

THE LORD IS MY SHELTER
Psalm 91 (Part 2)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thanksgiving next week : Filipino turkey will be served (Lechon)
- Please don't forget to get your Christmas Shoe Box distribution (November 16-22 Collection Week) November 15, shoeboxing day. You saw the video, 10M boxes and it doesn't only end giving gifts, there's a discipleship class where children are taught about Jesus after they give the gifts. God is using this organization mightily to reach out the people for Christ which is our main calling as a Christian and you are part of it.

Remember I taught you the reverse "what if". Usually, our what if's in life are negative. It's because our brains are wired for negativity. But reverse it. Example for Samaritan's Purse, what if the box I sent, it will result in the child receiving Christ and changing that child's life. Is that possible? You bet.

INTRODUCTION

When we were young, we were afraid of things that were only caused by imagination like aswang and etc. We use bawang so that they will not come near us.

Walking home in that dark road, I was really afraid but my schoolmate taught me a technique so that the so-called ghouls which I cannot see will not come near me. It is to imagine that there are candles on my shoulders. Just as long as the candles are lit, the ghouls won't come near so I better not run lest the force of the wind brought about by my running would snuff out the flame from my imaginary candles and so the imaginary ghouls would not come and get me.

If only I knew then that I don't need these myths. I only need the Lord as my shelter.

THE LORD IS MY SHELTER

Psalm 91

*¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
 will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
 my God, in whom I trust."*

*³ Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
 and from the deadly pestilence.*

*⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
 and under his wings you will find refuge;
 his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

*⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
 nor the arrow that flies by day,*

*⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
⁹ If you make the Most High your dwelling—
even the LORD, who is my refuge—
¹⁰ then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
¹⁵ He will 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 will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*

Pray

I visited Tatay Jess who just had bypass surgery. I told him that we started studying Psalm 91. I asked for a Bible from Nanay Fe. I read from the Bible in tagalog to Tatay Jess, Psalm 91. While I was reading it, I noticed Nanay Fe was reciting the verses I was reading. It means she memorized it.

She memorized Psalm 91 because she said it gives her comfort. That's what happens when we dwell in the Lord's shelter.

Study Outline:

- I. STAYING IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- II. SAFETY IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- III. SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- IV. SALVATION IN THE LORD'S SHELTER

I. STAYING IN THE LORD' SHELTER

*¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.".*

Note : Every promise has a premise.

Story : One of the movies that I love is the Jason Bourne series where a secret agent got amnesia to who he really is. In the 3rd series called Bourne Ultimatum there was a scene where he was trying to protect a journalist. The people who wanted Jason Bourne killed also wanted to kill the journalist. They were in a crowded place and Jason Bourne was talking to the journalist on the cellphone. Jason Bourne since he's the expert in these things was instructing him and he was even making sure those who were following the journalist was struck down. Just as long as the journalist was listening to him, he was safe and was escaping being killed but the problem is the journalist started to panic. Jason Bourne knew that there was a sniper just waiting for the journalist to come out of the door. The journalist insisted on going out the "shelter" but Jason was asking him to wait for his signal. But the journalist didn't want to wait and decided to get out the "shelter", Jason shouted "No" and said to him to wait for his signal. But he didn't listen and he got out of the shelter and he got shot.

We need to make sure we are dwelling "yashab" sitting down, staying in the shelter of the Most High and that assures our safety.

That's why the Psalmist wrote :

3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare

That word surely again is there. It's an adverb that adds intensity. E.g. "I will be there" vs. I will surely be there."

Application : God will "surely" fulfill His promise if we do the premise.

What is the promise?

II. SAFETY IN THE LORD'S SHELTER

*3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

*10 then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.*

1. The Lord will keep me safe from the devil's plans.

*3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
10 then no harm will befall you,*

Meaning : Fowler – means "bird catcher"

Etymology : snare – pakh – "bird trap"

Etymology : harm – ra - evil

Now let's look at the metaphor first so we can fully understand this :

³ *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

⁴ *He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;*

You remember in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd", the believer is portrayed as "sheep". Now here in Psalm 91, the believer is portrayed as a "bird".

What makes the normal bird different from other animals?

It can fly. It is meant to soar and the cruelest thing you can do to a bird is to trap it and not let it fly. Because if the bird is not flying, it is vulnerable to predators the will pounce on them and eventually kill them.

Application : Just like Christians, our heritage is joy, our purpose is glorify, worship and enjoy God, our mission is to share the love of Christ to others. The enemy doesn't want you doing all of these.

But while it is flying and soaring, it will be difficult for the predator to catch them.

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare

This is the reason the bird catcher sets up bird traps.

We have to remember that traps are secret. They are not obvious.

It is very much like how the devil would like to entrap us. It's not obvious that they are entrapping us, in order to capture us.

Let's look at how fowlers trap birds during the Old Testament times?

- **Through nets spread on the ground.**

They will spread the net on the ground and scatter seeds. Once the birds take the bait, they will just pull the net

Quote : The fowler's snare is frequently connected with pleasure, profit and advantage.

– Charles Spurgeon

It means all temptation looks harmless and pleasurable at first but when we take the bait and get trapped in it, that's when a world of trouble comes in.

Racoon Illustration : In A View From The Zoo, Gary Richmond, a former zoo keeper, tells about an experience a friend had with a raccoon. He explains that raccoons go through a glandular change at about 24 months. After that they often attack their owners. A 30-pound raccoon can be equal to a 100-pound dog in a scrap. Richmond felt compelled to warn this young friend of his named Julie of the change coming to her pet raccoon. She listened politely as he explained the coming danger. She responded by saying what people always say, "It will be different for me..." And she smiled as she added, "Bandit wouldn't hurt me. He just wouldn't." Three months later Julie underwent plastic surgery for facial lacerations sustained when Bandit attacked her for no apparent reason. - Quoted in Dynamic Preaching, June 1990

Practical Example : Having an affair if you are married.

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;

It looks exciting and it will be pleasurable at first and you may say, it will be a one time thing or nobody will know. That's a trap and in the end, it's your peaceful family life and your children will suffer and it will create such a permanent scar that will be hard to erase.

If the Lord is your shelter, he will keep you safe from this.

Dwelling in the Lord's shelter means Jesus is No.1 in your life.

As Peter Tan-chi would advise when avoiding temptation, you need to say to the Lord,
"Lord, I love you more than I love sin."

The world has a saying, "I gotta look out first for No.1" which means, "I gotta take care of myself first."

As Christians, "When you look out for No. 1, which is the most high, He will definitely take care of No. 2, 3, 4,5 and etc.

- **Using other birds**

Two ways they do this, they will get a bird right from hatching and it will be tamed in their hands. When they need to capture some birds, they will put in a cage so that it begins to cry out.

Or they will capture a bird and sew their eyelids so that it will keep on crying and attract other birds.

Once the birds are attracted, then distracted, then they will be shot by an arrow or a throwstick to kill the bird.

Sometimes, the enemy will use other people to distract you of your real purpose
which is to fly and when you are just focused on other things than doing what you are called to do, then you become ineffective in fulfilling what you are supposed to do.

Application : The enemy will attract your attention to a lot of things, even seemingly good causes, remember the birds comes down because of the “cries”, though nothing wrong with that or he will get you distracted by what other people did to you that you end up fighting it. The enemy is just so amused because we will not be doing what our Lord asked us to do and that is to bring the good news of Christ to other people.

Biblical Illustration : One of the words of Jesus Christ that rings to me in ministry is what he said to Peter in the last chapter of John. After reinstated Peter by asking him three times if he loves Jesus, Jesus instructs him three times to take care of the sheep and he will be persecuted and killed because of that. Let's look from God's Word itself the ensuing scene

John 21 : 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

In short, do what God is asking you to do right now and do it the best that you can.

Application :

You are a worker, be the best worker at your workplace and pray for the people in your workplace and when given the opportunity, share Jesus Christ.

You are a mom or a dad. Best the best mom or dad or granddad that you can ever be, pray for your children or grandchildren and if you have the opportunity, share Jesus Christ to them.

You are a student, don't be distracted by a lot of things. Be the best student that you can ever be, pray for your teachers, classmates and friends that they will be saved and when given the chance to share Jesus Christ, share Jesus Christ.

One of the Psalms we will study after this is Psalm 37.

Psalm 37 says not to fret or not to get angry when wicked people seems to get their way.

What should we do?

*Psalm 37: 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

And how do we delight ourselves in the Lord? By doing our main purpose as followers of Christ – to share the good news of Jesus and make disciples.

That's why just continue on inviting people to church, continue to pray for friends, family that they will know Christ, share the joy and love of Christ that is in you.

When we continue to dwell in the Lord's shelter and not fall into the devil's distractions, that's where the blessing lies.

2. The Lord will keep me safe from the deadly pestilence.

v.4... and from the deadly pestilence

v.10....no disaster (plague KJV) will come near your tent

Etymology : *pestilence* - deber – cattle plague

Etymology : *disaster* - nega - plague (KJV)

Explain : *pestilence*

- a.) Cattles – domesticated animals like cows, swine, sheep, oxen
- b.) It is the source of livelihood - Job, Abram (Abraham),

Explain : *disaster* (plague)

- a.) It's a stroke or a blow or calamity

Look at the adjective before pestilence : *deadly* - havva – calamitous

Illustration : When there is a great natural disaster like a tsunami or a terrorist attack or a storm, the state declares a "state of calamity", in short, if it's a local government, the national government steps in to help or if the nation declares a state of calamity, it means it's so devastating that they are asking other nations to help.

If we dwell in the shelter of the Most High, He will protect us from a state of calamity, where it's just so devastating that you will feel hopeless and helpless.

Explain further : It doesn't mean we will be free from suffering but we will never lack His grace when we need it.

In short, it doesn't mean, hindi ka masisipa sa trabaho or hindi ka magkakasakit o magkakaproblema pero pag dumating ito, He will be there to provide, to give us strength, to have joy.

In short, GOD WILL NEVER DECLARE A STATE OF CALAMITY WHEN HE IS OUR SHELTER. It's because remember, He is Almighty and He is in total control. He has allowed it to happen but we have to remember He has a great purpose in the life of men and it is for our safety.

Let me try to explain further with 2 stories in the Bible.

One of the stories in the Bible is the story of Joseph. Genesis 37-50

Remember what Joseph had to go through. His brothers tried to kill him but eventually was sold to become a slave. Became such a good slave that he became a mayordomo, tempted daily by Potiphar's wife to commit adultery but refused until he was accused wrongly and put into jail. Helped two prisoners interpret a dream, the baker and the cupbearer. He was forgotten again in jail until Pharaoh had a dream and we know what happened next and Joseph was put in a powerful position.

Why?

The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" 2 And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die." (Genesis 41:56-57; Genesis 42:1-2)

In short, one of the purpose that God has allowed Joseph's own brothers to sell him as slave and suffer all the pain is in order for him to save his own brothers and the entire nation of Jacob (Israel).

That's why Joseph said,

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

It's because all these years, Joseph was dwelling under the Lord's shelter.

Biblical Illustration : I will never ever tire of telling this story of the Lord Jesus found in Mark 4 and Matthew 8

Mark 4 : 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Etymology : perishing “apollymi” destroyed, killed, ruined...

Note : These disciples were veteran fishermen and when they became afraid of the storm, it means it's really serious and dangerous.

Application : Don't you care na may sakit ang asawa ko or nawalan ako ng trabaho or sinisiraan ako sa mga tao or inaapi kami

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

Why are you afraid when I am with you? I love what I heard from another preacher when he was preaching this. He said something like this, "Let's say this boat sinks because of the storm, Jesus is still with you who is the Lord Almighty. You might just be surprised that you will be able to breathe underwater."

Why are you afraid when you are under my shelter?

**Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
v. 3 For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour*

WHEN THE LORD IS YOUR SHELTER, YOU ARE IN THE SAFEST PLACE!

S.G.D.