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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 17, 2021 - Gratitude in the Storms of Life

SEPTEMBER 17TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

Jesus told us that we would have hardships ([John 16:33](#)), and He was right, wasn't He? As unpleasant as trials are, there's still reason for giving thanks. Yesterday, we looked at three provisions believers can count on during adversity: God's presence, a pathway through the trouble, and potential to grow. Today, let's explore two more.

1. Protection. God doesn't keep believers from suffering or disappointment, but He does offer protection by staying with us in the struggle. Once we trust in Jesus, God's Spirit indwells us and will never leave. What's more, we have assurance that nothing can separate us from His love ([Rom. 8:38-39](#)). So our ever-present God walks with us through the hardships, providing guidance and speaking truth into the situation.

2. Peace. While difficulties cause many people anxiety, God's peace is available to His followers. This inner serenity doesn't depend on whether circumstances improve; it's a result of our relationship with Him. For this reason, we should be more concerned about relying on God than about fixing the problem.

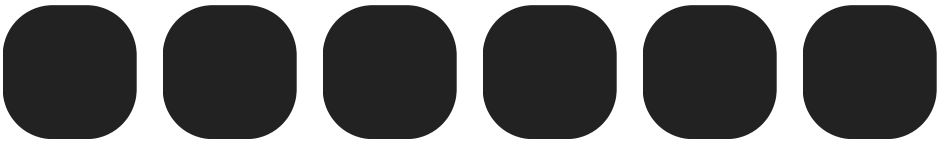
As we recognize the Lord's provision, we can genuinely express gratitude, which will fix our eyes on Him rather than on our circumstances. We may not know what the purpose is for each

trial, but we do know that our God is good and trustworthy.

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