



## Child's Play

By Johnny Caruso on March 22, 2024

### TODAY'S READING: Psalm 91

I play a lot of games with my grandchildren--Don't step on a crack or line, hiding under clothes racks in the store. In another game we play they stand in my shadow. They call it hiding in my shade. That is exactly what Psalm 90 is about--hiding in the shade and refuge of God.

One of my friends told me that this is the 9-1-1 verse. Psalm 91:1 says, *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty."*

The word  *dwell*  in this verse actually means, "to take up permanent residence in." He reminds us to stay in His presence. If we do that, we will "rest" in the very "shadow of the Almighty." Shadows by definition are a place of protection or covering. They provide relief from the direct heat of the sun. If the heat is severe, the shade is the place we run to. It diminishes what we actually feel in the intensity of the heat.

This is a reminder for us, that we never walk alone in the tough stuff. Full heat of troubles can bear down hard, and it is a struggle at times to keep trudging through it all. Pressure and stress can seem as stifling as a hot afternoon summer sun. Yet God whispers truth strong and sure, "Walk in my shadow, up close to my side." This is a safe place that brings confidence; for when we are resting in God's shadow, we will never face the full heat of our difficulties. He shelters from that pain. His shade, His shadow, diminishes what is actually felt in the intensity of all the heat. Rest, peace, and calm rise up strong, right in the struggling mess of life, and we are assured He is in control.

### There are 9 promises in this Psalm:

- "I will rescue him..." (deliver, cause to escape)
- "I will protect him..." (set him on a high place)
- "I will answer him..." (respond to, speak)
- "I will be with him in trouble..." (in afflictions, in distress)
- "I will deliver him..." (rescue, to bring into safety)
- "and honor him..." (to make rich, strong, heavy with honor)
- "With long life will I satisfy him..." (to have abundance in the journey)
- "and show him my salvation." (let him see my deliverance and victory)

There is great blessing as we seek after God, and choose to walk in His ways. In the midst of great darkness in this world, living in it all without His Truth and freedom, would be like wallowing in the pit.

God's reminders are sure, strong, and true, assuring us that in all that we walk through in this journey, His call is always to rise above. He reminds us we're not alone.

God works on behalf of those who love Him and honor His name. He is so good to us. We may never fully know, this side of heaven, how very much He has sheltered us from in this life.

It reminds me of a song "You Are My Hiding Place."

*You are my hiding place, You always fill my heart*

*With songs of deliverance, Whenever I am afraid*

*I will trust in You, I will trust in You*

*Let the weak say, I am strong, In the strength of the Lord*

**PRAYER:** Father, thank You that we can take refuge in You, the Rock of My Salvation.

Have an awesome weekend!

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Genesis 18

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