

Christmas can be especially difficult for families with loved ones in the military. The following prayer, based on Psalm 91, by my daughter Sarah Pollock, depicts God's unwavering heart for the soldier. "Do not be afraid" were the angel Gabriel's words to Mary; "for you have found favor with God."(Luke 2:30) May you and your military loved one rest secure in the favor and in the company of The Commander, Jesus Christ, this Christmas. Mary Lambrecht

Cadence 91

For all the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom

By: Sarah L. Pollock

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Soldier, when you're out in the hot desert sun
and the stagnant air envelops you,
clings to your skin,
and weighs down your every breath,
Breathe this.

When the pale dust settles on your boots at every step
until you can barely make out the cross
you drew on the toes with your sweaty finger
a mile ago,
Reach down and trace that cross again.
Believe this again:

I camp in the tent of my Commander;
I'm at ease in His presence.
I trust Him with my life.

I know only He can save me
from roadside bombs
from mortars and rockets
from sniper fire
from despair
from boredom
from fear.

He'll watch my back—He's got me covered.
I rely on Him; He steadies me.

I'm not afraid
of the insurgents who prowl in the darkness

of suicide bombers
of foreign fighters infiltrating the borders
of protestors
of bad press.

Those around me may be
demoralized
in despair
cynical
disillusioned
without hope,

But I am not.
Secure in my Commander, I press on.

I am well-guarded;
My Commander has a battalion of heavenly forces
mobilized for my protection.
They surround me wherever I go—
they march before me,
ride beside me in the convoys,
watch my back on every mission,
sit beside me in the guard tower,
cover me completely when I'm under attack.

I know my Commander.
He'll rescue me from any trouble,
He'll protect me,
mind, body, and spirit.
He'll watch over
my marriage, my children, my family.
He won't leave me behind.
I'm one of His.

Soldier,
live in the shadow of your Commander.
Stay within His mighty protection.
Wait for His deliverance.
Live on His strength.
And always
always
hope.

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