

ABIDING IN THE SECRET PLACE PSALM 91

INTRODUCTION:

- I. When you were a child, did you have a secret hiding place--somewhere you went to be alone, where you felt safe and secure? Psalm 91 describes a similar spiritual place, a position under the shadow of the Almighty where you can be safe and secure.
- II. Psalm 91 is a message to all those who have and will face challenges, problems, and negative circumstances. In other words, it is a Psalm for everyone--but there are qualifications in order to claim its promises.
- III. When you experience crisis outside the shadow of the Almighty, you can't claim the provision and protection promised in Psalm 91. These promises are only for those who abide in the secret place. That is why it is important to learn how to get into this position and learn how to continually abide in the secret place.

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The promises made in this Psalm are only for those who live in the secret place under the shadow of the Almighty. **The remainder of the Psalm tells us how to live in that secret place.**

WHAT IS THE SECRET PLACE?

The "*secret place*" is an intimate place of personal relationship with God, not a doctrinal position or an actual physical location. It is the inner court versus the outer court position. It is being at home with God. It is a private, intimate place of personal relationship with God. The Hebrew speaks of a protected hiding place. The secret place is not a doctrinal position or a mysterious place. It is where you and God get intimate--it is personal intimacy.

HOW DO WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE?

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE BY LEARNING AND PRACTICING GODLY CONFESSIONS.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE BY MAKING A COMMITMENT TO GOD AS OUR SECURITY, OUR DELIVERER, AND OUR TRUTH.

3-6 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. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE WHEN WE REMAIN IN CHRIST REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

7-10 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand by your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. 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;

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE BY UNDERSTANDING THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS AND HOW TO ACTIVATE THEM IN OUR BEHALF.

11-12 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE BY FULFILLING OUR DIVINE MANDATE.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

WE ABIDE IN THE SECRET PLACE WHEN WE KEEP OUR FOCUS ON GOD.

14-16 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.

ABIDING IN THE SECRET PLACE
PSALM 91
(Take home handout for further study.)

- I. The **foundations** of faith in God. (1-2)
- A. Dwelling in the secret place of the Most High.
 - B. Abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.
 - C. Confessing properly: AI will say of the Lord...@
 - D. Knowing God is our refuge and fortress.
 - E. Trusting God.
- II. The **foes and fruits** of our faith. (3-11)
- A. Foes:
 - 1. The snare of the fowler.
 - 2. The pestilence.
 - 3. Terror by night.
 - 4. Arrows by day.
 - 5. Pestilence that walks in darkness.
 - 6. Destruction that wastes at noonday.
 - 7. People falling all around us.
 - B. Fruits:
 - 1. God covers us with His feathers and wings.
 - 2. His truth is our shield and buckler.
 - 3. People are falling all around, but it does not come nigh our secret place.
 - 4. Only with our eyes will we see the reward of the wicked.
 - 5. Because the Lord is our refuge and habitation:
 - a. There shall no evil befall us.
 - b. No plague shall come nigh our dwelling.
- III. The **friends** of our faith: Angels. 12-13)
- A. They have charge over us.
 - B. They keep us in all our ways.
 - C. They bear us up in their hands, lest we dash our foot against a stone.
 - D. They enable us to tread upon the lion and adder and trample the young lion and the dragon (*spiritual enemies*).
- IV. The **fellowship of our faith**. Because our love is set upon God and we know His name: (14-16)
- A. He will deliver us.
 - B. He will set us on high.
 - C. We will call on Him and He will answer.
 - D. He will be with us in trouble.
 - E. He will honor us.

F. With long life He will satisfy us and show us His salvation.

Study questions on chapter 91:

1. What four names are used for God in verses 1-2?
2. What does David say of the Lord in verse 2? What do you say about God when you are in trouble?
3. What is the prerequisite in verse 1 to the promises in verses 2-8?
4. What is our spiritual shield and buckler? (4)
5. Satan knows God's Word. See Luke 4:10-11. How did Satan misapply verse 11 of this Psalm?
6. What do verses 5 and 6 teach about the continual nature of our warfare?
7. What is the prerequisite in verse 9 to the promises given in verses 10-15?
8. Summarize the various threats from which the Lord delivers those who trust in Him. Apply these spiritually.
9. What are the foundations of faith given in verses 1-2?
10. What are the foes of faith listed in verses 3-11?
11. What are the fruits of faith listed in verses 3-11?
12. Who are the spiritual friends of our faith? What are their responsibilities? (12-13)
13. What two keys to deliverance are given in verse 14?
14. Reflect on verse 1: "Secret place--under the shadow": Have you been abiding there continually or have you let stresses and problems drive you from that place of intimacy in God?
15. Reflect on verse 2: "I will say of the Lord": What have you been saying? Negative words of defeat? Remember that death and life are in the power of your tongue. "He is my refuge": Have you been turning to other things for refuge? Friends? Food? Romance novels? Are you trusting in things other than God?
16. Reflect on verses 3-6: Satan sends pestilence, terrors, arrows, destruction, and snares. Have you fallen victim to some of these? "You shall not be afraid": Are you struggling with fear?
17. Reflect on verses 7-10: "Because you have made the Lord your habitation": Do you continually live in the presence of the Lord? The promises in these verses are only to those who make God their continual abode.
18. Reflect on verses 11-12: Angels are activated on the basis of the Word of God. Have you been speaking the Word of God in the midst of your difficult circumstances, or words of unbelief and defeat? If you have been doing the latter, you are hindering the angels from working in your behalf. What are some promises you can confess--right now--that will activate your angels?