

WOMEN IN THE WORD
of
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

“INTIMACY WITH GOD” by Cynthia Heald

PART TWO - The Creator, a Worthy Confidant
Lesson 4, God is a Refuge

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Refuge: A place providing shelter from pursuit, danger or trouble.

Refugee: A person who has gone to a safe place to be protected. A person who has fled war, violence, conflict or persecution.

God is a refuge for us (believer, child of God), God is a place of shelter, God is the safe place. We are refugees.

We have a need

We recognize our need/weakness

God is a safe place

We recognize that God meets that need and we must go to Him.

Psalm 23 (From the Message Bible) - *God, my shepherd? I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.*

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

John 10:10-11 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (ESV)*

We can also have a false sense of security. When these temporal things become our refuge..... our trust is misplaced.

We praise God when we see evidence of physical protection. We are not promised physical protection on this earth.

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)*

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. (ESV)*

There is more to life than just physical protection. If Jesus delays His return, we will all one day die. But God is no less your place of Refuge.

God is our place of Spiritual, Emotional and mental security/safety

Psalms 34:7-9, *The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear (reverence) him, and delivers them. Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him? Oh, fear (reverence) the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear (reverence) him have no lack! (ESV)*

Isaiah 26:3-4 *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock. (ESV)*

Again we need to recognize that we have a need, and recognize that God is our refuge.

Things to look for in a place of refuge

Provision
Protection
Peace

Has God provided all we need? Yes!

2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, though the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, (ESV)*

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (ESV)*

Does God protect? Yes!

2 Thessalonians 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. (ESV)*

Because God protects and provides there is peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)*

Psalms 4:8 *In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (ESV)*

1 Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. (ESV)*

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)*

How do you know if you are not inside the place of Refuge? No Peace.

Build your nest under the protection of your father's strong roof. That way when storms come and the wind blows and the rain is pounding, and

predators are hunting you, you are at peace, because nothing that happens to you is outside of God's protective reach, and He will provide peace in the midst of the storm.

Can you sleep in the boat in the middle of the storm? Take a lesson from Jesus. He could do it because He knew His Father is trustworthy. You have the same father!! You cannot trust a God that you do not know.

Do you know Him enough to trust Him?

It's not a question of His trustworthiness, but your confidence in the One who IS trustworthy!