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What Does the Bible Say About Psalms 91?

Psalms 91:1 - Are You Looking for a Safe Place?

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Can you envision a shelter so safe, so secure, that nothing could hurt you or even touch you in any negative way? Can you imagine a love so pure, so complete, that you would never want for love again, in any other form? Are you able to think of anywhere that you could hide that would keep the world from chipping away at your sanity? Can you imagine a place where you can truly relax and rest, letting down your guard? Are you able to think of even One Person Who could make you feel this safe, this secure? If you can't, then you have never been to the secret place.

Just what IS this secret place, you ask, and how do I get there? When can I go? Who is with me? Is it really that safe? Let's explore those things.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High". First we want to find out who the 'he' is and what these things mean. I know this may seem easy and a 'yeah, and?' comes to mind, BUT in order to really find this place, you must go deeper than what the surface tells you. The 'he' is the one who seeks this place. That would be YOU! If you decide to seek it, you will find it. It's a solid truth that the Lord has told us.

Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

If you are simply shopping, simply casually checking things out to see if you like it, you will not find this place. In fact, if all you are doing is a quick look-see, then it will never be a part of your life. How do I know this? The next part tells me that. The word 'dwell' is an old English word that means 'to live' in a place. You must make a conscious effort to go there and then it's the place you choose to stay. Make no mistake, this is a spiritual place and you don't just get in your car, go on the subway or catch a plane. There is a secret to the secret place. You get there in prayer. *OUCH*! I can hear you now. In fact, I have said probably all of these things myself. "Now that's something I don't have TIME to do. I'm a busy person. There are the kids to get ready, breakfast, go to work, travel time, the boss wants 120 percent from me. No time to fix my boat or go out on it (if not a boat, insert anything taking more of your time than you can really spare). Can't do everything everyone has to have from me. Don't even talk to me about what I WANT to do. And THEN IF I have time, I might be

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able to watch my favorite show on television. Everyone wants something from me. I'm looking for five minutes for myself, MYSELF. How am I ever going to have the time to pray?"

Folks, if you can't find the time to talk to the Lord, there will never ever be time to rest, relax and get comfortable with God or anything else in your life, for that matter. If you can't find the time, He can't help you with anything. He can't be a part of your life in the way He wants to be. I cannot stress enough the need to be in close harmony with the Father. If you go there, He WILL protect you, guide you, help you. No matter what your problems, your cares of the world, He can deal with it, if ONLY you will let Him. So, the secret place must be very close to God, very close indeed, for Him to be that concerned about you getting there. We know that He's there because it says 'of the most High'. That's a description of God. 'Most High' tells us one more very important fact as well. There is no higher than He. Did you get that? Nothing and no one is higher than our Father. If God is the highest and there is no other, then that TRULY would be a safe and secure place.

"shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Now I don't know about you but I certainly want to be (abide) under His Shadow because He IS the Almighty. If the Lord is the best there is, if He is the top of the line, if He is the strongest, most powerful, most full of love, most compassionate, most giving, most caring, most everything you can think of, then why would you want to be anywhere else? But it takes prayer and seeking. It takes a diligence that most people don't seem to have the time or the interest in giving. Let me ask you this. If God could give you breath, couldn't you find time for Him? If God could sacrifice His OWN Son for you, isn't it good to give Him some of your valuable time back? If the Almighty Presence in your life gives you the choice of life, isn't it time we became grateful and give Him some attention? It would seem to me that we should make talking to the Lord each and every day a priority, the first thing we do.

A question here, am I condemning you for not doing this? No way! I want only to encourage you, to show you that there IS a better way, there is a better place than in your misery, your pain, your heartbreak. Don't feel guilty that you haven't achieved this yet. Be strong in the Lord and powerful in His might! Determine that you will find the time in order to seek this most precious shelter. But what is SO valuable about this place? If safety, security, and love are not enough, maybe it isn't where you need to be, but I want that place. There is a yearning in my heart to be closer than I have ever been to my Lord. It does take diligence, and yes, time to get there, but once you achieve this goal, you will KNOW just how precious and personal your walk with the Lord can be. And you know what? There is one more extremely valuable commodity associated with being in that secret place. PEACE!!!

If you want to be in this place and you want to have the assurances that come with this place, please take the time now to ask the Lord Jesus into your heart. He died for you so that you might have life. Ask forgiveness for your sins and then tell Him thank you!

To reach that secret place, just saying a few words to the Lord each day or a couple of

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minutes of your time, is not going to do it. This takes time and getting to know your Father, talking to Him on a regular basis, getting to a point of friendship. Yes, I said friendship. Then you come to a place of relationship and out beyond that is fellowship. It's like a trip to the stars. When you get there, you will KNOW how truly worth it this is. It IS worth the journey.

Psalms 91:2 - A Safe Haven?

"I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Often we put our trust in things and people without really thinking about it. For instance, when you go into a room that's dark you automatically, without thinking about it one little bit, turn on the light switch fully expecting it to work. No surprise when it does what it was intended to do, is there? Why is that? Because you trusted the light switch to work and you trusted the light to come on. You paid the light bill. The switch is working. The result is the light coming on.

I realize that this sounds pretty basic. The thing is, it should be just as basic to count on the Lord for everything in our lives, yet do we really do that? Sadly, for the most part we do not. Folks want to trust the Lord but when push comes to shove, they fall back on things they know and do the quick fix which many times ends up being less than the Lord wants for them. From the first time I can remember, I was taught to be self reliant, to do things myself, count on myself. You've heard it before. 'If you want a job done right, do it yourself!' But is that really the best way? The Psalmist talks about the Lord as if He is the safety net, the place of security. Now, why would he do that? His trust in the Lord God shows in each verse and line. He tells us right from the beginning in the first verse about being in the shadow of the Almighty.

"I will say of the Lord"

Let's just stop a moment. What can you say of the Lord? What has He done for you? If you can't recall anything that He has done, please take one deep breath. There, now you have something that He has done for you. What do you mean? If it were not for the Lord, you would not be taking that breath. When the Psalmist talks about the Lord, it is with reverence. He cares deeply about what he says concerning the Father. This tells me that the next line should be very important to the speaker.

"He is my refuge and my fortress"

Picture in your mind the sturdiest building around. Construct a wall around it made of the best and strongest material available. Nothing can come in without permission. No outside interference of any kind is possible. Does this sound safe and secure to you? It does to me. 15 times in the scriptures there is mention of a 'fortress' and in most cases, it

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means a stronghold, a place that is solid, fortified and secure. This would, indeed, be a refuge. 46 times, the bible talks about the word 'refuge' and each time it is saying that a particular place is a haven of safety, secure, restful. The Psalmist is making it quite clear that under the shadow of the Lord is where he chooses to be safe. His confidence is in the Lord to provide this environment.

"my God; in Him will I trust"

The speaker declares Who he is talking about, then proceeds to tell us that above all, he trusts the Lord. It almost sounds like he repeats himself from <u>verse one</u>, doesn't it? One of the things I have learned over and over again with the Lord is that if something is repeated, then it gets more important with each restating. In the verse one, he talked about a secret place, followed closely by being in the shadow of the Almighty. Now, he tells us that this secret place is a stronghold, a fortified place, making it more secret and secure. Then he relates that he trusts in the Being that maintains this secret place.

We must learn to put our trust in our Father first. He is our Creator, our Provider, our Safety. It is possible to use this Psalm as a prayer. I've found out that putting myself into the Psalm makes it personal to me. When the Lord gets personal, THEN you have a remarkable relationship with Him. I want to continue that into fellowship, don't you?

Would you like to know the Father better? Take this opportunity to look over the whole Psalm, putting yourself into the place of the speaker. At first, it may seem difficult to do but once you start doing this, you will find it becomes easy. And then, one day you will notice that you and the Lord are walking closer together! What a blessing of God.

Psalms 91:3 - Out of bondage

"Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence."

For the first two studies, we have noticed that in each verse the predominant thought and surety from the Lord is safety and security. We can dwell (which means 'live') in the shadow of the Almighty God and a declaration that He is a fortress, a refuge, and a personal Lord. Everything about the first two verses suggests or states that David has a relationship with the Father. One of the things that is very clear throughout the bible is that if God gives it to one, then He will give it to others because He is not a respecter of persons. It is then not surprising that He would continue these things in the third verse.

"Surely he shall deliver thee"

The word 'surely' is not a wishful thought as it would seem to be in our current language. Someone might say 'surely he will do what he is supposed to" in the hopes that the person would

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honor his promise. The original Hebrew says something different about Jehovah. It means 'with a certainty', guaranteed, promised and delivered. In other words, there is absolutely no doubt that He will do what He has promised to do, in this case 'surely he shall deliver thee'. The word 'shall' also gives this certainty. Again, in today's language, shall might mean 'it's a possibility but not for sure'. In the verse, it means a rock solid promise that He will do what He says. And if you have made this Psalm a personal prayer then you also know that 'thee' means you! Think about this for a moment. Put your thoughts on the first three verses of the Psalm. The guarantees are awesome, aren't they? Now place yourself into the Psalm. Make it personal to you. "Surely he shall deliver ME (and my family)"Let that roll around in your mind for a few moments. Begin to see what the Lord has for you here.

"from the snare of the fowler"

Most of us know that a snare is a trap set up for us to fall into, to catch, hold, and keep us from being on the path. Just imagine that you are walking in the woods on a beautiful day. Everything is going well. Suddenly, you are caught by a snare that a trapper has set. Struggling to get out, there's no way to release the contraption. Now the day doesn't seem so bright anymore. You have an emergency situation. If there had been a warning or a sign, that would have helped. Our Father gives us that sureness of knowing that if we walk with Him, He will deliver us from that snare. He would show us where it is and how to avoid it. As for the fowler, he is the trapper, the entangler. He tries to get us so caught that we can't get out, no matter how we struggle. But the Lord is the way out. He offers us protection, even when we are silly enough to get ourselves trapped in the first place. What a blessing!

"and from the noisome pestilence."

When I read this part years ago, the first thing that came to mind was some annoying, naggy type person who will not be quiet when the one thing you need is silence.

That would be an extremely 'noisome pestilence'. The Strong's Concordance is more graphic. The word 'pestilence' means a destroying plague. That goes beyond an annoyance. This is life threatening! Do not forget that when the Lord speaks, it's about spiritual things first so this is a threat to your spiritual life and is obviously loud, naggy, pushy. That description fits the devil and he is definitely the destroyer. Again, let's stop and think about this for a minute. God is giving us safety, security, shelter, and comfort. He is a fortress for us, not just in time of need but all of the time. He guarantees us that He will deliver us from the traps of the trapper and from the noisy threat to our spiritual lives. This is PERSONAL! He is doing that for me, for you! What a comfort that is, especially in a time of need or stress.

Come out from the world today. Join the Lord God in that wonderful place where He dwells and wants you to dwell in also. Warning. No one get the idea that He is talking about taking your life to get to this place. NO WAY! He is talking about you coming to Him spiritually and dwelling in Him spiritually. This is a place one can go to be more alive, where one can cope with the things that are hard to deal with!! It is not a way out of life but a more sure way to enjoy the Lord and the

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life He gave you. Get into His safe harbor and allow Him to protect you and your family in these times of increasing danger. The Lord has given us His promises of something wonderful if we do this:

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In each verse, the Lord talks about one very precious word, something quite rare these days in this world, PEACE. You need not be afraid of things nor allow your heart to be troubled by circumstances. The Father gives you HIS peace. Jesus leaves you with HIS peace. One more time, let's stop and think about this for a moment. What would peace mean to you? What is that 'noisome pestilence' in your life? Come to the secret place.

But how do I get there? The verse in Philippians tells us. Prayer. Talk to the Father like He is your best friend. When I was out on the road 24/7, I really had no time to sit and pray with my eyes shut, talking in a 'thee' and 'thou'. The job required my attention and my eyes almost all the time. One day, it occurred to me that I could talk to the Lord (gasp) with my eyes open as I drove down the road! Not only that but He didn't see a need to hear me talk in Elizabethan English either. Isn't it funny how we tend to make things harder than they need to be? If the Lord is my Friend, then I should be able to converse with Him like I do a friend. I tried that. IT WORKED!! Did you know that God talks to you in straight conversation, no matter what language you use? What an eyeopener that was. So the answer then is to go to the Lord in prayer and He will lift you into that special place.

Come dwell in the secret place of the Most High in the shadow of the Almighty today. He is waiting for you.

If you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior or if you have prayed that prayer but are not where you should be, please take the time now to talk to the Father.

Father, I have sinned and done things so wrong that I did not believe that You would forgive me. However, I am coming to You now asking that You forgive all my sins. Please cleanse me of all those things I did. Jesus, come into my heart and live with me forever. Guide me in the path I must take. Send Your Holy Spirit to me to fill me to overflowing. Thank You, Lord. I am now born again and a new creation in Christ Jesus!!!! Amen.

If you have been studying with us, you probably have your bible handy. Read some of it every day. If you do not have a bible, please find one. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind each time you read God's Word. Get involved with the Lord. He loves that! If you are not currently attending

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church and are not involved with born again believers, find a good church home where the bible is preached. And, as always, do not take the word of any preacher or teacher without checking each thing in the bible for yourself and asking God

Psalms 91:4 – Nestled Under His Wings.

Psalms 91:4, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

God has shown us that He is our refuge and fortress. He is our secret place to hide from the sinfilled world. We can trust Him. He is our deliverer from pestilence and from the individual who wants to snare us with sin. In this next verse, there is an even better picture of God's amazing Grace and Mercy.

When I was a child, I was always fascinated with animals and birds. My mother was never sure what I might bring home to raise as my own. There was a rabbit, a lizard, turtle, two pairs of fish. One day I noticed a bird's nest outside and somewhat down from my Grandmother's kitchen window. The location was perfect for watching the mother and father birds making the nest. After days of work, Mama bird decided it was time to stay in the new home. Shortly after, she had a full nest of eggs. The amazing thing is that she was so dedicated to making certain the eggs were not left alone or that they didn't get cold. She very carefully arranged them so that she would be able to sit on all of them at the same time. If one moved outside her feathers, she put her wing over it and brought it back in. Father came back with food for her while she sat attentively on the nest. When the time came, the eggs started to hatch. Five baby birds began to cheep. They almost always had their mouths open for something to eat. The father diligently brought food for them. But Mama kept them warm and safe from harm of any kind. The parents made certain that they were fed and cleaned. Mama and Papa attended to each need. Only when a baby would get too active and fall out of the nest were there any dangers. The parents hovered around the child until they could get it back into the nest where it was safe once more.

Isn't our Father like that? The verse states "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:". Doesn't the idea of our Father covering us with Himself and making sure we are under His wing sound incredible? Just as the Mama bird cares for her young, our Father cares for us, His young. We are fed, cleaned up, kept warm and safe. The times we have fallen from the nest are the times when it seems that there is no way out. Yet, our Father has given us a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13 - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.). If we will simply run to Him when things are out of hand, when we have done something wrong, He is there to lift us up to the high place and gather us under His wing. We can nestle in the feathers of our Lord in complete safety, warm and comfortable. Incredible picture, isn't it? Because we are children of the King, we have that inheritance if we only ask.

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The last part of that verse is: "his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Until I talked to my husband about this, I had no idea what a buckler was or what type of shield this verse is refering to. It is really important that you see this picture. In the times when Rome was ruling the world, the soldiers had an amazingly huge shield to use going into battle. This piece of equipment was large enough to cover the entire man. If the army was advancing on the enemy, often the soldiers would cover themselves with these shields, walking close enough to each other that the shields overlapped. The next row of soldiers would hold the shields up in the air thus making it impossible for the foe to throw spears or shoot arrows at them. All the efforts of the enemy were of no effect because the shields would stop all weapons of that type. The equipment was so large that, if the soldier was wounded or died, the companions put him on the shield and carried him off the battle field.

The next piece of gear is the buckler. This one was a mystery to me. I had never heard of it before. The soldier would strap a much smaller, often round, shield onto his left arm with a leather strap. This type of equipment was used to fend off close combat strikes by the enemy swords. Soldiers could then cover themselves while using their own swords.

What God wants us to know is that His Truth, the Word of God, is enough armor for us (Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

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). Not only have we been invited to sit in the secret place under our Father's wing but we are also given armor to protect ourselves when the enemy comes at us with everything he has to offer. Imagine being able to hold up that enormous shield to cover yourself totally. In close combat, that buckler sure comes in handy to fend off the fiery darts or swords that the opponent has sent your way.

In all of this, the picture is one of safety, security, and peace. No matter what is going on in your life, God is there to protect you, shield you, care for you, comfort you and will be just like the parents of the baby birds when you fall from the nest. But there is one thing you need to remember. The parents of the babies only came when they heard the cries of the child.

Come to the safety of your Heavenly Father today and enjoy the Peace that passes ALL understanding

Psalms 91:5 – Thou Shalt Not Be Afraid.

Psalms 91:5, "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day:"

With each verse, a picture is being assembled to show us safety, security and peace. Upon each layer, much like a mason piling brick upon brick, God is building a foundation of strength for us. Why is He doing this? For one thing, it shows God's Character. We actually have a picture of God in our minds now. This Psalm gives us a glimpse of what God is willing to do for us. The first four verses show very clearly that He and He alone is our safety net. Trouble can come calling but when the door opens, trouble sees nothing but God's Face, as long as we abide in the shadow of the Almighty, in that secret place.

Verse 5 tells us why we need all this protection. "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;". Clearly, we can stop being afraid of the bumps in the night. Have you ever been in the house by yourself at night when some strange noise grips you? Unsure of what it may be, you might go looking for it. But you are extremely cautious. Or you may want to stay put because there could be danger in leaving the safety of where you are now. Fear might grab hold. You can even hear your heart beating so fast that you are not certain if it will ever slow down again. There could be very real danger or it might just be the family cat knocking down a box off the shelf. One thing that I only recently noticed about this verse. It's a command of the Lord. THOU SHALT NOT BE AFRAID! That's pretty clear. But He gives us that assurance that we do not have to be afraid either. He has a way to escape it.

We are told in this verse that we are not to be afraid of the terrors of the night. How are we able to squelch the fears? God has assured us that we have that secret place to run to, hiding in the

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shelter of His awesome Wings. Because we have that safety, we can cast off the fears that the enemy is inflicting on us. Fear comes when the enemy whispers in the ear that there is a danger. real or imagined. If we are born again children of God, He has told us that we are not given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.). The Father already gave us the power of God! What more do we need? He gives us love. This is the love of our Father! In (I John 4:8 - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.) it reads that God IS love. Then He also gives us a sound mind. The translation of that is that we are given the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16 - For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.). What does that mean? First, the word "Christ" is Greek. It was never translated. It means "the Anointed One and His anointing." When we find out that anointing means to pour on, press in, rub on, then understanding of "mind of Christ" comes. Then, when God says that we have the mind of Christ, it means that we have the mind of the Anointing, which is poured on, rubbed in, pressed in. Obviously, this becomes internal. Since these are spiritual terms, the anointing flows through us, giving us the power, the love and the sound mind of God Himself. Knowing all that, how could we possibly be afraid at night?

The second portion of the verse reads " nor for the arrow that flieth by day;". If you have been following along through the first four verses with me, then you already know that those arrows are of no effect. Why? Because we have God's shield and buckler to protect us one more time! Isn't this amazing? (If you have not already read verse four, go ahead and check it out!) "But what kind of arrows could fly at me?" "The bills that came in the mail today are bigger than I expected. Where am I going to get the money?" " The boss is on my back for all this work. I've worked more hours than anyone else but he keeps at me. How can I get some relief?" "My baby cries all night. I am so sleepy that I can hardly stay awake. There is no one to help." "Our car is wrecked and there is no insurance to replace it. What am I going to do?" Those arrows are full of pain, frustration, and worry. Wouldn't you like to be protected from all of that? You can. God has promised us that we can go straight to Him, enter the secret place, cuddle under His Wings, and be in the Peace of the Almighty.

Run to God right now! He is waiting for you to ask. His shelter is bigger and safer than any other could possibly be. If you have not yet asked Jesus into your heart, please consider this. He is waiting for you. Ask Him to forgive your sins. He WILL! Then He will come and live with you. Psalm 91 then becomes the protection that God provides for you, the born again child of the Most High God.

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Psalms 91:6 – The Pestilence Can't Win. No Destruction For Me!

Psalms 91:6, "Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

The most amazing thing about this Psalm is that there is one constant theme...Safety. God calls us into the secret place, under His Wings, covered with His feathers. He is a refuge, fortress, truth, a deliverer. We can trust Him, He assures us. He is called the MOST High, meaning there is no other higher than He. It follows, then, that as a deliverer, protector, shelter, we can have the assurance that when problems arise, He is there.

Darkness falls. The kids go to bed just like any other evening, ready for school in the morning. Then in the middle of the night, you are awakened by a call from another room. It's one of the girls. You rush in to find that your daughter has a high fever, something you did not even suspect earlier in the day. She had been so active. Supper was uneventful. But now, she is quite ill. What happened? Pestilence.

For some reason, unknown to you, you cannot sleep more than a few minutes at night. Each time you go to bed, you pray that THIS time sleep will be continuous, that you won't be tired yet again. But, again, you are awake after having only a couple hours of sleep. What is this about? These days someone would say that you are plagued by sleeplessness. They could be right. Pestilence.

In this verse, "Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;" we can once again have the assurance that we do not have to take this. The enemy chooses his fights carefully. He strikes at a time when you are at your lowest point. Late at night, the body is trying to regenerate through sleep. If a person is deprived of this, it cannot do so. If a person is susceptible to illness, the time for it to strike is late at night. But God says that we can live in His shadow, under His Wings. The first four verses have already given you the surety that you have His protection. In verse five, we learned that He tells us not to be afraid, commands it. If He commands it then it is certainly possible that we don't have to keep fear. It can be thrown off. It is a choice. I love that. We can CHOOSE not to be afraid of the pestilence in the dark. That stalker can't harm us!

Time is running out and you have to get to work. You are already late. By the time you do get there, the boss is in a mood and will not listen. This job is all the income you have. It is vitally important that it not be shaky. Regardless of what you do, the day is all wrong. Your friends can't understand you. The boss is on you about everything. Nothing works right. The machines break down when you touch them. Alarms sound in your head that something is totally out of whack but you can't put your finger on it. Then the boss put his finger on you. You are FIRED!! Destruction that wastes.

Your wife has had about all she can take of you and says so. You are totally mystified as to what she is talking about. Divorce comes into the conversation but no matter what you ask, she will not tell you the problem. You get angry and stomp out of the house. In a cooler moment, the kids

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come to mind, the fun you had with your wife, the love you share. Back into the house you go, yet she is still enraged at you for something. The kids hear the fight and are suddenly afraid that something awful is happening. Your wife cools down and so do you. But the damage is done. The children are in fear. Destruction that wastes.

Our Father says that we are not to be concerned with this. "nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Because of the promises that God has made, we can go into that secret place, in the shelter of His shadow, under His Wings. Prayer is such a wonderful place, that secret place. Abiding (living) and tucked safely in the feathers of the Father, we can find that place of peace while the Most High God takes care of all things. Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened to you (Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:).

Isn't it time for you to ask, seek, and knock? God is waiting for you to grab hold of His promises. This Psalm is full of them. Reach out to the Lord and He will take hold of you. Ask Jesus into your heart and He will come and live in you. Seek His guidance and He will show you the way. Knock and the door opens to all that you can imagine and much that is beyond anything you can ask or think! Live in the surety that God is in charge and His safety is yours, just as the Psalm says. Go ahead, try it!

Psalms 91:7 – They Are Falling All Around Me.

Psalms 91:7, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."

In today's modern world, harsh reality flares up in front of our eyes daily. The recent war has brought home more clearly than ever the toll that is paid by everyone. More folks are searching to find some logical reason for any of this. More people need the comfort from losses, the feeling of security in an unsecure world, someone to tell them that their lives are not going to be completely altered today.

So far in this Psalm study, we have learned that God is a safe haven, a fortress, refuge, deliverer. His Wings are strong enough and wide enough for all His children to abide in safety covered by His feathers. He protects us from the fears of the night, the pestilences that stalk us, the arrows that fly at us during the day, the terror in a terror-filled world.

I would like to show a picture of another type of war, before airplanes and tanks, before there were extremely long range weapons. Now, please bear with me because I am not an expert on any war so this is something that I see in my own mind. During those wars from long ago, armies would face off and charge each other. Since the long range weapons, either catapult or cannon, were only used occasionally, most of the fighting was hand-to-hand combat. Unlike the Roman

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days, these fighters did not have shields or bucklers. They had bayonets on the ends of very long guns. As you might imagine, many soldiers died this way because of the close quarters involved. Yet there were those who survived.

Picture yourself standing in a field where the action is taking place. All around you soldiers are fighting and dying. Since the numbers are so great, also great are the numbers of slain. The battle intensifies, raging on through the day. More and more fall around you. For some reason, unknown to you, none of this is touching you. No one is fighting you. No one is even noticing you standing there. It's almost like you are invisible to them. The fight lasts for hours. At the end of the battle, you stand alone in the field. All others are either on the ground or gone from the field, tending to their wounded and rejoicing in the victory. Why are you untouched?

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come night thee."

At the beginning of the Psalm, it states that he who dwells in the secret place is living in the shadow of the Almighty. There are assurances that if a person does that, they are in safety. It should be a natural thing for you to stand watching a thousand fall or ten thousand go down at your right hand. Wait a minute, are we talking about people here? Not necessarily, although if a person were in war and was in God's secret place, they should have the confidence that God would protect them one way or another.

One thing that God had to pound into my head was that He acts spiritually before all else. Everything written in God's Word (Bible) is given spiritually that way. Therefore, the first thing about this Psalm is the spiritual side of it. That made it much clearer for me. I now know that the enemy, in this case the devil and his demons, will fall at my side and at my right hand as long as I am in the shadow of the Almighty! What an amazing thing! Of course, this works for the physical world as well. God's protection is greater than anything this world has to offer. Does this mean that all I have to do is say this Psalm and, presto, I am covered? No. There is a point in a faith walk where a person comes to seek God for Himself and not for what can be gained, only what He can do for them. When that happens, God shows that individual His vast protection.

But does that mean that I can't have protection if I'm not that close to Him? No. But you must begin to have a relationship with your Father. He must be part of your life, not simply the One you talk to when you have a fleeting moment. A relationship will develop as you draw closer and closer to Him. Well, how do I do all that? Closeness to God comes when you pray daily, seek His advice in everything, and get to know Him as if He was your best friend. He is, you know. You can seek His face by reading His Word daily and thinking about the things He says. For instance, if a particular verse bothers you because it may not make sense to you, don't drop it and forget it. Ask the Father about that. He wrote it. He knows what it means and He surely wants you to know what it means as well. Some people find the Word of God to be a "great mystery." Know why? Because they do not take the time to read and study it. They do not ask God what it means.

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All God wants is for you to be saved from the enemy, asking Jesus into your heart (John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.) and to acknowledge Him as your Creator. Sound like a lot to ask? Not really. Jesus died on a cruel cross, enduring agonizing pain, spiritually, mentally, and physically so that you would not have to go to hell. He went to hell instead. Then He rose from the dead! That's right. He is alive! He is waiting for you to ask for Him. He sits at the right hand of the Father watching over your prayers as your High Priest (Hebrews 3:1 - Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;). When God's family is your family, that Psalm will become a part of your life too. Reach out and touch the Lord today! You will never be the same again.

Psalms 91:8 - The Shield Is Up.

Psalms 91:8, "Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."

By now, you should be getting a feeling of security and safety. If not, please continue to read the Psalm, asking God for understanding. Isn't it interesting how many times this Psalm talks about security and safety in one form or another? Refuge, fortress, shadow, covered in feathers, under wings, deliverer, secret place. Why is God so insistent on mentioning this so many times? When something is very important to the Father, it is repeated often. As we continue studying this Psalm, you will notice that those words do not stop. He continues to reassure us that we are safe in His secret place, covered in feathers, under His Wings.

I realize that this is a bit science fiction of me but the image is a great way to show you what this particular verse says. Imagine yourself on that same battlefield that we talked about in the last verse (if you have not read that study, please go to Dwelling In The Secret Place...V.7). But this time, the battle is between the demons and the angels. You are priviledged to watch this. The fight looks really dangerous. The angels are beginning to win. Demons are falling everywhere. In the meanwhile, you notice a faint glow all around you. Wondering what it might be, you try to touch it but there isn't anything there. You look around. A huge angel is standing right next to you. He is obviously guarding you from the situation. Yet there is still that glow. The warrior angel turns to you and tells you that it is the shield of God surrounding you. It is impossible for the demon forces to penetrate it. You are protected.

"Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."

Does this verse make more sense now? How about something closer to home. Because you walk in God's Word and follow His lead, despite the fact that the world is going dark, you are light. You are prosperous, in good health, doing what God intended. All you do is watch as person after person, corporation after corporation goes into bankruptcy, yet you are not affected. Granted, this isn't always happening but it could for the child of God. Many of the believers are coming out of

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debt even though the economic times are difficult for the majority of folks. Believers are not better than other people, just children of God following His Word.

There are some who will not believe what I am saying. All I can tell you is that it works. I invite you to give God a try. Jesus died on a cross so that you would not have to go to hell. He paid the price in your place. If you have not asked Him into your heart, please consider that today. He is waiting for you to ask. He forgives all your sins. Yes ALL! Nothing is too dirty for Him. When you do that, you become a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."). God remembers none of your past sins when you do this. After that, it's time to shout! We get excited when someone becomes part of the family. Angels in heaven are rejoicing for you! Grab your Bible and read, find a good church that preaches the Bible (some don't). Oh yes, welcome to the family of God!

Psalms 91:9&10 – No Evil Comes To My House

Psalms 91:9-10, "Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

I have an apology to make for those who were reading the Psalm 91 articles as I was writing them. The plain truth is that I got stuck on these two verses and it has taken the better part of a year or so to get "unstuck." It is not easy for me to say that. Everything in me says...your a preacher. How can you teach and get stuck on something as big as scripture? Well, the way that happens is that I get mired down in something I think we all do at times. I was not living this particular scripture like I should be and did not feel that I could write about something that I had not experienced myself. Well now. How arrogant can one actually be? Hmmm? So, I do apologise to all of you who have patiently waited for the next verse to be explained as I have understood it myself. I had better also explain that only when I hear the Word of God coming from God do I actually write anyway. My ears must have been stuck with spiritual peanut butter. However, now I am ready to go on. Are you? Let's GO!

God has consistently told us that He and only He is our refuge and our house to live in. In the first verse (Ps 91:1 - He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.), we are told that those who dwell (live) in the secret place will have the refuge we desire. So, now He tells us that BECAUSE we have made God our Lord, Who is the safety place we seek, THEN and only then, are we protected from the evil and the plagues that could come upon us and our dwelling place.

Now, you say that you have illness in the house. There are evil things that happen to the family. Yep, that was where I got hung up too. It's quite difficult to see how God could protect us if all these things are coming upon us, right? But, the verse is quite clear that it is BECAUSE you have made God your Lord and you choose to dwell in that secret place of the Most High. The question now is...have you done that? If not, that is probably the biggest problem to getting the answer to

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that one matter. It had been the problem that I had. We had illness and evil things going on within our family at our home and with our extended family as well. How can these things be happening when we do all we know to do?

That would be because we are not actually doing all we can, only all we KNOW to do. What has caused the difference here? In each case, you must look to your own walk with the Lord to see what is going on. Is it possible that you do not spend enough time with the Lord each day? Is it possible that you have something against someone that has not been forgiven? Is it likely that you are hung up with some type of legal problem in regard to scripture? For example, do you believe that in order to get to the place of being in the safety net of God that you had to attain some level of spirituality first?

I praise God that He puts us into the place where we are protected by Him in all that we do if ONLY we will get to know Him. It does take spending time with the Lord to find yourself in that secret place for it is only when you seek the Lord Himself do you find what you are looking for.

An example of someone who was walking the way the Lord wanted was Noah. He found favor in the eyes of the Lord. How? Because he chose to do what God told him to do, no matter what the cost. He chose to walk the way the Lord said to walk. God said. Noah obeyed. Ouch! That WORD is a tough one. OBEY.

When Noah obeyed God by building the ark that he, his wife, sons and sons' wives went into when the rain began, the Lord protected him from all of the wrath that God was putting on the earth. The rain came down for 40 days and nights. The earth was flooded to the point that no land showed at all. It was covered in water. Noah and family were totally sheltered from all of that because he obeyed God. That is what God is telling us to do too. Obey Him.

Today, rather than use 'that word' in marriage ceremonies, some folks choose to write their own vows that do not contain that part. Most of us shudder to think we have to actually DO that...you know, the OOOO word. OBEY. Obey your husband. Obey the boss. Obey your parents. Obey God. It follows that if we are resisting doing that with one, it's highly likely that we are doing the same with the other.

That's where I got stuck last year. I was choosing, I said CHOOSING, to disobey God when I could not write this article. The whole of Psalm 91 is wrapped up in how much you are willing to obey God. If not, then those things He has promised are missed by US because we did not walk in line with His Word. It is as simple as that.

God has promised us heaven on earth if only we will listen to Him and do as He has commanded us to do. If only we would obey the Father, we could have the desires of our heart. Um, like what? Back to the verses we are studying. Because we have made the Lord God our refuge and dwelling place, there shall NO EVIL befall us or plagues come into our dwelling place. We must make God our Master and Lord. We must listen to Him and obey what He says to do. At that

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point, the Lord gives us what this verse says we can have.

Uh, how come I can't have it anyway? The reason that God cannot give the gift of refuge to you if you are not in God's will is because you will not be able to accept it. It will sound foolish to your ears. You will have stepped out of the shadow, out of the refuge He has already provided. God cannot be in the same place with sin. It will be fried. So, how can we be there with God, in that secret place or refuge, if we are sinning. The truth is that you can't be there. Only when you are obeying God's will can you have that safety place.

Jesus is calling you right now to come to that place of safety and security. All you need do is ask Him. If you have not asked the Lord Jesus into your heart, please consider doing so today. If, for whatever reason, you have strayed from the path God has given to you, please run back to Him, not away from Him. You can never earn the worthiness to be near Him. He gives that to you as a gift when you ask Jesus, God's Son, into your heart. Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice for you to pay for your sins so that you do not have to do that. You must only ask forgiveness and He will give it to you, no matter what you have done! What an awesome thing that is. He is an awesome God! I pray that God blesses each reader of this article!

Psalms 91:11&12 – The angels are handling it!

Psalms 91:11-12, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

As we have been noticing, God is taking care of us, giving us peace and safety. Throughout this Psalm, we are seeing a picture of protection. We can hide under His wing away from the pain and difficulties of life. The only requirement is that we have to take the time to actually be with the Lord for this to happen. He has seen us through plagues and injury, nightmares and terrors, evil snares and perilous pestilence. He is the refuge we need in these times. But how does He do this?

The verse today tells us that He puts the angels in charge of our wellbeing. They are to <u>keep us safe</u> in all that we do. They actually take us into their hands so that we do not stumble on stones in our path. How much more can we ask? Yet, there are many who will say "but I had sickness and almost died" or "no matter what I did, the problem did not get solved like I expected."

God promises to <u>take care of us</u>, to keep us in safety but He cannot do this if we, ourselves, walk off of the path that He provides. First, we must listen to what God is saying. Then we need to follow Him in all things. That way and only <u>when we follow Him</u> can we enjoy the blessings of his refuge and safe protection. It is impossible for the angels, commissioned by God, to do other than what they have been ordered to do for us.

Sometimes, I think that we expect them to do what we order them to do. We even get arrogant in our thinking that once we become a child of the King that we can have anything we want,

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possibly that we are untouchable, wrapped in the cocoon of God's mercy and grace. That is not possible unless we are completely in line with God and His Word. The angels can only do those things that are right for us, things God has planned for our lives. If they were to go against God, they would be cast out of heaven like one third of them were with Satan.

Isn't it an awesome thought? God orders angels to watch over us, to keep us from harm. They actually hold us. But what do they do if we are not in line with God? I cannot say for certain because I have never seen this but I imagine that they have to stand back, watch the things we are doing wrong, fold their arms and call out to God to be allowed to help, especially when we are in a perilous situation because we brought it on ourselves by not listening to God and doing what He wants for us. It is obvious that they love us. God is love and gives us love even in the form of angels who do not want to see us come to harm.

Have you ever felt like this? If only I had listened to God, I wouldn't have had that car wreck. If only I had prayed, we wouldn't be losing our house right now. If only, if only, if only. I think we have all had twenty twenty hindsight at one time or another. But do we then seek God? Sometimes. Sometimes not. Why? Because the situation is over and we have to move on to something else. Now that is where the mistake gets bigger and bigger. How about starting right now, right where you are. Why not simply start praying and listening to God? When you do, the blessings flow and angels take hold of you. The angels are handling the situation. Wow! That would be awesome!

Psalms 91:13 - Walking on snakes and other nasty creatures

Psalms 91:13, "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet."

The whole Psalm 91 has fascinated me from the first. Throughout the Psalm, the idea God gives us is of peace and safety, refuge and fortress. At no time do we feel unloved, unprotected or unwanted if only we can see that these verses apply to us. Even the angels are commissioned to use their powers to deal with the foe on our behalf, shielding us from harm.

In this verse, we notice that God is talking about creatures that can kill by attack or poison. Frankly, I was unsure of this because the first thing that came to mind was going out into the field and finding a snake ready to bite me. I have never had a snake bite me so I can only go by what I have seen happen to others. If they are venomous, the person is in serious trouble if help isn't available quickly. But now, God is telling us that we can walk on these creatures without harm. Come on!

When I questioned God about this very thing, He reminded me that He always talks about spiritual things first so I should look there before I do anything else. Hmmm, this is a different deal

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now. The picture I got from the Lord about lions helped me to change how I looked at that part and then the other picture was about snakes, serpents or dragons, as the KJV translation calls them.

Lions run in prides. They are a community. The head of the pride is the male who defeated all other males so that he alone could reign as king. If there are other males in the pride, they defer to the king. Spiritually speaking, the problems we encounter can be like a pride of lions, a community of difficulties that show up and overwhelm us. The head or king lion roars out and we quake in fear of that situation. But the king got to his position by defeating the other males that came to fight. You must defeat the head lion though spiritual means. When you do, the rest will move off and find other places to stop. We can always apply the Word of God to our problems. God tells us that we can have peace and security if we will only come into the refuge instead of living out in the open like the lion pride does. As the verse says, we can walk on them and not be harmed.

As for snakes, I did not want to deal with this because I really hate snakes. I am ashamed to admit it but I am afraid of them. There is no real reason because I have never encountered one close up yet there is my fear. God says that we do not need to have that. We can defeat it by applying the Word of God to the situation. At this time, I am working with God to get rid of that fear. Did you ever notice that though fear comes nothing has happened to you yet? That reminds me of a scripture that says "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me." (Job 3:25 - For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.) That says that we MUST overcome the fear because if we do not, that which we fear will show up. Sounds to me like we are calling it to us. God says we need to defeat it.

In fact, God reminded me of (Acts 28:1-6 -

¹And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

²And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

³And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

⁴And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

⁵And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

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⁶Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

_where Paul and the rest of the group from the ship had wrecked on the island of Malta. No person died. They only lost the items that were on the ship with them. The natives found them on a cold, rainy night and built a fire, welcoming them and helping them to get comfortable. Paul was gathering wood for the fire when a venomous snake bit him on the hand. The snake stayed attached to his hand. The natives noticed this and decided that he must be a murderer because of the snake. They waited for him to keel over and die. But Paul, who was a man of faith in God, shook the snake off into the fire and went about his business. The local people were shocked when they saw that nothing happened to him so they decided that he must be a god.

Paul put his faith into action and the snake was of no effect. God wants us to do the same thing. We need to step on our lions and show them who is boss of our lives. We must throw our snakes into the fire where they belong. I can hear it now. "But how do I do this? My problems are overwhelming to me." Ah, we have such an awesome Father! He invites us to visit with Him daily, hourly, minute by minute because He wants to be in every little detail of our lives. He loves us that much! We tend to feel small with trivial problems and situations. After all, how can we bother the Creator of all things with something that small, right? God wants us to give Him ALL of our problems and situations. He is the fixer of all things! If only we could grasp that He WANTS us to defeat our lions and snakes and He is there to help us do it! He gives us the tools to handle this thing. And do you know what happens when we defeat that lion or snake? We become the overcomers that God has called us to be. What an amazing thing!

Come to the Lord today. Visit with Him, telling Him all about your situations and problems. Bring that lion or that snake with you. Stay a while. Dwell in the presence of the Father in safety and security. Enjoy the love of the Father. Cast off those lions and snakes into the pit where they belong. Be the overcomer that you were born to be. At that point, you won't care if it's a lion or a snake because they are defeated foes. Hallelujah!

Psalms 91:14 – I delivered him because he loved Me!

Psalms 91:14, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name."

Before I go any further, I wanted to show you something that I have seen about this whole Psalm. At the beginning, in the first two verses, the writer/speaker is David. He declares his faith proclaiming that only through God does he have refuge and that God is his fortress, only God does he trust. Quite a statement. You can see his faith at work.

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But then, from verse 3 to verse 13, the writer/speaker has apparently changed. It is instructional telling us that we have a deliverer, a safety net, that there will be a shield in place. I have heard some preachers saying that the speaker here is Jesus. That could very well be true. It does sound just like when He was teaching the disciples, doesn't it.

However, in the last three verses, 14-16, again the writer/speaker has changed. Now, we can clearly see that it has to be the Father. How do we know that? Because only the Father is able to do the things that the Speaker says. Only the Father can tell us that He will deliver us. Only the Father can say that He could set someone on high because the individual knew His Name. If you will study closely, I believe that you will see that the One that the Father is speaking of is Jesus.

"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:" Because Jesus loved the Father so much, He delivered Jesus from hell.

"I will set him on high, because he hath known my name." The Father did put Jesus on high when He delivered Him from hell. Jesus said it would happen that God put Him at His right hand.

Matthew 26:64, "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

And it happened as He said. There are no less than 13 new testament scriptures alone that testify that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. (I only searched the ones that actually said the words "right hand of"):

Mark 16:19, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

The thing is, we are also children of God, inheritors of what Jesus received.

Revelation 21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Galatians 3:14, "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Galatians 3:29, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

As you go back and reread the verse we are studying today, please note that it is becoming very personal. You have come this far into the Psalm knowing that the Lord is providing safety, refuge, strength. Now He is telling us that we are His because we know His name, because we have loved Him. He loved us first (I John 4:19 - We love him, because he first loved us.) and enough to provide these things. (John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

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whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.) All we have to do to get them is to love Him back. Wow! Isn't that awesome!!!

There is one thing though. We have to believe this. We must ask the Lord Jesus into our hearts in order to receive the benefits of these wonderful promises. Yes, that is what they are, promises from our Father to us through Jesus. After all, Jesus came to earth as a human being, emptied Himself of His powers, took on all of the cruelty, hurt, sin and sickness of this world on the cross as He died. Then, the Father raised Him from the dead. He now sits on the Father's right hand, being our advocate, our priest, our lawyer, if you will. (Hebrews 3:1 - Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;) This happens when you give your life to Him by asking Him into your heart, having Him be part of your life and to be your Lord.

Jesus is calling to you right now. He loves you. Please consider asking Him into your heart. When you do, you become a member of the family of the Living and Awesome Father! It can't get any better than this!