



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 26: The Shelter of the Most High

Psalm 91:1–2 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Yesterday we examined how Jesus calls us to abide in Him. Today the psalmist shows us what that abiding feels like from the inside. It feels like safety. To dwell in God’s presence is to live in the most secure place in the universe: “the shelter of the Most High,” “the shadow of the Almighty.”

The Hebrew word behind “shelter” is *sether* — a secret place, a hiding place, a covering. It’s an intimate word, picturing not a public fortress but a private, sheltered nook where you are hidden close beside someone strong. Notice the verbs: he who dwells there will abide there. Once again, this is not a word for a quick visit in an emergency. It describes a settled residence. This is a person who has made God’s presence his permanent address, and therefore lives always under His shadow. Charles Spurgeon, who gave much of his life to expounding the Psalms, treasured this “secret place” as the believer’s true home — a hidden nearness to God that the storms of life cannot reach.

Here is what’s easy to miss: the shelter is entered by dwelling, not by running for it only when trouble strikes. Many of us treat God’s presence like a storm cellar in a tornado. We ignore the shelter in good weather but sprint for it when the sky turns dark. This psalm describes someone who already lives there, who has moved in and set up their bedroom. When trouble comes, he is not scrambling to find refuge; he’s already home. The nearness already cultivated in the calm, now holds in the crisis.

This is why abiding is so bound up with holiness. Sin whispers most persuasively to the soul that feels exposed, anxious, and alone — the soul that has wandered out from under the shadow into the open, where fear and temptation prowl. But a heart that dwells in the secret place of God’s presence is a heart

at rest, and a soul at rest in God is far less vulnerable to the pull of sin. Security in God's nearness does what anxious striving never can: it quiets the very restlessness that sin exploits.

So make God's presence your dwelling, not just your emergency shelter. Live under His shadow in the ordinary calm of today, and you will find yourself already sheltered when the winds rise.

TAKE AWAY

Do not treat God's presence like a storm cellar you sprint to only in a crisis. Move in now, while its calm, and you'll already be home when the storm comes.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to make His presence your daily dwelling place, so that you live always under the shelter of His nearness.