

Psalm 91

By Mike Workman

Welcome Victory family on this day of fasting unto the Lord.

We have been diving into the reality of intimacy that we as believers are invited into by the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. As I have been meditating on the Word and praying for greater intimacy with Him, I am reminded of the incredible invitations we have received by the Lord to come unto Him.

Jesus said to the tired and weary, "Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NCV). To the thirsty He said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37–38 NASB). And lastly comes the boldest invitation of all in Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (KJ21).

When we trust the Lord enough to come unto Him, we receive from Him. It's there, before God, that we begin to see and know who He is. When we know who the Lord is, we can trust Him in every area of our life. My prayer for us during this time of fasting is that our trust in the Lord is carried into an intimacy with Him, and that intimacy would continually transform us into His likeness.

Psalm 91 is our scripture text for this week of fasting. It describes an intimacy that God and His people share in verses 1–4.

Those who go to God Most High for safety will be protected by the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection. You are my God and I trust You." God will save you from hidden traps and from deadly diseases. He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you can hide. His truth will be your shield and protection. (NCV)

A few years ago, during the beginning days of the COVID-19 pandemic, I remember watching the news and following social media just trying to figure out what this thing was and how my family and I should respond. At one point, I remember simply asking God, "What is this COVID-19 virus and should I be worried?" The Lord promptly responded with just two words, "In Christ." He was speaking personally to me, and I knew exactly what the Lord was communicating. He was reminding me that there is perfect peace, perfect rest, perfect provision, and perfect safety for those who are in Christ! In fact, all of God's promises in Christ are yes and amen. Psalm 91, with all of its intimate promises, is included in that yes and amen.

We as believers are not strangers to trials, hardships, and sufferings. Yet what sets us apart from people in the world when faced with such trials and sufferings is that we have a unique promise in verses 14–16.

The Lord says, "Whoever loves Me, I will save. I will protect those who know Me. They will call to Me, and I will answer them. I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. I will give them a long, full life, and they will see how I can save." (NCV)

Like many of you, I've lived through troubles, hardships, and pain. However, I know that God, who calls us to come unto Him, has also drawn close to us, and He provides us with great comfort and strength in such times. It is this type of intimacy that enables us to persevere in Him through whatever may come our way. Intimacy does not exclude us from troubles, rather it causes an inner glory to be produced in us that will never fade away or lose its beauty. Let's take a moment to read what the Apostle Paul said concerning this inner glory in 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like Him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NCV)

A few verses earlier, Paul explains that Moses' face would shine with the glory of God after meeting face to face with the Lord. However, God's glory that was literally radiating off of Moses' face would soon fade away, and as a result he would then cover his face with a veil so the Israelites would not see it fading. In other words, Moses wanted the people to remember him as a man that shone with the glory of God, not as someone who had God's glory and lost it. Paul contrasts with us believers saying that we are not like Moses in that regard. We have God's glory and it's not fading away; it's growing brighter and brighter day by day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is what intimacy with the Lord produces. This is God's desired outcome pertaining to intimacy: that we are changed to be like Him, shining bright with an inner glory that will last forever. Simply put, what we continually behold, we become.

So how do we grow in intimacy with the Lord? I don't believe there is a single cut and dry answer. What I do know is that if we are to grow in intimacy with the Lord, our pursuits and passions in life must be different from the culture of our day. At some point we have to put our phones down, turn off the Hella-vision, eliminate the distractions, and intentionally pursue the Lord.

Let me remind you of this promise made by the Lord in Jeremiah 29:13–14 (NCV), “You will search for Me. And when you search for Me with all your heart, you will find Me! *I will let you find Me, says the Lord.*” The ending of this promise is the greatest part. God is teaching us that even if we don't exactly know how to search for the Lord, don't worry. If we just start, God will make sure that we find Him.

In closing, my prayer is that you are truly encouraged today, encouraged to trust Him and grow in intimacy with Him. There will be a day that we will see Him, this Jewish man, Jesus of Nazareth, seated at the right hand of God, shining brighter than a trillion sun-stars. Even then, the Lord will beckon us to come unto Him, saying, “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who hears this say, ‘Come!’ Let whoever is thirsty come; whoever wishes may have the water of life as a free gift” (Revelation 22:17 CEV).

I love you brother and sisters, and I bless you on this day in our fast unto the Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen!