

December 22

Psalm 91:1 (NASB) He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. **Isaiah 51:16 (NASB)** I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’

One summer years ago when I was in elementary school, my friends and I were searching for something fun to do. It was a hot day, and our options seemed limited. We found some shade to escape the sun while we discussed possibilities. At some point during our most engaging discourse, we focused on the shade providing us shelter from the sun. Going with that, we developed a game where we had to remain in the shade because the sun was “dangerous.” We could be in the sun for very short periods of time as we moved from one shady spot to another. For the rest of the day, we would search our neighborhood for any spot of shade that could be reached in a few strides. This game lasted the entire day as we sought the shelter of the shadows.

As I was reading these passages, I thought of that “game.” When we had finished playing, we found ourselves on the other side of town. We had focused so much on remaining in the shade that everything else faded away. Numerous times the Lord presents us with the same image: the protection found in His shadow. We are free to wander this world as we want; however, the Lord warns us that the world is a hostile place because the darkness wants to overcome the light. We are not to fear as the Lord Almighty is our Protector. For us to abide in His shadow, we must remain close to Him at all times. We are not to strike out on our own or pursue our own desires. Our protection is found in the shadow of His hand which He extends to cover all who love and follow Him. We do not remain in the shadow of our Father because we fear the world; we remain close to Him because He loves us and we love Him.