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DAY 15

GOD PROMISES TO BE YOUR REFUGE

JANUARY 22, 2024

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KEY SCRIPTURE

PSALM 91: 1-2

"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]. I 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]!"
(Amplified Bible)

Recently we were caring for our one-year-old granddaughter. That day, all she wanted was to get up in my arms and snuggle. I reciprocated by wrapping my arms around her, holding her close and stroking her hair. She was quite content to stay there, indefinitely. To be honest, I was enjoying that cuddle time just as much as her. There was an intimate connection there, she trusted me. It reminded me of Psalm 91.

He who dwells ...must trust. Regarding our relationship with God, that same connection, I believe is depicted in verse one, **"he who dwells,"** There is a closeness and **mutual** connection when we dwell in God's presence. There are various meanings to the word dwell, such as to abide, inhabit, hunker down, settle in, remain secure. Nevertheless, it takes a lot of **trust** to be that close to someone.

When you do, without a doubt, it becomes your safe place, your place of refuge. (V.2).

He who dwells ...shall abide. This wonderful Psalm is conditional upon our drawing close to God and standing on his faithful promises. **"Whoever dwells...shall abide."** The word **abide** speaks of rest, again, settling into that safe place of trust, knowing because we dwell there, everything is going to be all right.

He who abides ...will remain secure. To abide can be compared to the parable of Jesus regarding the vine and the branches, (John 15.) The branches are secure, grafted into the vine. Similarly, we are to "abide in him," (or be connected to.) In the natural, to know someone deeply, to really hear their heart, you spend a lot of time together "abiding" (doing life, hanging out). The more time you spend, the closer that relationship grows and strengthens. You know you can trust and depend on them. It is the same with your spiritual relationship with God. As you dwell, abide, rest in Him, you are stronger in your faith and more secure in trusting God no matter what.

The author of this Psalm is assumed to be Moses. It is believed to have been written before the Israelites were to enter the wilderness for their 40 years of wandering.

This could have been around the same time as Moses was passing on the leadership to Joshua. He encouraged Joshua and reminded him that “God never leaves us or forsakes us,” (Deuteronomy 31:8). It is good to know that even when our humanity fails, God remains faithful. (2 Timothy 2:13)

We were born for relationship with God and others. Being in God's presence is key to both

knowing him and trusting Him, regardless of what comes your way. You can stand with unwavering faith, and boldly declare, ***“He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!”***

Finally: Be confident in knowing ***“God is our refuge and strength”*** ... Psalm 46: 1a

REFLECTIONS

- Read Psalm 91 in at least 3 different versions for comparison. Feel free to use the You Version app. (I suggest, TPT: NIV: NASB: KJV. AMP) Write down anything that stands out to you personally regarding God being your refuge and strength. Reflect on what you have written. What does your place of refuge with God now look like?
- Note verses 2 and 9: They both depict declaration, “I will say”. Read these verses over again, then declare them, bearing witness to these truths. How does speaking the word of God aloud have a powerful effect on your faith?
- Read John 15: 1-8. Reflect on your relationship with God. Are you grafted deeply into the vine? Or do you need to make some adjustments? Journal a short reflection on how that looks for you moving forward.

PRAYER

Dear God, I know sometimes I am not as close to you as I want to be. I know there are times I fall short of spending time with you, even though not intentionally. Lord I long to be so close to you that no matter what comes my way, I am safe and secure in your promises. Help me Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit to be intentionally drawn into your presence, that safe place of refuge, trust, and rest. Help me Lord to find my strength in you. I want to be all you intend me to be. In Jesus Name. Amen.
