

## THE SECRET PLACE

**Text:** Psalms 91:1-9

Out of the 150 psalms contained in the book, the 91<sup>st</sup> psalm stands out for its beautiful language and bold promises. It's all about the benefits of living close to God. Some promises of God are unconditional meaning that they simply depend all on Him with no cooperation from us. But some are conditional meaning that "if we will, then He will". There are some amazing promises in this text. Vows like being delivered from the snare of the fowler, and from the destructive pestilence, He will cover you and be your shield, you'll have peace instead of fear, and when divine judgment comes...it will not touch you. Let's just look at these briefly:

- **He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler** – The fowler is a bird hunter, and his traps were cunning and hard to spot. This is an idiom for Satan's traps and temptations that he lays in our lives. King Herod had every intention of killing Jesus at his birth. He lied to the wise men that enquired about his whereabouts saying that he would come and worship him too. God warned the wise men and Joseph in dreams to flee the city before Herod could destroy Jesus and them. Satan had a snare set but God delivered them from it.
- **He shall cover thee with His wings and be your shield** – God told Abraham that He was his shield and his exceeding great reward...meaning that nothing can harm you because I am your covering. King Hezekiah went into the house of the LORD in Jerusalem and prayed for God to save them from the Assyrians that came to destroy them and God said, "I will defend this city for my name's sake". He sent one angel in the middle of the night, and he drew his sword and killed 185,000 soldiers in one night.
- **Peace during troublesome times - Psalm 91:5** *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Every time Jesus entered a desperate situation, He began with "Fear not" because he is our peace...Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises in jail at midnight. Peter slept soundly in the midst of many soldiers charged with securing him in the inner most part of the prison under a death sentence the following day. Stephen prayed for the forgiveness of the men stoning him to death and fell asleep at his execution in the presence of Jesus.*
- **Deliverance from divine judgment - Psalm 91:6-8** *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh*

thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.  
*When God brought the 10 devastating plagues upon Egypt, they never harmed Israel at all. When God sent two angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, they took Lot and his immediate family by the hand and set them out of the cities before they brought the destruction. Before the great tribulation comes on the earth, Jesus will come in the clouds and rapture his church out because it is not appointed to wrath!*

**These great and precious promises are conditional on two things found in the text -**

**Psalm 91:2** I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. A refuge is a place of safety that you go to; to flee danger and a fortress is a fortified place like a castle meant to protect you from the attacks of the enemy. The psalmist says here that he will trust in the LORD exclusively to be his shelter and his protection. Do we trust in the LORD exclusively? Meaning we don't have any back up plans...we will trust in God with all our heart and not try to do it ourselves. The second condition is **Psalm 91:9** Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; This is the Old Testament equivalent of what Jesus said in John 15...abide in me and I in you. Dwelling in the secret place of the Most High is a reference to having an intimate relationship with God. Christ has both died and resurrected, sin has been dealt with and the veil torn in two **Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. *God is inviting us to come close and abide with Him. The secret place is referring to us spending private time in the presence of God.*

**How do we enter the secret place?** Through worship - **John 4:23-24** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

**The Bible teaches us how to enter the presence of God - Psalm 100:2** Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. **Psalm 100:4** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. *The New Testament says the same thing - Ephesians 5:18-20* And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Worshiping God is not something we do once or twice a week, it's a lifestyle** – We gather a couple of times a week to worship collectively but every Christian needs to privately worship God and enter His presence. When we make the secret place our dwelling, we get recharged and refreshed. We hear the voice of God clearly. We get

direction and discernment. It's the place where we trade our burdens for His peace and we get anointed with power from on high! Jesus Christ's whole ministry was directed and empowered by his time away from everyone in secret places communing with his Father. If we want to claim the precious promises of Psalm 91, then we must meet the conditions...complete trust in God and dwelling with Him in the secret place.