

*But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord  
I say, "You are my God."  
My times are in Your hand*

What is living in community? Most of us would focus on groups. Let's approach this from a different perspective. Let's view community as one on one.

My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1960. The treatment was barbaric. A double mastectomy and massive doses of radiation to her abdomen. In 1961 she was in remission. If she remained in remission for five years she would be considered cured. Her routine exam in 1966 revealed cancer. Prognosis- Terminal. Devastating news. From cured to cancer ravaging her body in moments.

Her response was to lean on the Lord, Psalm 31: 15, My times are in Your hand. She stayed active in women's society, the prayer circle, and attending church. She continued living in community. Even when bedridden she accepted individual visitors. After her death our pastor offered these words in her eulogy, "I visited Emily in her last days. When I left I always felt I had been the most blessed by our time together." Even as life was ebbing away she affected community one person at a time.

Pastor Bec challenged us in week 3 of our recent 12 step sermon series, to give God the key to the areas of our lives we keep from God. One key many of us retain is time. Try praying, "My times are in Your (God's) hand." Then listen and follow God's prompting.

Let's close with the first verse of one of my mother's favorite hymns:

My times are in Your hand  
My God, I wish them there,  
My life, my friends, my soul I leave  
Entirely to thy care.

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