

I DECLARE WAR

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS”

Worship is my weapon

PSALM 46; MATTHEW 5:43-45A; 12:36-37; 1 PETER 4:12-13, 19; HEBREWS 11:35-38

1. What is your favorite old(er) hymn? Why does the hymn resonate with you so strongly?
2. Read Hebrews 11:35-38 and 1 Peter 4:12-13, and verse 19. Does trouble surprise you? How do you understand ‘suffer according to God’s will’?
3. The background to the hymn suggests that singing in worship was an important element to Luther gaining courage in difficult days. Worship helped Luther when troubled ‘targeted’ him. How would you respond if trouble ‘targeted’ you?
4. “Maybe the reason (sung) worship is not so important to some of us is because it’s never had to be.” Would it be correct to suggest that worship wars would be less common if targeted trouble was more common? Does the importance of worship become more important when our environment becomes more hostile?
5. Worship is our weapon because when we worship our attention, affection, and adoration is placed on God. In worship the ‘they’ (who troubles us) and the ‘that’ (what troubles us) fade in the face of our ‘ever-present’ help. How easy is it for you to worship when troubled? What lessons have you learned that help you offer a ‘sacrifice of praise’?
6. Believers in persecuted countries see loving those who trouble us as a sign of spiritual maturity. What would help you look beyond those who trouble you to the point where you would be truly free to win those people to Jesus?
7. Worship is our weapon because through worship we speak truth about how mighty our God is. Read Proverbs 18:20 and Matthew 12:36-37. What words characterize your response to trouble: faith-filled, angry, or empty? Why is that?