

Reflections on the River

Standing on Solid Rock

Scripture - Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.

“A secure footing matters most when the current grows strong.”

Every river angler learns to respect the stones beneath the water. Some are firm and dependable. Others roll without warning, hide beneath silt, or become slick with algae. What looks stable from above may shift the moment weight is placed upon it.

The same is true in life. We build our confidence on many things: health, plans, finances, reputation, routines, and relationships. These gifts can be good, but none of them was designed to carry the full weight of our trust.

Scripture repeatedly describes God as a rock. The image speaks of strength, permanence, refuge, and dependable support. When circumstances change, His character does not.

Standing on solid rock does not mean storms will avoid us. It means the foundation beneath us remains secure when the rain falls, the water rises, and familiar landmarks disappear.

An angler crossing a difficult stream does not leap carelessly from stone to stone. Wise movement is slow and deliberate. Each step is tested before the next is taken. Faith often grows in that same steady rhythm.

We would sometimes prefer God to show us the entire crossing. More often, He gives enough light for one faithful step. Trust is formed as we place our weight on what He has already revealed.

Solid footing also changes how we face fear. We may still feel the force of the current, but panic no longer has to control our decisions. We can pause, pray, and move with wisdom.

There are moments when the safest choice is to turn back, seek help, or wait for the water to fall. Trusting God is not the same as proving our courage. Humility is often part of standing firmly.

Christ is not only a place of safety in crisis. He is the foundation for ordinary days: how we speak, how we forgive, how we work, and how we respond when no one is watching.

A strong foundation is built before the flood arrives. Daily prayer, attention to Scripture, worship, and honest community deepen our roots so that we are less easily swept away.

The river reminds us that stability is not found in avoiding every current. It is found in knowing where to place our feet. God remains the solid rock beneath every changing season.

Reflection

- What temporary source of security are you tempted to treat as a permanent foundation?
- Where is God asking you to take one careful, faithful step?

- Which spiritual practice helps you remain grounded when circumstances become uncertain?

Naturalist's Note

River rocks may look motionless, but floods can move even large boulders and reshape an entire channel. Stable bedrock beneath the stream is different: it forms part of the enduring structure through which the river flows.

Prayer

Lord, You are my rock and refuge. When the current grows strong, steady my heart and guide my steps. Help me build my life on Your truth rather than on circumstances that change. Give me courage, wisdom, and humility as I follow You. Amen.

On the Water This Week

During your next outing, slow down whenever you enter or cross the stream. Test each step before committing your weight, and use the moment to remember one truth about God that gives you firm footing.