

PLEASE TURN TO

Psalm

91

PSALM 91

ABIDING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Psalms

PSALM 91

Introduction- Key Points

- The Psalm encourages the person who has committed him/herself to God's protection.
- It stresses the importance of believers understanding the safety of abiding in God's presence.
- The Psalm is more of a testimony rather than an essay.
- But, the promise is conditional—it requires a commitment to God.
- Knowing God, versus knowing “about” God.

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Introduction- Key Points

- The promise implies a life of faith and trust in God.
- The psalmist is not unaware of the dangers of life, but any fear of adversaries is outweighed by his confidence in the security that he derives from God.
- The committed Christian knows that he/she is forever secure in the hands of God.
- It is the believer who does not hesitate to trust both the present and future into God's hands and care.

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Verses 1-2

- Dwell—to sit, remain, abide. To be in continual, permanent presence...
- Dwelling in the secret place or refuge beyond the reach of any foe.
- The “shadow” of the Almighty symbolizes God’s protective power.
- The one whose dwelling place is with the Lord is secure. This is NOT to imply a life of sheltered seclusion, as subsequent verses will point out.
- But, when the trials of life come, we need to trust in God.
- In Him will I trust.

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Verses 3-6

- These problems seem to be the kind which strike suddenly.
- “Surely, He...” of verse 3 is emphatic. God is able to deliver. Yet, this is not a charm against adversity. We know from Rom 8:35 that trials will come into the life of a believer, but that nothing can separate us from Him.
- As the psalmist progresses along the paths of life, he knows that he will encounter problems and trials that could ruin or destroy his life. Yet, in all of this he has shelter with God.
- God’s faithfulness, His truth, will protect him.

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Verses 3-6 (cont.)

- The character of God is my strength.
 - I can count on His faithfulness.
 - I can count on His mercy and grace.
 - I can count on His love for me.
 - I can count on the fact that He wants the best for me.
- As I have faith in the character of God, I know that I am dwelling in His presence. The peace that only comes from God will guide and direct me.
- Phil 4:6-7, Isa 26:3.

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Verses 7-8

- The wicked and evil person has no claim to God's protection.
- But, seeing the wicked person fall has no effect on the security of one who is close to God.
- As the evil people fall around the psalmist, it only affirms his conviction to follow faithfully in the way of God.
- Daniel 3:17-18.
- Nothing can touch the committed believer without God's allowance. But, even then we know that God will use our trial for His glory and honor.

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Verses 9-13

- It's the person who completely trusts in God, and has faith in His promises, who is assured of His protective care.
- Angels are seen as messengers and guardians, but there is little support to see them as personal guardians.
- In Matt 4:6, we see Satan misapplying these verses. Thus, the importance of knowing the Word correctly.
- Nowhere is the psalmist promised a life of ease and tranquility. But, he is promised everywhere that he will not face the trials of life helpless and alone.
- The committed believer is always in God's care!

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Verses 14-16

- God's divine words of assurance.
- The verse opens and closes on the conditions of God's assurance.
 - "Because he loves me..." Love in this case means more than just taking delight in someone. The principle idea meaning "to be attached to," or "to cleave to someone" out of deep affection.
 - This is the kind of passion that will not let go; one that leads us to "hunger and thirst for righteousness." (Matt 5:6)
- Here God promises to deliver the psalmist as he acknowledges His name.
 - He acknowledges who God is.
 - His desire to trust and cling to him.

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Verses 14-16

- Because the psalmist trusts in God, He will respond. With this deep, unwavering trust :
 - When one calls on God, He responds.
 - When one is in trouble, God is present.
 - God will deliver and honor him.
- “Long life” is literally “length of days.” The promise here is likely referring to God’s promise of love and care that does not end with the grave.

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Verses 14-16

- Showing the psalmist His salvation likely referring to the numerous saving acts of God experienced throughout a person's life:
 - The answered prayers.
 - God's presence in time of trouble.
 - His deliverance from evil.

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Application

1. What is going on in my life that I truly need to see the hand of God at work?
2. Am I focused on being in the continual presence of God?
 - Being in His Word.
 - Recognition that Christ is enough.
 - Reflecting on the many good things God has done in my life.
 - Being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Experiencing God in the “ordinary.”

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