



*May the Lord give strength to His people! May the Lord bless His people with peace! (Psalm 29:11).*

This chosen theme precedes David's song in Psalm 30: *...weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning* (Psalm 30:5b, AKJV). You all know me by now; I get great strength from the Psalms, closing out our confidence in God as a call away from all the hate, disrespect, terrors and cynicism of this age, stepping boldly into a new year with David's call to confidence, *I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."* (Psalm 91\*:2 NIV).

\*Note: The Roman Numeral for 91 is "XCI". X is 10, C is 100 & I is 1; therefore, 10 from 100 is 90, plus 1 is 91 = VOL. XCI !!!

Precious faith family, as we step into the first season of the Christian church year leading up to Christmas (Advent, the Latin, "adventus" for "coming."), we are coming in preparing our homes, hearths, and hearts for celebrating the birth of Christ on earth, and His coming again at His return!

It is with this certain confidence that reminds us: *for the Lord shall be thy confidence* (Proverbs 3:26a, AKJV). The word confidence is a strong noun for: a feeling of belief that one can rely on someone or something with a firm trust! Bingo, agree?

AND, there are five "C"s to that confidence: Communication, Clarity, Connections, Community, and Courage. Now that is a "powerful pentagon" with five equal parts of possibilities to build on....We **communicate** with and in prayer with our Heavenly Father; we listen for **clarity** in His pathways for us through Scripture; we witness and pray and stay with our church family, cherishing those **connections**; we do in-service and serving others in our **community** according to our gifts, and we take **courage**, empowering strength, from all the promises throughout scripture: of His LOVE for us, with unquestionable confidence! The word dates back to a Latin word, "confidere" which simply means Trust. What JOY to TRUST in unmerited confidence....the Grace of God.

\* In closing, I want you to look back at the top once more at the simple Roman Numeral for 91; XCI. I was struck myself at the simple: X for the Cross, the C for Christ, and the I as being: **He IS The ONE.**

I remain firm in my joy serving you in this capacity and wish many blessings on your Christmas season and Advent that brings you to the foot of the cross.

Sincerely, Pat Reck, your HUG Author