

NETCAST SERMON NOTES

Series: Summer in the Psalms

Date: August 16th, 2026

Title: No Fear of Evil

Speaker: Travis Boyd

Key Scripture: Psalm 91 (with Matthew 4:1–11, Romans 8:28–39, Genesis 3:15)

The Big Idea: Our deepest security as believers is not the complete absence of trouble, but the abiding presence of the Most High God. While Psalm 91 does not promise a world free from pain, it guarantees that in Christ, no trial will ever find us alone—and no evil will ever have the final word.

1. **God Is Our Home** Psalm 91 begins with residential language: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." God is not a spiritual 911 service we only call during emergency room crises; He is meant to be our permanent residence.

- The "What If" vs. "Who Is" Shift: Fear always begins with "What if...?" (losing a job, a bad diagnosis, a broken relationship). Faith counters by asking "Who is...?" (Who is God, who is for me, and who is with me?).
- Identifying Your False Shelters: Where your heart runs during anxiety reveals what you truly trust to save you. Many believers claim to trust God while actually dwelling in control, excessive information-seeking, financial security, or constant distraction.
- Practical Abiding: Dwell where you spend time. If inputs centered on God only make up a tiny fraction of our daily lives, we are merely visiting God rather than making Him our home.

2. **God Is With Us in Times of Trouble** Psalm 91 does not deny real-world danger—naming deadly disease, hidden traps, and terror at night—but it fiercely denies that danger gets the final say.

- Unchanging Faithfulness: God covers us with His wings, and His faithfulness—not our fluctuating effort—is our shield. Our ultimate security rests entirely on His character, not our performance.
- Protected Through, Not Just From: God's protection sometimes means delivering us from hardship, but often it means carrying us through it. He does not promise a life without trouble; He promises, "I will be with him in trouble" (v. 15).
- Presence Over Outcome: God's presence is not a consolation prize when physical protection seems to fail; it is the fundamental promise beneath every other promise. Eternal salvation, not an earthly age count, is His ultimate resolution.

3. **Jesus Brings Us Home** In Matthew 4, Satan twists Psalm 91 to tempt Jesus into throwing Himself off the Temple pinnacle, demanding that God prove His protection. Satan knows the words of Scripture, but completely distorts their meaning.

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- Faith vs. Pride: Pride demands that God prove Himself by delivering our desired outcomes on our terms. Faith trusts God's character and obeys Him even when we cannot control what happens next.
- Crushing the Serpent: Satan conveniently skipped Psalm 91:13 ("You will trample the serpent"), pointing back to the Genesis 3 promise. Jesus did not come to avoid every wound; He came to be wounded for us on the cross, taking our judgment and defeating death from the inside out.
- Resting on His "I Will": The Psalm begins with our commitment ("I will trust"), but closes with God's sovereign declarations ("I will deliver, I will protect, I will rescue"). Our security does not rest on the strength of our hold on God, but on the unshakeable strength of His hold on us.

Call to Action / Reflection Question: What outcome, relationship, or fear are you currently trying to control, and what would it look like to stop treating God as a crisis-only refuge and instead make Him your daily dwelling place?