



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” -Psalm 56:3

This is the person of faith that I want to be each day and in every situation, *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”* Why do I put my faith in so many false structures and systems? When I am afraid sometimes I put my trust in money, religion, business, strength, sports teams, or even recognition. When I am afraid I am not thinking clearly. I am learning in life that I truly do need to practice faith just like I practiced 100 free throws every single day all summer in order to be able make 16 out of 18 during a very rough game. I didn't think, I just stood on the line and shot. I practiced during times of no pressure so when the pressure came I knew how to stand, which foot to put pressure on, and where to place my eyes no matter how loud the fans were cheering or the other team was trying to distract me. I also practice trust on sunny days. I also practice trust when there is enough money in the bank. I also practice trust when everyone is healthy at our house. I also practice faith when I get enough sleep. I practice trusting in God when there is no pressure, no cancer, no hospital bills, no depression, no pain, and no fear so that *“when I am afraid, I put my trust in God.”*

As most of you know, thanks to the kindness of Make-A-Wish and Holmes Murphy & Associates, Ellis, Simon, Bridger and I went to Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas for 5 nights and 6 days. As we had time to reflect, relax, swim, play and be lavished, I remembered the fear of the nights in the hospital room watching Ellis receive chemotherapy. I remembered cold of winter while floating in the ocean in paradise. In this time of pure gift I was reminded that my trust in God does not change but rather my momentary perception. If it is all about me bolstering enough trust I will fail, instead I let go. I name the fear, anger, disappointment, loss, exhaustion or mistake and trust that *“nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, “Beliefs have become unimportant to me. Faith as radical trust became even more important to me.” My hope and prayer is *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”* Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Lori L. Hope