

IN THE SECRET OF THY PRESENCE

THOUGHTS FROM MAJOR MARK HALL

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1 NIV)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are engaged in a battle against the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). Psalm 91 reminds us of the greatest *weapon* we have for this battle – to dwell in the *secret place* of the Most High. This *secret place* is where we should dwell; a place where we take up residence, where we live! God wants a direct and intimate relationship with us, made possible by the work of Jesus on the cross.

This psalm begins by stating that, “The person that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall...” This verse is written in the present tense – ***dwells***. Not dwelt, not will dwell, but dwells! The secret place is not a physical place, but it is a spiritual place of intimacy with the Living God. This secret place is where we walk, talk, listen, and obey the Living God. It is where we live our lives in tune with His divinity.

It is here that we are to remain – under the shadow of the Almighty. It is where we will find His promised presence, where His protection and provision will be ours. It is a place where the pure in heart dwell. We must continue to speak and sing about this secret place to all that will listen.

This psalm of spiritual warfare also reminds us of the dangers we face. Verse three speaks of a fowler (a bird catcher) who is skilled in making personal and individual traps for each of us, for every season of our lives. What are these traps?

- **Cobra** – the sudden traps that are as swift as an arrow. These kind of traps attack our faith and our trust in the promises of God.
- **Lion** – the satanic traps that attack God’s plan and purpose for our lives.
- **Young Lion** – the seemingly small and easy-to-handle traps that attack the purity in our lives.
- **Dragon** – attacks the mind and robs us of the “*peace of God*.”

But immediately in the subsequent verse, the psalmist tells us how we can overcome these traps and attacks. Psalm 91:14 tells us to:

1. Stay close to Jesus
2. Call upon Him
3. Cultivate a conquering heart (Psalm 90:17)

Isaiah 43:18-19 tells us not to dwell in the past for the Lord is doing a new thing. We are to dwell in the *secret place* mentioned in Psalm 91, and let the Lord be our refuge and fortress; allow Him to do a new thing in us.

PRAYER

Dear Lion of Judah, come reign over us. O Rock of Ages, let me hide myself in Thee. Lord, be my dwelling place forever more. And I pray Lord, may Your favour rest upon us, establish the work of our hands and voices. We pray in Jesus Name. Amen!