

Week 9 - February 28-March 6, 2021

Signs

Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the Lord.

We are accustomed to seeing cardinals here in Virginia, but in Pennsylvania, where I grew up, a cardinal was a rare and wondrous sight.

When my uncle died suddenly of a heart attack, my aunt was distraught. My cousin, their only child, was living in another town so my aunt was all alone. A few weeks after the funeral, when everyone had sent their condolences, when the pie and cake plates were washed and dried and sent back to the neighbors, when the flowers had wilted and been thrown away—she was truly lost and alone.

Aunt Helen had a beauty shop in her home so she had ladies in and out all during the day. The nights, however, were so very hard to endure. The empty bed, the quiet, the thoughts of endless lonely nights stretched before her, with no one to talk to and share the day's happenings. No one to sit with her in church, no one to go on long, Sunday afternoon drives on the back roads in the country. No one to hug and no one to make dinner for. He was taken so suddenly. One minute he was sitting up in bed and the next...gone. Such black feelings or despair and helplessness surrounded her.

One night, the feelings were so bleak, so overwhelming that she cried out in anguish to the Lord. "Where are You, God? Are you even there? I need something to hang onto. Please send a sign. I need to know You care."

The next morning as she came down the stairs and looked out the dining room window—there in a lilac bush was a beautiful, bright red cardinal. It was the very sign that she needed. God, indeed, was still there, still caring, still loving. The heavy black curtain of despair began to lift. Her heart, which felt like a frozen stone, began to melt. She knew then that she would be able to go on. She would still mourn and still cry, but she would make it.

We Christians would like to feel that we won't have to endure hardships—that we are exempt from trials and tribulations that come to everyone. We aren't. What we do have is a loving God who understands all our fears, hears all our prayers. One we can lean on until we get to the other side.

Dear God,

Thank You for Your signs that assure us You won't forsake us.

Suzi Bevan

Scripture:

Psalm 5:1-2

Psalm 22:1

Psalm 28:2

Psalm 40:1-3

Psalm 46:1

Psalm 55:1-2

Psalm 62:8

