

Wednesday Devotional (10/01/25)

Good devotional for us in the world we live in

Hinge of Protection By Kathleen Ruckman

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

Rocky appeared in our backyard out of the blue. My two young sons found him roaming through the moist, lush grass at our home. They let him be, allowing him free range. The timid reptile appeared and disappeared but made our yard its home for at least a year.

Box turtles are a unique species with an artistically decorated shell and gentle demeanor. Most die in infancy when their shells are weakest, but those that survive can live to be thirty to fifty years old. Most wild turtles live in climates where they need to hibernate for three to five months of the year during cold weather to stay alive, secure in their shells.

What fascinates me most is that box turtles have a “hinge” on the lower shell that allows them to retract, leaving no body parts exposed, to protect them from predators.

Several years passed where my children could not find Rocky and thought he had died. Then, shortly before we moved to our new home, the turtle appeared just as mysteriously as before. The kids found him near the grassy border of the patio, as if he had come to say goodbye.

Rocky, the elusive turtle, still comes to mind. Our Creator offers me armor too, hinged securely by faith in him. I am reminded to not allow even the slightest crack open to enemies such as hate, unforgiveness, apathy, or anything that wars against my soul – but to abide in God’s love.