Title: Beauty for ashes

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John 16:33 (NKJ) "...In this world you will have <u>tribulation</u>; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

## **Tribulation**

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Pressure
Oppression
Stress
Anguish
Adversity
Affliction
Crushing
Squashing
Squeezing
Distress
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Psalm 91:1-2 (NKJ) He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

# A place of safety

### 1. Believe the truth

Psalm 91:4 (NKJ) His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

It is only lies that can take us captive.

Psalm 27:5 (NKJ) "...in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me..."

The true you and me and hidden in God.

## 2. Choose love over fear

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJ) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of <u>power</u> and of <u>love</u> and of a <u>sound</u> <u>mind</u>.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but gives us the power to choose love, which will lead to a sound mind.

## 3. Trust Him

**Romans 8:38&39 (AMP)** For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

### **God's comfort**

Matthew 5:4 (NKJ) Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed and enviably happy [with a happiness produced by the experience of God's favour and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!

Psalm 23:4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff they <u>comfort</u> me.

**2 Corinthians 1:3&4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all <u>comfort</u>, <u>who comforts us</u> in all our <u>tribulation</u>, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

# Song: Beautiful things

All this pain

I wonder if I'll ever find my way

I wonder if my life could really change at all

All this earth

Could all that is lost ever be found

Could a garden come up from this ground at all

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

All around

Hope is springing up from this old ground

Out of chaos life is being found in You

You make me new

You are making me new