

## IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, there shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent (Psalm 91:9-10).

He **who** dwells is a specific person; in the relative pronoun **who**, there is the understanding through the connection that this Psalm is referring to “he” the antecedent of who. He is the one who partakes of the blessings of protection, deliverance of Psalm ninety-one, because he resides or abides in the secret place of the Almighty. He is the one who is sitting at the right hand of the Father with Yahshua, and in faith he can confidentially say of the Lord, He is my refuge, He is my fortress, He is my God! The Lord responds to him by saying, Because you have made Me your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, here are the blessings I have for you: there shall no evil happen to you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent – your home. And how will it be so? God has given His angels charge over him to guard him in all his ways; they will lift him up in their hands so he will not strike his foot against a stone. His footage will be firm and protected from anything that will cause him to stumble. God’s power will be given him against the enemy and his demons, and only there in the shelter of the Most High he will be rescued. There are many blessings, promises and victory found in this Psalm for that one **who** is dwelling in Him- in the secret place, in the shelter of the Most High.

When do we know that we are abiding in His shelter? And how do we know when we have left His protective and secret place? We will know when we are abiding there through our relationship with God; by our love and obedience to Him independent from the circumstances around us. We know when we can say all is well in the midst of our trials; we will know that when our love for Him is unconditional and submissive to His will. We will know also when we have left the protective shelter, when we walk in our own understanding and disobedience and do not submit to his will; when we have lost our relationship and the desire to be with Him through the reading of His Word.

When Moses was interceding for Israel to God, the Lord answered him, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness and mercy in My sight and I know you personally and by name (Exodus 33:17). How does one come to know a person by name, and what is the meaning of the word to know here? For God to know us by name, it is necessary that we persevere in His shelter; To know someone indicates a relationship; it is more than in an acquaintance when first meeting someone. To know is to have a clear perception and understanding of someone. In the shelter of the Most High, we acquire the knowledge of Him, and learn to love and obey Him and learn to submit to Him. When we befriend someone, we come to know him in that sphere of friendship. When the Lord said, “I never knew you” it meant, I did not have a relationship with you.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1). Not only will he be stable and secure, but will also be delivered from deceits and sickness, from the terror of the night, the arrows, which are the evil

plots from the evil one; there he will be inaccessible – no one can harm him “If God is for us who can be against us”?

There are great rewards for those who remain in the secret place of the Most High. The road that leads to the secret place is hard and rocky; the steps are steep, and only those who love Him are willing to continue on that road. It is the road of sanctification. This road is not for the coward; it is not for the flaky Christian; this road requires the believer to be in complete submission to God’s will.

The secret place is the vine – Yahshua. We are the branches, receiving life nourishment and protection from the vine. The branch that does not bear fruit is cut away; but the branch that produces fruit is pruned, cleansed to bear even more fruit (the work of the Holy Spirit). There is no place in the vine for those who do not bear fruit (who refuse the sanctification’s work of the Holy Spirit). Without sanctification one cannot see God. He will be cut and thrown away to be burned.

By dwelling in Yahshua, He said I will dwell in you. When we leave Yahshua, He too leaves us. His Holy Spirit is not going to live in a filthy temple shared with evil spirits. Yahshua said, If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken off] branch and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire and they are burned (John 15:6). “Once saved, always saved? Think again, my friend! Again, Yahshua says, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love and live on it (John 15:10a). We will not produce fruit without love. To remain in the secret place of the Almighty is conditional upon our obedience (submission to the work of the Holy Spirit) and the bearing of fruit (by loving one another). Love, then is the key to remain in the vine. From love springs forth mercy, compassion, tolerance, patience, kindness, self control, faithfulness and goodness. As you can see these are the fruit of the Holy Spirit compelling us to act guided by love.

Only in the secret place of the Almighty will we be transformed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another until He calls us home. Where are you abiding today? Is bitterness dictating your life and decisions? Can you see yourself bearing fruit for God and His kingdom in that situation? Forgive, my friend and return to the safe place, the secret place of the Almighty and to the vine that is Yahshua, and let the Holy Spirit sanctify you.

Think about it!