

Psalm 91
By Pastor Bren Gibbs

Good morning, Victory family.

I hope you are diving into this Unto the Lord Fast with joy and faith for what the Lord is going to impart, release, and pour out as you seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (NKJV). Fasting, done in faith and humility, is a way to diligently seek the Lord. So, know that God is going to see and receive this sacrifice, obedience, and love unto Him and reward you with His favor, goodness, and increase in your life.

With Psalm 91 being our theme for this fast, I want to begin by referencing our previous fast in the summer where the theme was “Putting on the Full Armor of God.” My devotional for that fast was about the importance of being “in Him” concerning the full armor of God. Remember, it is the armor *of God* that we are putting on, not our own armor. It is His righteousness, His truth, His gospel of peace, His salvation, His Word, and faith in Him that we are putting on. I actually encouraged us to read Psalm 91 with the “day of evil” in mind, which God’s mighty armor gives us the strength to withstand and overcome.

In this week’s fast, as we meditate on Psalm 91, it all comes down to our address. I think you know I’m not speaking of a physical address or location, but a spiritual one. Ephesians 2:6 says that we are seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Yes, we live in this earthly body and have a dwelling place here on earth, but we also have one in the spiritual realm.

I want to focus on the first two verses of Psalm 91 today, so let’s read them now.

Psalm 91:1–2 (NKJV)

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”

We have two words here that speak of our spiritual address. They are “dwell” and “abide.”

The Strong’s Concordance definition for the word *dwell* means “to dwell, sit down, to be set, to remain, to stay, to settle, to marry, continue, endure, and establish.” This refers to a place of habitation that your spirit and soul are established in. It is a place that you settle yourself into and resolve to stay.

The word *abide* means, “by implication, to stay permanently, abide (all night), continue, dwell, lodge, remain, tarry.” So, if you continually dwell in the secret place with the Lord, you will continually have the shelter, shade, and protection that this place in Him offers.

Now the secret place is a place of shelter, hiding, and secrecy. It means that not just anyone or everyone can reach this place or know where it is. It is only meant for those who find it.

We read in scripture about the hidden things of God. Proverbs 25:2 (NKJV) says, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.” Brian likes to say, “God doesn’t hide things from us, He hides things for us.” Let me say it like this, as a royal son or daughter of God, we are called to search out and know the hidden things of God. This is our portion and inheritance in Him, but we must purposefully and willingly pursue it in order to receive from it.

Psalm 25:14 reads, “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant” (NKJV). What a wonderful scripture! This is very similar to Psalm 91 in that a person who fears God is someone in awe of God, who esteems Him, and puts Him as the central dwelling place in their life. This person is the one that God shows His covenant to, which is what Psalm 91 is all about—a covenant relationship with the one who loves the Lord.

Looking back at our scripture, there is one more word I want to address and that is the word “shadow.” The word *shadow* speaks of two things: protection and refreshment.

Psalm 36:7–8 (NKJV) ties these two attributes together so well.

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

No doubt being under the shadow of God’s wing brings us protection, like an eagle protecting her young ones. Being under the shadow of God is used several times in scripture. Psalm 17:8 (NKJV) says, “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.”

See how this scripture speaks of the Lord as one who has love and affection towards us. Oh, how He wants to have relationship with us, not just rules that we are to follow to achieve a place in Him. His commands are important and are part of our covenant relationship with Him, but if that is all we have, we are eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, instead of the tree of life.

Being under the shadow of God speaks of shade as well, which brings a refreshing to one’s life. Often times we speak of our homes as being our refuge, solace, and a place where we are refreshed, but the Lord’s house (His dwelling place or secret place) is a place that we can find the greatest pleasure, satisfaction, and fulfillment in life. It is a place where we truly find everything that we need.

Now, let’s take a closer look at verse two, which makes the correlation between our hearts and our words. Verse two begins with the words, “I will say.” Our words will always reveal our hearts, especially the words that come up quickly before we have time to think about them.

Jesus said, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34 NKJV). Do the words we speak reflect that in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)? Do they show that we have not only made Jesus the Savior of our lives, but our Lord and God also? Do they prove that we truly trust God to protect us and to keep us hidden from the enemy of our souls? Do we acknowledge the Lord first or the enemy first in our troubles, situations, and circumstances?

Now there is a discipline of saying and doing things that will potentially change and transform your thoughts and your heart. There are times when our heart needs to hear our confession to be changed. For example, a person can have genuine faith but still have some form of unbelief in their life as well. Speaking and declaring God’s truth and words helps your heart hear it and agree with it. Sometimes you have to preach to yourself!

There are times when our actions and routines train our minds how to think, like the discipline of reading the Word daily allows us to surround ourselves with God and His Kingdom. We teach our children the actions of going to church and honoring the Sabbath, so their actions reinforce their commitment and devotion to God, His community, and His ways.

If our pleasure and pursuit is being hidden in Christ, then our words will reveal that, not only to God, but to others around us.

What a blessing to be able to trust in the Almighty One. Even deeper than that, what a blessing to be able to live, dwell, and have relationship with the Almighty One. He gives all the opportunity to partake of the greatest blessings in the Kingdom: His Presence—the Lord Himself.

Let’s continue to pursue the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, both corporately and individually. And may it spill over into our family life, our businesses, and everything we put our hands forth to do.

God bless you, Victory family. May we be found in Him always, in the day of evil and at His coming!