Dear Open Door Family,

It is my youngest daughter's birthday today (Happy Birthday Rachel). As I sat and thought back on her arrival and early years in this world I remembered when we lived in La Paz, Bolivia. She was not yet two but walked everywhere; it is how we got around. When we had to go somewhere together she would automatically reach up for my hand. The streets were busy; cars and pedestrians were everywhere so there was safety in hanging on to her daddy's hand. I'm sure she never thought too much about it at that age. But she could walk in safety and total security because I was holding her hand. She could trust me to make sure she did not stumble or fall because I would hold on and lift her over the cracks in the sidewalk or keep her from stepping in front of traffic. As a result, she could walk with a sense of peace and contentment. She was with her Dad and she was safe.

These verses in Isaiah should remind us that if we want to experience that same peace and security in our lives we need to Trust our Heavenly Father. We need to hold on to His Hand. Let's look at these verses together.

Isaiah 26:3-4 *(NLT) You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! [4] Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.*

Perfect Peace - wow what does that mean? Perfect means complete or genuine. Peace is a rich word which can be translated completeness, soundness, welfare as well as peace. So the statement being made is that God will bring about a genuine and true sense of security and contentedness no matter what the circumstances may be. But, there is a condition. He does this for those whose eyes and thoughts are FOCUSED on Him. We can never avoid every problem, or difficulty that comes along. But we can TRUST God to guide us through those tough times and to give us a comforting sense of His Power and Presence to carry us through. Although we cannot physically see Jesus today, we can read His words in the Bible and listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In order to do that we must take our eyes off of ourselves, off of our situation, and keep them firmly fixed on Jesus Christ. Verse four reminds us that we must ALWAYS trust God because He is like a massive Rock that cannot be moved or shaken. If our confidence is in the Lord who never changes, who cannot be moved, then we know He will give us the perfect peace and assurance that He has promised.

PRAYER: Lord, there are so many things that can bring fear and doubt into my life. I can give in so easily and keep asking over and over "what if?" Please Lord Jesus, help me to hang on to your hand. May I trust YOU no matter how difficult things may seem. I believe and I trust You... help me to keep on Trusting and Resting in You.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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