

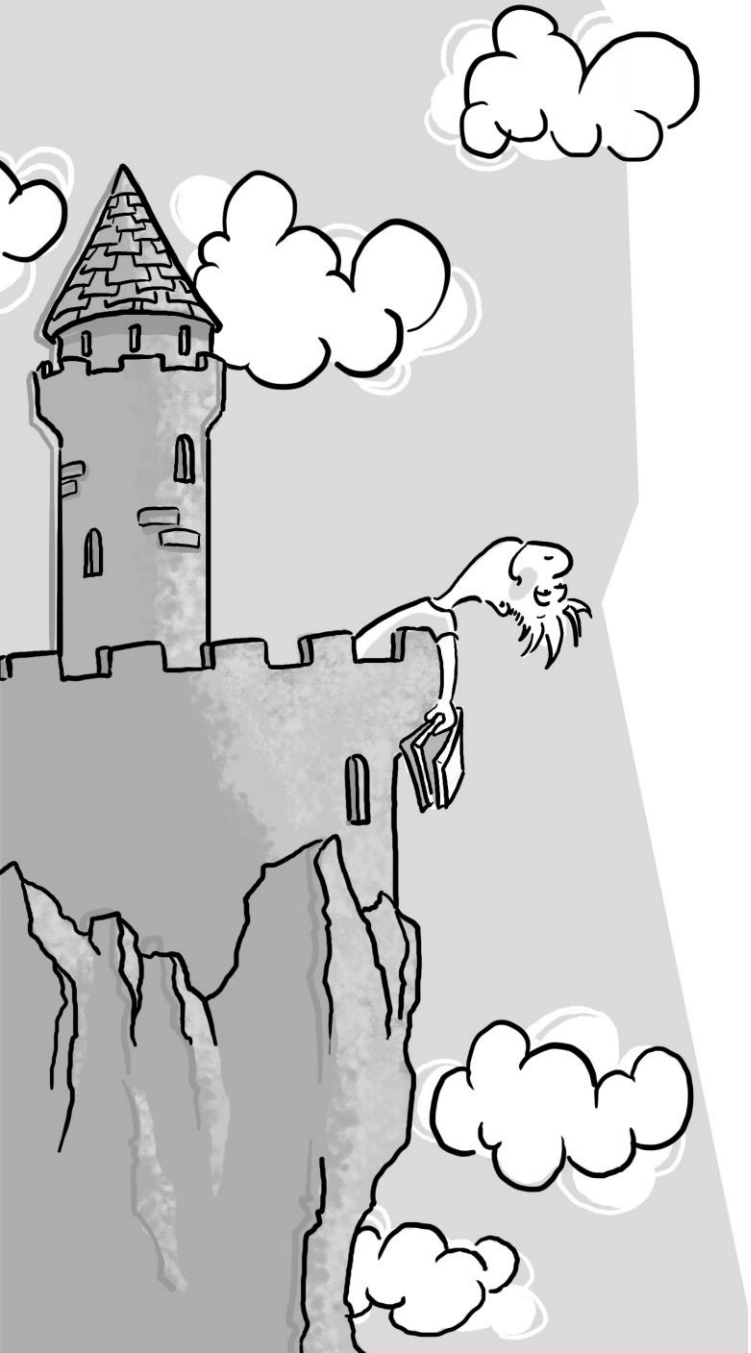


## THE SECRET PLACE—A MEDITATION ON PSALM 91

**Psalm 91:1:** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Where is the “secret place of the Most High”? It is found in fellowship with God. The phrase “shadow of the Almighty” symbolizes God’s protection. When you’re in close personal fellowship with God, you’re under His shadow, under His protection.

That promise comes with a condition: we have to do our part by staying close to Him. We do that by reading His Word in the Bible and doing our best to follow it, by keeping Him and His guiding spiritual principles present in our thoughts and decisions.



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

In Bible times, stone fortresses provided the best protection in times of trouble or war, but God is an even surer defense.

**Verse 3:** Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

This passage promises deliverance from those who intentionally seek to snare God's people and from physical maladies such as plagues or epidemics.

**Verse 4a:** He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge.

The picture is of God keeping His children safe, like a hen spreads her wings over her chicks to protect them.

**Verse 4b:** His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

A buckler was a small shield, about the size and shape of a dinner plate, which protected a soldier's wrist.

What is the truth of God? Jesus once said in a prayer to His Father, "Your word is truth." (John 17:17) Another passage tells us to carry "the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." (Ephesians 6:16) Faith in God's promises is our best protection.



**Verses 5–8:** You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

Even if danger is on every side, God will care for you and can bring you through it unscathed.

**Verse 9:** Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place...

If the Lord is your refuge and dwelling place, in a sense you're already dwelling in His presence, because you've made your home with Him.



**Verse 10:** No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.

Of course, bad things *do* happen, even to people who pray for God's protection. They get hurt, seriously ill, and have plenty of other problems. How could the statement "no evil shall befall you" be true?

Well, consider what is "evil." When God lets seemingly bad things happen to His children, they often teach us something or strengthen and build our character. When our wise and loving heavenly Father allows this, He does so for our own good, and it "yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11) He also promises that *all* things work together for good to those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)



**Verses 11–13:** For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

God's angels watch over you continually, including your personal guardian angel, whose job is *you*. (Matthew 18:10)





**Verse 14, God speaking:**  
“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.”

There are conditions attached to God’s promises: He protects those who know and love Him. Your love, trust, and faith in God and His ability to deliver you give you the privilege of His protection.

**Verses 15–16:** “He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

There are six things God will do for us when we call on Him for help: 1) He will answer us, 2) He will be with us in trouble, 3) He will deliver us, 4) He will honor us, 5) He will give us a long, full life on this earth, and 6) He will show us His salvation.

