

## *Pk's Perspectives ... Spider Webs*

Several years ago, I came across this story in an email devotional written by Os Hillman.

*During World War II, a U.S. Marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades. Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves.*

*Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed. As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me."*

*After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. he thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he noticed a spider beginning to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched — listening to the enemy searching for him all the while — the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. "Hah," he thought, "what I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web! God does have a sense of humor."*

*As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. "Lord, forgive me," he prayed, "I forgot that with You a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."*

If true, this Marine's story of God's provision & protection is amazing; if not, the story is a great parable about God's provision & protection! Listen, we all face times of intense conflict or testing or temptation. When we encounter these challenging moments, it is so easy to forget that God is already prepared to provide for us, protect us, and deliver us through the challenge. Think about it this way: before we even sense or come up against the conflict, temptation, or test...God is already in the middle of the challenge, preparing the way for us. We just need to remember that God may work in a totally unexpected way — like sending a web-making spider rather than providing a brick wall!

God declares in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (ESV) Philip Yancey reminds us that "a God wise enough to create me and the world I live in is wise enough to watch out for me." And John Newton describes the provision and protection of God this way: "If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us, His arm over us, His ear open to our prayer - His grace sufficient, His promise unchangeable." When a storm is brewing in your life, emulate King David's strategy from Psalm 18:6 - "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help..." Grace & peace, love you. PK