

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

HOW TO WALK IN DIVINE PROTECTION

Dr. Ché Ahn

March 29, 2020

TEXT: Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!” 3 For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. 5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. 7 A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. 8 You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. 9 For you have made the LORD, my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place. 10 No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. 11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

Psalm 91:14 “Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him *securely* on high, because he has known My name. 15 He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. 16 With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation.”

INTRO:

1. This seems to be the Psalm that many pastors are preaching from since the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
2. I have divided Psalm 91 into three sections: **The Condition: Psalm 91:1-2; The Protection: Psalm 91:3-13; The Promise: Psalm 91:14-16**

I. THE TWO CONDITIONS

A. ABIDE IN GOD’S PRESENCE

1. **Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**
2. Old Testament commentator Dr. Tate in World Biblical Commentary says that in the Hebrew grammar these are conditional verses. It goes something like: “If you dwell in the shelter of the Most High... If you trust the Lord...” So, it is not just an automatic given protection.
3. Abide in the shadow of the Almighty. *Abide* means to dwell, to remain. The shadow of God and the wings of God are metaphors for His covering or protection. The implication is that this is in the presence of God where we find protection.
4. In Psalm 27:5, “the secret place” refers to the presence of God. **“The secret place of Your tabernacle” - Psalm 27:5.** Are you abiding in God’s presence?
5. We are talking about what Brother Lawrence wrote, “Practicing the Presence of God.”
6. You can do this 24/7. It is hosting the Holy Spirit, that is being aware of His presence. One of the ways I do this is by constantly giving praise and thanksgiving to God

throughout the day. Thanksgiving is the key to happiness. Giving thanks is a choice you can make daily. It activates the fruit of the Spirit of joy.

7. This is the key to success in Christ. “If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and I will give it to you” (John 15:7). “He who abides in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit” (John 15:5).
8. Take this opportunity to pause, to pray, to let God reset things, and to listen to the voice of God.

B. TRUST IN GOD

1. **Psalm 91:2 I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!”**

II. EIGHT PROTECTIONS

A. PROTECTION FROM THE SNARE OF THE ENEMY

1. **Psalm 91:3 For it is He (*alone*) who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence.**
2. The snare of the trapper is referring to a fowler or a bird trap. They didn’t have shotguns then, so they would trap fowls with a basket.
3. The enemy will try to lay a snare of anxiety, fear, bondage to food, alcohol, pornography. He alone will deliver you from the snare.
4. Mike Bickle shared that over the years, so many have complained to him that they wish they could spend more time with the Lord, but they have work and are too busy. Through the COVID-19 situation, we have all the time now, but the truth is that many are bored out of their minds. They are binging on Netflix.
5. **Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.**
6. His faithfulness will be your shield of protection

B. PROTECTION FROM DEATH AND INJURY DURING BATTLE

1. **Psalm 91:5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day.**
2. The Israelites were afraid of three major threats: war, famine and pestilence.
3. One of the reasons why scholars believe that David wrote this Psalm is because of the intense military language. David was the warrior King.
4. Many Christian soldiers have meditated on Psalm 91 while they are in battle because of the promise of this verse. I will not fear of the “bullets, missiles, bombs, etc.”

C. PROTECTION FROM FEAR

1. **Psalm 91:5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. 7 A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. 8 You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.**
2. Terror by night. Unreasonable fear. Irrational fear. Foreboding fear.
3. Maybe you have been hit with this irrational fear at night as you lie in bed, “I am going to be killed. My wife is going to leave me. Something terrible is going to happen to my children, etc.”

D. PROTECTION FROM EVIL

1. **Psalm 91:10a No evil will befall you...**
2. **Matthew 6:13 “...Deliver us from evil”**

3. **Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil...**

4. We are capable of being very evil. E.g. A man who intentionally tried to spread coronavirus. Another woman intentionally coughed into food, and the grocery store had to throw out \$35,000 worth of food.

E. PROTECTION FROM DISEASE & SICKNESS INCLUDING THE CORONAVIRUS

1. Three times God says that He is going to protect us from sickness.

2. **Psalm 91:3 For it is He (alone) who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence.**

3. **Psalm 91:6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.**

4. **Psalm 91:10b ...nor will any plague come near your tent.**

5. You can walk in divine health. My testimony of 20 years of being flu free: I have taken practical steps to promoting health and I also believe God has been supernaturally protecting me.

F. PROTECTION FROM PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

1. **Psalm 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.**

2. Two examples: In Taiwan I believe an angel protected me when I fell down backwards on an escalator at the train station. When I was young, I was hit by a motorcycle, and to my amazement I wasn't hurt at all!

G. PROTECTION FROM DEMONIC FORCES

1. **Psalm 91:13 You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down.**

2. The devil is portrayed as a lion seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 4). Satan has been personified by a serpent in Genesis and in Luke 10:19. We will tread on the serpent. This verse shifts into the next section, in which God gives eight promises.

III. EIGHT PROMISES

A. I WILL DELIVER YOU!

1. **Psalm 91:14a Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him.**

B. I WILL SET YOU SECURELY ON HIGH

1. **Psalm 91:14b I will set him *securely* on high, because he has known My name.**

C. I WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYER

1. **Psalm 91:15a He will call upon Me, and I will answer him**

D. I WILL BE WITH YOU IN TIMES OF TROUBLE AND I WILL RESCUE YOU

1. **Psalm 91:15b I will be with him in trouble and I will rescue him**

E. I WILL HONOR YOU

1. **Psalm 91:15c and honor him**

F. I WILL GIVE YOU A LONG LIFE

1. **Psalm 91:16a With a long life I will satisfy him**

G. I WILL SAVE YOU!

1. **Psalm 91:16b and let him see My salvation**

CONCLUSION: I want to give an invitation to give your life to the Lord.