

Psalm 91

By Nathan Burke

Beloved Victory family, it is an honor to once again join as a united family in Christ Jesus our Lord and savior to present ourselves as living sacrifices unto Him as we fast this week. As we embark on this fast together, we are focusing on Psalm 91 and the intimacy we have with God.

One of the things God was stirring in my heart as I soaked in Psalm 91 is that one of the biggest oppositions to intimacy with God is pride. One of the important reasons why we fast is to dilute our flesh so that we may be strong in humility by the Spirit of the Lord.

Psalm 91:1 says, "He who dwells in the *secret place* of the Most High shall abide *under* the shadow of the Almighty" (NKJV).

The psalmist did not mince his words when he said "under." We do not abide on top of the shadow of the Almighty, but we abide under the shadow of the Almighty. The beautiful imagery that the psalmist uses magnifies the greatness of God, how magnificent He is, and that we are a blessed people to be able to come into the secret place with Him and behold the wonderful God that He is.

I encourage you, as we fast unto the Lord, to ask God to search your heart for any pride that is hiding or pride that you know of, and that you petition God to give you the strength to confess it as sin, repent of it, and live free from it.

When we contend to live in humility and consecrate ourselves unto holiness, this will prevent the leaven of sin from growing in ourselves and the bride of Christ. This will increase our unity as a body and attract the glory of God to increase upon us corporately. Choose humility and forgiveness, and love all of the days of your life that it may increase your intimacy with God in the secret place!

I pray that as we humble ourselves in the secret place before the Lord that it would be like the time of Jonah when he was in great distress from the heat. In God's goodness, He grew a plant that cast a shadow over Jonah that provided great relief and joy (Jonah 4:6–8). As we continue to exalt God in our lives and lift Him higher, His shadow grows larger and larger upon us and increases the safety of our dwelling!

Another beautiful aspect of God's intimacy is the intimacy of His almighty protection! In Psalm 91:2–4 we read:

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. (NKJV)

I love that God is jealous for us and when opposition comes against us, He is quick to invite us to rest in His strength and deliver us from the snare of the enemy! Not only does He deliver us, but He also comforts us, brings us great peace in His strength, and gives us defense by being our strong fortress. Hallelujah!

We know that the Lord tells us in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (NKJV).

In this world Jesus tells us that we will face tribulation, but how incredible is it that our refuge and fortress is not in this world, for He is seated High above all things at the right hand of God! It is in the secret place where no enemy or opposing force can ever overcome us because we are hidden in Him. We can have peace because we hide ourselves in Christ Jesus who has overcome the world. Hallelujah!

I want to encourage you today to make the Lord your *continuous* dwelling place. It is written,

Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. (Psalm 91:9–10 NKJV)

There is a correlative blessing that is connected to making God your dwelling place. That blessing is that no evil will befall you and no plague shall come near your dwelling—praise the Lord. This goes to show the magnitude of God's perfection, power, and light in that evil cannot befall Him and plague cannot contaminate Him. Remember when Jesus touched the leper and healed him? Remember when the unclean woman touched Jesus and the power went out from Him and healed her? These are great examples of the incorruptible nature of God and the immeasurable blessings that we get to abide, hide, and thrive in the dwelling place of our Lord.

I want to finish this devotional with the blessings that God pours out on those who pour out their love on Him! Psalm 91:14–16 says,

Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation. (NKJV)

When you dwell in the secret place of almighty God and make Him your dwelling place, God will deliver you, set you on high, answer you, be with you in trouble, honor you, give you long life, satisfy you, and show you His salvation. Hallelujah! We serve such an incredible God.

I pray and ask You heavenly Father, that You would increase the revelation to us of Your glory. Help us to see Your beauty and fall more in love with You! Teach us to abide in the secret place with You at all times. In Jesus' name.

Victory, I love you guys and am so thankful to call you my family. Have a blessed week and continue to dwell in the secret place of the Most High. God bless you.