He Still Holds You

Isaiah 41:10 – "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my "righteous right" (in Hebrew it refers to power, strength, and honor) hand.

I don't know about you, but sometimes it feels like the world has shifted beneath my feet. The headlines don't always make sense. The leadership that is guiding us as a nation seems oblivious to what is going on. The bills keep coming. The pressure keeps building. The promises of equality seem delayed. The violence, the worry, the weariness, it all adds up. And for many families today, it feels like we're standing on unsteady ground, trying to hold it all together when so much seems to be pulling us apart.

If that's where you are today, you are not alone. Isaiah 41:10 speaks directly to this moment, your moment. It's not just a verse for ancient Israel. It's a word that still walks the streets of Chicago, Memphis, and Alton, Illinois. It knocks on doors and whispers in our ears in the midnight hours when sleep won't come.

God tells us, "Do not fear, don't panic, do not lose hope." He says "Do not fear," not because life is easy, but because He is present. God does not deny that the storms are real. He doesn't pretend the trauma isn't deep or the struggles do not come every day. He simply reminds us, **"I am with you."**

You must remember. You are not alone in this. Not in your parenting. Not in your finances. Not in your prayers for your children to make it home safe. Not in your anxiety about the future. God is not far off. He's not hiding in the heavens, indifferent to our pain. No, He says, *"I am with you."* That's covenant language. That's "berith." That's personal. The God we serve is **personal**.

To Black mothers trying to raise children in a world that too often sees them as threats before it sees them as blessings—God sees you. Every tear you cry in prayer, every worry that keeps you up at night, every decision you second-guess—He sees it. And He says, "Do not be dismayed, for I am your God."

To Black fathers holding a family together, navigating a job that underpays or a system that undervalues, He is still your God. He hasn't left. The God we trust has not gone silent. The world may not honor you the way it should, but the One who made you calls you His own. He says, "I will strengthen you." Not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, and

mentally. When you think you can't go any further, He steps in and gives you more than strength, He gives you Himself. He reminds us "in our weakness He gives us strength."

We have known the trauma of slavery, the sting of segregation, the fight for civil rights, and the ache of injustice. And even today, the systems don't always consider us as they should. That pain hasn't fully passed.

And in times like these, fear becomes familiar. Fear that we won't have enough. Fear that our children will be misunderstood, mistreated, or taken too soon. Fear that our future is fragile. But God speaks into that fear—not by minimizing it, but by meeting it. He doesn't say, "You shouldn't feel that way." He says, "Feel what you feel, but remember who I am." And do not fear, "I am with you."

This is not a distant God talking. He is not a passive reality. This is a righteous "right-hand" kind of God. God is saying, "When you can't hold it together, hold on to Me, and I will hold you."

Blessings,

Pastor Gool