

Vision 2026:

Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Psalm, chapter 91.

Psalm 91 is in the Old Testament, which is the first part of your Bible. The second part is called the New Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, let's look at the text together.

More than a Visit

Psalm 91:1

*Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. NKJV*

- A. Before we claim the promise of Psalm 91, we must understand the condition. The Psalm does not speak of those who merely visit God's presence when life falls apart. It speaks of those who dwell there—those who make His presence their permanent residence. The Hebrew language paints a picture of believers who settle down, remain, & continually live beneath the covering of *El Elyon*, the Most-High, & *El Shaddai*, the Almighty. God's invitation has never been to occasional encounters, but to continual communion.
- B. That truth confronts one of the greatest dangers facing the modern church. What does it truly mean to worship, & are we actually doing it, or have we become experts at performing?
- It is entirely possible to sing every song, lift every hand, speak all the right Christian language, & remain outside the secret place. Scripture repeatedly calls us beyond religious performance into genuine relationship. From Paul's charge to rightly handle the Word, to Solomon's call to honor the LORD, to the invitation to boldly approach the throne of grace, & Hezekiah's restoration of true worship, God

has always been searching for hearts that pursue His presence rather than applause. Anything that draws attention to ourselves is self-worship, not Christ-worship.

C. Today, **Psalm 91** reminds us that God's greatest promise is not merely His protection—it is His presence.

Those who live in the secret place discover that the atmosphere changes because they have changed.

Fear gives way to faith.

Weakness becomes strength.

Dryness becomes refreshing.

Healing, restoration, & joy become the fruit of lives hidden beneath the shadow of the Almighty.

The question before us is not whether we know the right songs, the right traditions, or even the right Pentecostal expressions. The question is this: *Have we moved beyond performing Christianity and begun dwelling in the presence of the living God?*

When we stop playing the role & start pursuing His presence, we discover that the shadow of the Almighty is not a place we occasionally visit—it becomes the place where we live.

ARE YOU A VISITOR OR A RESIDENT?

D. Explain “Most High—*El Elyon*” – “The Almighty—*El Shaddai*”

When you know Him as: El Elyon (אֵל עֶלְיוֹן)

You understand Him as: El Shaddai (אֵל שַׁדַּי)

God Most High - God All-Sufficient / God of the Mountain

Sovereign, Exalted above all - Power, sufficiency & provision

Higher than every power, nation & circumstance
- He is more than enough for every need

The secret place (סֵתֶר) belongs to the Most High who rules over all

The shadow (צֶל) belongs to the Almighty who covers & sustains

El Elyon lifts our eyes upward to the God who is above every situation.

El Shaddai draws us close under the God who is enough for every situation.

John 15:4 (**BIBLE**)

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Continuous dwelling & abiding in God's presence brings life, protection, & fruitfulness.

Remember the application:

I. **Don't just Visit—Dwell**

A. **Dwell** - יָשַׁב - yāshab

- a. This dwelling is a continuous, settled residence rather than a temporary visit.

When you live, inhabit in God's protective presence you find rest & peace.

- b. James 4:7-8 – Submit yourselves therefore to God... Draw near to God & He will...

- c. Too many—even Spirit-filled Pentecostals who shout, dance, & speak in tongues—have reduced the glorious presence of the Most-High to a convenience store. (Quik Trip)

We treat the secret place of the Almighty like a drive-thru window instead of a permanent dwelling.

- i. We casually pop in when we need a breakthrough, a healing, a financial miracle, or a word from Heaven, then walk right back out the door the moment the crisis passes or the emotional high fades.
- ii. **Psalm 91** does not say, “*He who visits the shelter of the Most-High when it’s convenient shall occasionally feel the shadow of the Almighty.*” It declares that the one who dwells—who settles, abides, & makes his home there—will remain under that protective covering.

- iii. The Holy Ghost is not a guest we invite for special services; He is the permanent Resident who longs for us to stop treating God's presence as occasional & start living as continuous inhabitants of His glory!
- d. **Acts 17:28** - ... *for in Him we live and move and have our being*
 - i. יְהוָה - H2421 - khaw-yaw' - When you truly dwell in the presence of the *Most High—El Elyon*, the God who is higher than every high place—you are living under the covering of His mighty divine hand!
 - ii. You become God-breathed, supernaturally safeguarded, & filled with purposeful, resurrection vitality that the enemy cannot touch!

B. Secret Place - סֵתֶר - say'-ther

- a. It's not just a physical shelter—it is a holy hiding place, a divine covering, a sealed refuge where God Himself conceals you! You are completely hidden from every danger, wrapped in the intimate protection of the Most-High. It is the place of deep fellowship.
- b. To take it further, this is a divinely sealed, fully enclosed, & securely guarded refuge under the direct rule of the Most-High.
- c. Church, live every moment in the intimate presence of our Heavenly Father!
 - i. Even Spirit-filled believers face fierce storms—trials, tribulations, & winds that try to shake your faith—but in that secret place, God Himself becomes your unshakable shelter, shielding you from the fear of destruction.
 - ii. He has prepared a holy, sealed refuge for your soul, a place where you can rest, where a weary heart can be restored, where dry bones are renewed, & the Spirit of the Living God revives you with fresh fire!
 - iii. No storm can destroy what He covers! Rest in the unshakable truth that your Father watches over you through every battle, every tear, & every dark night, for the one who abides in His secret place will remain under the shadow of the Almighty.

- d. **Colossians 3:3 – Ephesians 2:6 – Romans 8:38-39** - It is also intimate access to the Secret Place of Prayer - *Matthew 6:6* — “*But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*” -

C. **Abide** - לוֹן- loon

- a. Abide - the guided, connected, & enduring overnight stay. While Dwell is a permanent residence.
- b. In Psalm 91 we see the believer who, under the teaching & leadership of the Holy Spirit, is securely hooked into the shadow of the Almighty! This is not a brief stop or a quick visit—it is a lasting lodging, a life-giving rest under the covering of Shaddai where the soul finds ongoing strength, protection, & refreshing day after day!
- c. Abiding, you learn & are empowered in the presence of the Almighty.
 - i. Jesus said, *John 15:4* **Abide in Me, and I in you...** ^{5b} *He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit...* ⁷ *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*
 - ii. Not only that but Jesus also said, *Matthew 11:28* “**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** ²⁹ *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰ *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*”

d. Don't settle for occasional encounters—we are called to abide! - To לוֹן– loon

- i. We must learn to remain, to lodge continually in the secret place where the Holy Spirit teaches, guides, & leads us into all truth. The same Spirit who filled us on the Day of Pentecost longs to be our daily Teacher & Guide.
- ii. When we abide in His presence, He will direct our steps, correct our path, & reveal the deep things of God. So, stay, remain, & be led—not by your own understanding, but by the precious Holy Spirit who dwells within us & walks with us every moment of every day!

D. **Shadow** - צל - tsale

- a. Shadow - is the righteous, guided covering.
- b. It paints the picture of the believer who is drawn close by the Spirit and brought under the teaching and protective leadership of the Almighty! To abide in the צל—the shadow of Shaddai—is to walk the path of righteousness while resting under that intimate, life-preserving covering of God’s presence and guidance every single day!

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- c. Even after we have received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, we must not settle for living merely **near** the shadow of El Shaddai—we must stay **in** it!
 - i. The shadow of the Almighty is not a place we visit on Sunday or when the worship is high; it is the place of continuous abiding where His presence covers, protects, & refreshes us every moment.
 - ii. Pentecostals of all people should know this truth: the same Spirit who filled us longs to keep us hidden under the wings of Shaddai, so that every storm, every attack, & every dry season finds us safely resting in His shadow.
 - iii. Stay in it, remain in it, live in it—because only those who dwell in the shadow of the Almighty will walk in the fullness of His power & protection!

II. Conclusion

- A. The person who makes the Most High's covering their *habitual dwelling place* will lodge/abide in the shadow of Shaddai.
- B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.
 - **He asks us to:**
 - * *Repent*
 - * *Live by Faith*
 - * *Be Baptized*
 - * *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.