

## **"We Can Escape to God"**

**By Pastor Francis**



So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. (Psalms 55:6).

My favorite animals are birds. Any kind of birds. Whether it's their sweet singing at dawn, the fluttering of their wings, or the soaring of the eagle through the skies, birds are mysterious creatures. They are the epitome of what it means to be free. And we all want to be free.

This is the longing of the Psalmist. He wants to escape to some quiet refuge. Harassed by his enemies, assailed by the terrors of death, clothed with horror, weary of life in the cruel city, he wishes he could be like the dove which he watches swinging its flight to its nest in the clefts of some inaccessible precipice, far from the haunts of men. So he laments, "Oh, that I had the wings of dove! I would fly away and find rest; surely, I would flee far off; I would lodge in the wilderness; I would soon find me a refuge from the sweeping wind, from the tempest (Psalm 55:6-7)."

The great tragedy is that the psalmist's friends have turned into enemies. With intense pain and anguish, he laments: "It is not an enemy who reviles me, I could bear that; it is not my foe who vaunts himself against me - I could hide from him; but it is you, my equal, companion, my friend; sweet was our fellowship; we walked together in God's house" (Psa. 55:12-14; John 13:18).

I have no doubt that, we all have been betrayed by friends, and like the Psalmist, yearn to flee to a place of refuge. Thankfully, we can take comfort in the fact that our God is the safest refuge. We can escape to Him. The psalmist encourages us to "Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved (Psalm 55:22; see 1 Peter 5:7).

Let us be mindful that the LORD may not necessarily remove the burden, but He will give the strength to bear it, upholding you lest you should fall under its weight. And, we should also remember that, though we may be in distress for a while, there will be an end to our suffering. We shall find rest.