

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Turn off the outside "noise" for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God's Word.  
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 91:1-16 (TNIV)

<sup>1</sup> **WHOEVER DWELLS** in the *shelter* of **①THE MOST HIGH**  
will rest in the *shadow* of **②THE ALMIGHTY**.

<sup>2</sup> **THEY SAY OF ③THE LORD**, "He is *my refuge* and *my fortress*,  
**④MY GOD**, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> **SURELY** he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will **cover** you with his feathers,  
and under his wings *you will find refuge*;  
his faithfulness *will be your shield and rampart*.

<sup>5</sup> **You will not fear** the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,**  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but *it will not come near you*.

— PART 2 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

Yesterday we looked at the challenges the Psalmist faced in his day...but also **found comfort in the character and identity of God**, as revealed in four of his **names**:  
MOST HIGH GOD — ALMIGHTY GOD — LORD — "OUR GOD".

Today we find encouragement and hope in seven of his **actions**, as revealed in the actions verbs and metaphors that the Psalmist applies to God:

- The **Shelter** we dwell in
- The **Shadow** we rest in
- My **Refuge** to hide in
- My **Fortress** to find protection in
- The mother hen whose **Feathers** will cover us...
- and whose **Wings** we will find refuge under;
- The one whose **Faithfulness** will be our **Shield** and **Rampart**

In a word, we are "covered"!

We also recognize that **our choices** seem to invoke God's protective care. We seem to have a power of self-determination that **invites** God's engagement in our lives. It's called "free will." Just look at the active choices that the Psalmist engages in . . .

<sup>1</sup> **WHOEVER DWELLS** in the *shelter* of ❶ **THE MOST HIGH**  
will rest in the *shadow* of ❷ **THE ALMIGHTY.**

<sup>2</sup> **THEY SAY OF** ❸ **THE LORD,**  
“He is *my refuge* and *my fortress*,  
❹ **MY GOD**, in whom **I trust.**”

<sup>9</sup> **IF YOU SAY,** “**THE LORD** is *my refuge*,”  
**AND YOU MAKE** **THE MOST HIGH** *your dwelling*...

<sup>14</sup> **“BECAUSE THEY LOVE ME,”** says **THE LORD**...  
[and] **THEY ACKNOWLEDGE MY NAME.**

<sup>15</sup> [and] **THEY WILL CALL ON ME...**

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**“Choosing to dwell in the shelter of God Most High  
leads to a position of rest under his protective care.”**

W. DENNIS TUCKER & JAMIE A. GRANT, *Psalms, Volume 2* (NIVAC)

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**SO, WE CAN ASK OURSELVES IF WE ARE MAKING LIFE-GIVING CHOICES...**

- Are we actively **dwelling** in the shelter of the Most High? (v. 1a)
- Do we actually **say** of the Lord, “He is *my refuge* and *my fortress, my God*, in whom **I trust**”? (v. 2)
- Do we honestly **say**, “The Lord is my refuge”? (v. 9a)
- Are we **making** the Most High our “dwelling”? (v. 9b)
- Do we **love** the Lord with everything we’ve got? (v. 14a)
- Are we **“acknowledging”** His name? Do we cultivate a personal relationship... to the point where we honestly **“know” who He is**? (v. 14b)
- And finally: Do we **call** on Him when troubles come our way? (v. 15)

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So again today, **MOST HIGH GOD — ALMIGHTY GOD — LORD — “OUR GOD” —**  
*we turn to you.*

*We want to make our selves “at home” in the shelter you provide for us.*

*We want to learn to fully “be still” and “rest” in your calming presence.*

*We want to get to know you better today...*

*and love you with all of our resources and capacities!*

Pastor Doug

P.S. **I hope to “see” you** (virtually) this morning at our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** at 10:30! **It’s the first Sunday of the month**, so we’ll celebrate the Lord’s Table; be ready with the bread and cup — use whatever you have available in your home. **Bring your tithes and offerings — we need your financial support more than ever!** Give online, mail a check, or bring it with you on a **FAMILY FIELD TRIP** after watching our online service! Some of our staff will be outside to greet you after the service from 11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., with facemasks. Canned goods for the Food Pantry would be welcome. And our Children’s Ministry will have something for your kids! We **miss** you . . . we are **praying** for you . . . and we **love** you!