

Security of the One Who Trusts in the Lord

If we only read the Word to know things in it, we lose the opportunity to be intimate with our Papa. He loves us and has given us so much. He made it possible, through Jesus, for us to have a deep relationship- to abide with Him. Spending intimate time with Him in prayer, in the Word, in worship, in fellowship with His Church, even in rest - this is when we truly get to know Him and, in fact, we get to know our new selves. We discover who we are as new creations in Christ and what new realities we get to live in with Jesus. Surrendering to this sweet time of fellowship with our Father, forever changes our lives and our worship.

Abide:

Merriam -Webster Definition

Transitive (with D.O.); **1.** *to bear patiently; to endure without yielding*
2. *To wait for* **3.** *To accept without objection*

Intransitive (w/out D.O.): **1.** *To remain stable or fixed in a state.*
2. *To continue in a place*

John 15:4-7

“⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

The Greek word for “abide” (menō) **G3306** is found 120 times and 12 times in this chapter of John. It can also mean to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy); continue to dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand; tarry for. Exchanging any of these words for “abide” in these verses gives us a more complete picture of what God meant for this to look like. It’s important to note that in the second half of this chapter of John, we are told to expect persecution. Abiding in Him is crucial for survival.

Retreating to the secret place with Papa God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

The secret place – [Strong's (H5463) used as secret place 3x's and hiding place 2 x's] a cover (in a good or a bad, a literal or a figurative sense): —backbiting, covering, covert, disguise(-th), hiding place, privily, protection, secret(-ly, place).

Psalms 18:11, 81:7; 91:1

A good example of a secret place meeting is when Moses met the Lord face to face in the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 33: 8-11; Psalm 81: 6-7). When we are in our secret place, this is our face to face time with God. Here we pursue Him; we pursue true relationship with real conversation.

We will be physically and spiritually changed as we choose to have this time with the Lord. In Exodus 34, Moses went to Mt. Sinai for the Lord to give him the final set of Tablets of the Law for the Israelites to follow, he came down with his face glowing from the time he spent with Jehovah God. There was a physical change in Moses that the people could see. The people were afraid of this change and Moses put a veil over his face. However, every time Moses went to speak with the Lord he would take the veil off his face. In 2 Cor. 3: 13-18 Paul references this event and tells us that “**we all can now approach the Lord with unveiled faces**”- to be intimate with Him face to face and be changed by His glory. The Secret Place changes us because He changes us. A covering that gives us what we need when we choose to go to it and abide with Him.

Psalm 91

The first verse of this Psalm tells us to dwell in “the secret place”. Verse 1 & 2 of Psalm 91 shares that when we do two specific actions then the promises in the remainder of the Psalm belong to us.

Let's take a look:

Our actions:

Psalms 91:1-2

**He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.**

**²I will say of the Lord, “*He is my refuge and my fortress;*
My God, in Him I will trust.”**

1. Dwell/Abide in His shelter (in the secret place)

The first verse uses two old testament words for “abide”. “*Dwell*” is **H3427** and is used as “*abide, inhabit, tarry, and be still*” to name just a few. The second word translated “*abide*” is the Hebrew word **H3885** and is used as, “ *dwell, endure, grudge, be left, (make to) murmur, remain, tarry (all night, that night)*”. I noticed that there are some positive but also some negative words to describe the “*abiding*” process. This word “*murmur*” stood out to me. It actually brought me some peace to see that I am still abiding with Him even in those times when murmuring or complaining are coming from my lips. He doesn’t turn away or shut me out, it’s a part of this process of intimacy with Him. The important aspect to remember is that we don’t stay in a place of murmuring. During our time with the Lord, we move into gratitude as He listens to our concerns and brings His peace and trust. Again, we need to accept these gifts and stay with Him until they change our sorrow into gladness. Jude 14-16 warns us that it is ungodly to stay in a place of murmuring. David showed us in many of the Psalms that it is impossible to stay in that dark place when you are in true fellowship with Jehovah God. There is no shame over those moments of murmuring, but we need to move into His thoughts and out of ours.

Thoughts/Prayers:

2. Declare *He is my strength, my God, my shelter, the one I rely on, the one I trust*
He is my hope, He has captured me.

We need to be declaring, out loud, these truths. The Hebrew definitions for verse 2's words include "refuge- *shelter, hope, trust; fortress- strong place, defense, capture; trust- confident, bold, secure; My God- Elohim.* What we say impacts us and those around us. We will eat the fruits of what we speak, so if we are continually speaking negative words, what do we expect the result to be? Proverbs 18: 20-21 say, **"A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; *From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled. ²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."** We need to be aware of the power that our words have and speak the truths of our Mighty God more often than our fears.

Thoughts/ Prayer:

From this choice of abiding with our God, the Son and Holy Spirit, and declaring who He truly is to us, we can step into the promises found in Psalm 91:3-16.

The Promises We Receive...

**³Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.**

1. He rescues me from any trap.

2. He protects me from every disease / plague.

Let's look at the words first. "Deliver" can also be translated "snatched away, save, pluck, without fail, strip, spoil". Surely, He will snatch us away, pluck us from without fail the snare of the enemy. It's empowering to read this verse with such words of confidence. Jesus tells us that the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy but He came so that we may have life in abundance (John 10: 10). Peter warns us that the enemy is like a lion ready to devour us in 1Peter 5: 8. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6 that we have been given an armor from God to protect us but we have to act by putting it on. As believers, we need to rest assured that when we live fully surrendered and abiding with our Father, the Son & Holy Spirit that we are walking in the promises and power found in His Word.

Thoughts/ Prayer:

**⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.**

3. He will be a shield that completely protects all of me, when I seek Him.

4. He will be a shield that pierces sharply what is coming against me, when I seek Him.

“Truth” in this verse also means “faithfulness, firmness”. He is faithful to protect us and cover us. As we seek Him, we need to rest assured that His protection is steadfast and He is fighting for us in ways we can’t see or know. Romans 3: 4a reminds us that “**God will always be proven faithful and true to his word...**”

Hebrews 4: 12 declares “**the Word of God penetrates, cuts sharper than any two-edged sword**”. Declaring the Living Word of God releases its full power. These promises are a source of reviving life for us.

Thoughts/ Prayer:

**⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,**

**⁶ Nor of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.**

**⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.**

5. He keeps away all fears of the terrors that men can do to me.

6. He keeps away all the arrows the enemy tries to send at me through life circumstances.

In our secret place with the Lord, He meets us and any night terror, acts men do against men, evils that we see daily in our news, cannot stand or not consume our thoughts. We share in Jesus' peace when we meet with Him and trust His Word. The more time we spend with the Lord, the more equipped we become to carry His peace and confidence with us outside of our secret place. Life circumstances are seen differently when we filter them through His lens, His light. Only through intimate relationship can we find His solutions and His peace. Ephesians 6: 16 confirms to us that the shield of faith will "**extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**". When we stand firm in your faith and continue to dwell with Him, our faith grows and becomes stronger.

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Thoughts/ Prayer:

⁹ **Because you have made the Lord, *who is my refuge,*
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,**
¹⁰ **No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;**

7. *He is always with me, no matter what I see around me.*

8. *He will let no evil befall me.*

9. *He will let no disease come near my home.*

We need to rest in the truth that Jehovah has us. He is our hope, our shelter in whom we trust. It's crucial to see that "you have made" is the beginning of this verse. Have you made this a reality in your life by continuing to abide with Him and declare His truths? The world around us may look grim, but it is not our reality under the refuge of Jehovah. Our Father has us and He also wants to give us good gifts. Luke 11: 13 (TPT) "¹³**If imperfect parents know how to lovingly take care of their children and give them what they need, how much more will the perfect heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit's fullness when his children ask him.**" Notice there is action we need to take... "ask".

Again, we are told that pestilence/plague will not touch His righteous believers. This Hebrew word has a little different meaning than the other word for pestilence. This one references the sores of "*a leprous person, wounds*". The other word we have seen a couple times before in this Psalm references "*destroying*". To me, this means that anything that's

tries to destroy and specific plagues have no power. What do we believe and declare as we live day to day?

Thoughts/ Prayer:

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

10. He orders His angels to protect me on my life journey.

11. He sends angels to hold me up and keep me from hurting even my foot on a stone.

This Hebrew word for “keep” (shâmar) **H8104** is also defined as *preserve, mark, regard, save, watch, wait, heed, or observe*. We can see a broader picture of what the angels do as they are ministering to us. Hebrews 1: 14, “**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**”. They watch, preserve, protect, guard us as we journey through this life’s path. Even the devil knew the ministry of angels to those with His Holy Spirit in them. In Mtt. 4: 6 and Luke 4: 11, the devil is interacting with Jesus while He’s in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. He tells Jesus to order the angels to protect Him “**so not to**

dash his foot against a stone". We are entitled to this protection as we dwell with and declare the mightiness of Jehovah.

Thoughts/Prayer:

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,

The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

12. He has given me all authority over big, bold problems; little, subtle negative life issues; surprise attacks of the enemy & shadow fears of vain imagination.

Peggy Joyce Ruth, in her book Psalm 91, did a great job of putting this verse into a current day perspective for me. She said the lion represents "big bold problems", the cobra is like "little, negative life issues" that sneak into our day, the young lion represents "surprise attacks" the enemy drops into our lives and the serpent likens the "shadow fears of vain imagination". We can all relate to each of these categories and how they try to touch our lives.

The New Testament contains many warnings of these different issues. For example, 1 Peter 5: 8 warns of the enemy trying to devour us like a young lion and James 1 encourages us as he tells us we will have trials. Colossians 2: 8 tells us "**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ**". The threats are real but we have overcome because Christ overcame. Let's go back and see the promise stated in this verse.

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It says, “You shall tread upon”, this means the power of Christ in you threshes these things, strikes with the archer arrow, and marches over them with victory. Under His wings, His protection, as we are abiding with Him and declaring God’s mighty goodness, is firmly ours. We are planted and rooted in His authority so these are not threatening to us. We should not live in fear of such threats. Live in thanksgiving and praise for all our Mighty Father has delivered us from. A few more promises to strengthen you:

Luke 10:19; Song of Sol 2:15; Prov. 28:1.

At this point in Psalm 91, Papa God moves from prophetically telling us the promises that belong to us to speaking directly to us about what He has done for us.

**¹⁴ “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.**

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

**¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation.”**

In verses 14-16, Papa God says...

1. I will protect those who love me. (Gal. 1:4)

2. I will set you on high because you know my name and trust me.

(Ephesians 2:6)

3. I will answer when you call. (I John 5:14-15)

4. I will be there to rescue you in times of trouble. (Psalm 9:9)

5. I will equip you and honor you. (Rom. 2:7,10; Heb. 2:5-18)

6. I will fill your long life with satisfaction. (Prov. 3:1-4)

7. *I will joyfully present to you the experience of my salvation-
deliverance, healing, protection, provision and victory.*

(2 Cor. 5:18-19; Ephesians 1:3-23)

Thoughts/ Prayer:

Security of the One Who Trusts in the Lord. (Amplified Version)

91 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

Will remain secure *and* rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].

²I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,

My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!"

³For He will save you from the trap of the fowler,

And from the deadly pestilence.

⁴He will cover you *and* completely protect you with His pinions,

And under His wings you will find refuge;

His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.

⁵You will not be afraid of the terror of night,

Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

⁶Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

Nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon.

⁷A thousand may fall at your side

And ten thousand at your right hand,

But danger will not come near you.

⁸You will only [be a spectator as you] look on with your eyes

And witness the [divine] repayment of the wicked [as you watch safely from the shelter of the Most High].

⁹Because you have made the Lord, [who is] 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 command His angels in regard to you,

To protect *and* defend *and* guard you in all your ways [of obedience and service].

¹² They will lift you up in their hands,

So that you do not [even] strike your foot against a stone.

¹³ You will tread upon the lion and cobra;

The young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

¹⁴ “Because he set his love on Me, therefore I will save him;

I will set him [securely] on high, because he knows My name [he confidently trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never abandon him, no, never].

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 I will let him see My salvation.”