answer from your holy heaven with the saving strength of your right hand****.”*

*We call on that saving strength today as you hear us!*

*Finally, God we ask you to give us the authority you gave the disciples to overcome all the power of the enemy. You told them in Luke 10:19*

*“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”*

*Give us the authority to trample on this virus, to overcome this enemy of our health, so that no harm will come to your people!*

*By the authority of Jesus, God we petition you to cancel what feels like a demonic assignment of the enemy that has taken the lives of your people. Show this Coronavirus that it is not more powerful than you! Let not the onlooker say, where is there God! Show yourself strong for us! Be our shield and buckler. Your name is a strong tower!*

*This virus has come like a thief, to steal, kill and destroy. Don’t allow it to steal our safety, destroy our protection, and kill our bodies. Jesus you said in John’s gospel, that you came that we may have life, and have it abundantly. Let that abundant life wash over us! Let it preserve us, as you fight this battle for us, and keep your children safe!*

*Nehemiah in 4:20 said, “In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.” We have sounded the trumpet of our voice this morning, thank you for rallying to us here and fighting for us!*

*So, today we say goodbye to fighting this battle on our own, and hello to the confidence that you are in this fight with us, fighting for us to keep us safe! We believe you will do it in this very moment, and the moments to come! Thank you! In Jesus name we pray, and we receive your blessing in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit!*

***Amen***

***Repeat after me:*** *This battle is not mine, it’s the Lord’s. God has never lost a battle. I am not fighting alone. God will be my rear guard and my front line of defense. Because of that confidence, I can make it! That is where I will live today.*