

2. What about safety needs? What can a Christian say about the heavy burden of anxious care some people experience over their safety and the safety of their loved ones?

Here we may be tempted to take the view of stoicism, develop a stiff upper lip; say, "Whatever will be, will be"; or retreat into fatalism and say (as so many military personnel in front-line combat have said): "If a bullet has your name on it, there's nothing you can do about it."

Or we may take the view that God has a great Plan that includes all events, and that (with some exceptions) we do not know how that Plan works out in a particular set of circumstances until after the fact. We can know that God is in control of the universe and rules and overrules it for His glory and our good. We can know that we are in God's hands and that He is vitally concerned for our well-being. We can know that if it is His will (not fate!) that we live, or that we die in natural catastrophes or accidents or at the hands of wicked men, His will will be done, and no human being can overpower Him or frustrate His purpose. If it is His time to take us home, nothing can prevent it.

And we can pray for God's protection from harm to ourselves and to our loved ones, and know that if what we pray for fits in with His purpose, He will grant our request and keep us from harm.

3. What about belongingness and love needs?

The Bible is clear on the fact that God by His Spirit unites every believer to Christ and to every other believer in His Church. This provides a social network in which we can have our belongingness and love needs met.

In addition to this already existent framework in which we are accepted unconditionally simply because we are in Christ, we are urged to