

Psalms 91:1 (911) – The Protection of the Lord

Austin Disaster Relief Network

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1 (NKJV)

In a time of crisis, when disaster is looming, who do you call 911 or 911? Who do you lean on, depend upon, trust in and run too? How do you walk in the kind of faith Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had or even David, Apostle Peter or the Apostle Paul?

This teaching will cover the following topics:

- a. The Nature of Christ
- b. Understanding His covenant promises with His sons and daughters
- c. Understanding our part of the covenant as sons and daughters
- d. The provisions He has given us to stand in His perfect will in times of crisis
- e. Our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, which enables us to access His grace
- f. How to continuously stay under the Shadow of the Almighty

³⁵ *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. ³⁸ And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and^[a] not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ Therefore you also be **ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Luke 12:35-40 (NKJV)*

⁴⁶ *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and **could not shake it**, for it was founded on the rock.^[b] ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell.^[c] And the ruin of that house was great.” Luke 6:46-49 (NKJV)*

“His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold...” Song of Solomon 5:15 (NKJV)

His Divine Nature and His covenant with His people

Video: Joplin Tornado (example of divine protection)

Testimony: 13 year old boy in Joplin (example of divine protection)

In a time of disaster, who are you going to call? The God of Psalm 91:1 or 911

In a time of disaster, what is the worst thing you can do?

I. The Nature of Christ (fully Man/fully God)

Jesus came to reveal the Face of the Father, His nature, and to manifest His name:

⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. John 17:6-8

Passionate Bridegroom: As Bridegroom, Jesus has burning desire for His people. The Bridegroom message is about Jesus’ emotions for us (He is the Good Shepherd), His beauty, His commitments to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, and beauty), and our response of wholehearted love (obedience) that moves Him. The Holy Spirit uses the message of the Bridegroom God to restore the first commandment to first place in the Church. (Isa. 54:4-12; 62:2-5; Jer. 2:2; 3:14; 31:32; Ezek. 16:13-15, 32; 23:1-45; Hos. 1:2; 2:7, 14-23; 3:1-5; Mt. 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9; 22:17)

The Importance of Having a Bridal Paradigm: Living in the Bridal paradigm leads us to confidence in our love for God and in wisdom, to make wise choices to obey the Lord, even when persecuted. Jesus longs for an eternal companion, a Bride, who voluntarily chooses to be equally yoked to Him in love (Eph. 5:31-32, Rev. 19:7-9). The affections of the human heart are the most precious possession to God. We are His inheritance. Loving God is an end in itself and the highest lifestyle possible! The primary life purpose for a Christian is to fully love God/people (rose) and to obey (lily) Jesus!

“I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the valleys” Song of Solomon 2:1 (NKJV)

The rose is chosen for its beauty and fragrance as the chief of the flowers. A lily speaks of purity. The valley speaks of the low and dark places in this fallen world. She lives in purity in the midst of the dark valley of this fallen world. The Bride’s primary life purpose and identity is being Jesus’ inheritance!! We are the rose and lily whose love and obedience arise as fragrance that intoxicates Jesus’ heart. The reason we were created and redeemed is to fully love (rose) and obey (lily) Jesus as His inheritance and thus, to bring joy and pleasure to God.

The Heart of God:

“Woman, where are those accusers of yours?^[1] Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and¹ sin no more.” John 8:1-11 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

“...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matt. 28:20b (NKJV)

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15 (NKJV)

“You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace.” Song of Solomon 4:9 (NKJV)

Sovereign King: As King, Jesus possesses all power and anoints His people to do the works of the kingdom. He manifests His power by releasing protection, direction, financial provision, and He heals individual lives, revives the Church, transforms society, and restores the earth itself.

Jesus demonstrated that the Father is Lord over the Elements (Jn. 2:1-11), over Nature (Mark 4:35-41), over Physics (Matt. 14:13-21), over Sickness and Disease (Jesus heals 27 people from the officials dying son to the ear of the high priest servant), over Gravity (Matt. 14:22-33), over earth's resources (Matt. 17:24-27), and more!

“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ *I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18 (NKJV)*

²⁷ *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.” John 10:27-29 (NKJV)*

*While I was with them in the world,^[c] **I kept them in Your name.** Those whom You gave Me I **have kept;**^[d] and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that **You should keep them from the evil one.**” John 17:12-15*

Righteous Judge: As Judge, Jesus removes everything that hinders love; He has a strategic plan and great zeal to intervene to confront oppression and corruption in a way that He has never done before in order to transition the earth to the age to come (Zech. 8:2; Rev. 19:2). Many unique dynamics will occur in His strategic end-time plan as He drives evil off the earth forever.

⁴¹ *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 13:41-43 (NKJV)*

There is no contradiction in Jesus' character as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. God never suspends one attribute to exercise another. The King uses His great power to express His burning desire for His people and to deliver them from everything that hinders love. The same furnace of Jesus' holy desire for His Bride is turned toward the oppressors of His people. Jesus also emphasized the revelation of God as Bridegroom, King, and Judge in His final message to Israel (Mt. 22:1-14, 37) and in His final message to the apostles before the last supper (Mt. 25).

II. Understanding His covenant promises for His sons and daughters

⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says*

the LORD. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the ^mLORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and ⁿI will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Hebrews 8:8-10 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13 (NKJV)

1. Give us eternal life in His Kingdom (John 3:16)
2. Adopting us into His family and to love, provide for, protect, defend, and recognize us as His sons or daughters (we are no longer orphans but children of God – Eph. 1:5)
3. Grant us His free gift of grace, which empowers us with everything we need to obey the Holy Spirit’s voice and direction, to become holy as He is holy, to walk in His divine nature and to bring heaven to earth through faith in Jesus Christ (John 14:12, 1 Jn. 2:6).
4. Provide us thousands of covenant promises recorded in the bible
5. Protection from our enemies (Colossians 1:13, Col. 2:15, John 16:33)

III. Understanding our part of the covenant as sons and daughters

1. Hear the Holy Spirit’s voice

“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Jn. 18:37b (NKJV)

⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” John 8:47

2. Commit our will to appropriate provisions given to us through grace
3. Surrender our life to the Lordship of Jesus, to the level of our revelation

²⁸ But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” Luke 11:28 (NKJV)

³⁵ For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.” Mark 3:35

“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.” John 6:64 (NKJV)

IV. The Provisions He has given us to stand in His perfect will in times of crisis

1. 7 Provisions of God (taught in Biblical Readiness class)
 - a. Relationship with Jesus Christ (opens the gate)
 - b. Blood of Jesus/Biblical Forgiveness & Repentance (deals with the penalty of sin)
 - c. New Identity in Christ (Born Again Provisions: since the narrow gate has been closed to Satan and his demons, Jesus gives us powerful provisions that save us from the power of sin and to overcome every temptation so the gate is not reopened to Satan and his demons – he is the thief that comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)

- d. Holy Spirit (provides the necessary provisions for developing Christ's character (fruit of the Spirit) and power (gifts of the Spirit). Gives wisdom and divine personal revelation and direction.
- e. Word of God
- f. Spiritual Armor of God
- g. Body of Christ/Overseer/Pastor

2. Psalm 34 & Psalm 91 (a few of the 5,000 promises given to us as sons and daughters)

³ as His divine power (grace) has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:3-4

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

"Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." Romans 10:11 (NAS)

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. Jer. 17:7 (NIV)

Those who put all of their trust in God: Moses at the Red Sea, Daniel in the lions den, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire, Abraham with Isaac, David with the lion, bear and Goliath, Joseph & Mary as they fled for their lives following the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul when bitten by a snake and shipwrecked, imprisoned, etc... and so many more!

Psalm 91 – The Amazing Heart and Nature of God (5 key points to remember):

- a. **God is our Secret Place:** We must make a choice to run to His shelter of protection. His promise is made available to us. It is not automatic. We must appropriate it. When disaster strikes, we can run to fear or into His arms! Just because some do not believe does not nullify the promise. God is our literal place of refuge. (Psalm 91:1)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah. Psalm 46: 1-3

The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, who has made desolations in the earth.⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. Psalm 46:7-11 (NKJV)

"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" Psalm 18:2 (NKJV)

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

- b. Confess out loud who He is:** How healthy it is to declare who He is to you out loud! The word says to declare His name out loud. “I will say to the Lord – He is My Refuge, My Fortress, My Strong Tower, in whom I trust!” (Psalm 91: 2)

“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” Mark 11:23

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”
(Roms 10:9-10 – ESV)

- c. God’s faithfulness to His promise becomes your shield:** We must run to Him like baby chicks run under the wings of a mother hen. He will not run to us unless He has mercy upon us (Rom. 9). It is our choice! (Psalm 91:4)

“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”
2 Thes. 3:3 (NKJV)

“But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.”
Psalm 3:3 (NKJV)

- d. Many evils known to man falls under one of these 4 categories (Psalm 91:5-6):**

1. Terror by night (bad people that do bad things to people)
2. Arrow that flies by day (Satan and his demons attacks on man) (Eph. 6:16)
3. Pestilence will not approach you (deadly diseases)
4. Destruction falls by noon (natural disasters)

Note: Jesus tells us that Christians will face tribulations, suffering and for some, will be called to martyrdom.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NKJV)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
Matt. 5:10-12 (NKJV)

“Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. ⁵ But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell.^[a] Yes, he’s the one to fear.” Luke 12:4-5 (NLT)

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:21-22 (NKJV)

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5:3-4 (NKJV)

*“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin....” 1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV)*

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.^[d] On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” 1 Peter 4:12-16 (NKJV)

e. “Because He loves Me...” (Psalm 91:14-16):

1. He will rescue you from the enemies hands
2. He will set you on high above danger
3. He will answer you when you call upon Him
4. He will be with you in trouble
5. He will honor you
6. He will satisfy you with a long and good life
7. He will let you see and take hold of His salvation (sozo)

f. Key Verse to Memorize (Psalm 91:7-8): In a time of crisis, we must keep our eyes on the Lord and know that He gives grace to the humble. Many survivors have been humbled by the devastation of their personal belongings or even those who have been killed by the disaster.

“A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.”

g. Promise for your family: No plague or destruction will come near your household/tent (Psalm 91:9-10)

h. He will command His angels to guard us in all of our ways (Psalm 91:11-12)

i. Tactics of the Enemy (Psalm 91:13):

1. **Sometimes, the enemy will come like a lion;** loud, bold, roar, tries to overcome us
2. **Cobra:** dangers that sneak up upon us

3. **Young Lion:** little persistent problems
4. **Dragon:** imaginary fears. Remember not to be afraid, you have authority over the enemy. We can trample upon the enemies plans by what Christ did for us on the cross. Learn to use your authority in Christ!

V. Our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, which enables us to access His grace

- a. The Difference between Fear & Faith (Rom. 5:2 & James 1:2-7)
- b. Relinquishing our authority (1 John 3:22-23/2 Cor. 7:1)
- c. Mercy vs. Grace

The Impact of Fear: All emotions are tied to our soul. It is important to learn how to lay our emotions at the feet of Jesus in times of crisis and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in all decisions. The Lord gives us many scriptures in the bible that encourage us to “Fear Not.” The bible also guides us in how to live in peace rather than anxiety, worry, fretting, etc. Every time we walk in panic and/or fear, let it be a warning sign that we are walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit. We are called to be a people of peace, a people that walk not by sight but by the Spirit! Fear is rooted from thoughts of doom and not of hope in God and His promises of protection, provision, etc..

- a. *Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” NKJV*
- b. *Phil. 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” NKJV*
- c. *1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in **love**; but **perfect love casts out fear**” NKJV*

Biblical Definition of Faith: *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1 - ESV)*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith (in Christ Jesus). And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8 - ESV)

Faith to Move Mountains: Faith is not a feeling but a decision, a choice we must make to believe in His promises, to put all of our trust in Him, Jesus Christ!

“For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matt. 17:20 - NKJV)

²¹ So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. ²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matt. 21:21-22 (NKJV)

²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us^[a] commandment. 1 John 3:22-23 (NKJV)

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10: 17- NKJV)

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.” (Titus 11:1-2 – ESV)

“For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5: 4 - NKJV)

“The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1: 17 - NKJV)

The Shulamite: *The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag (deer). Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me “Rise up, my love, my fair (beautiful) one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair (beautiful) one, and come away! “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.” **Song of Solomon 2:1-14 (NKJV)***

Grace Lifestyle vs. Mercy Lifestyle: With Grace (empowers us), we get what we don’t deserve and with Mercy (covers us), we don’t get what we do deserve.

The Father has mercy on us by allowing His Son to receive what we deserve. The righteousness of Christ in us attracts what we don’t deserve (grace), which empowers us to become like Him to overcome.

The Question is: If Grace is made available to us every moment of every day, how often do we obtain grace by faith on a daily basis? How many times do we fight battles in our own flesh vs. activating a free and powerful gift from God that makes the impossible, possible.

Summary: God’s amazing Grace not only forgives us of our sins, saves us from eternal death, grants us entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven but also:

1. Imparts Divine Nature
2. Enables us to walk in True Holiness
3. Empowers us to bring the Kingdom of God here into a dark world

“As His divine power (grace) has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Pet. 1:3-4)

Faith gives us Access to His Grace

Grace, even though freely given, can only be accessed through faith! It doesn't matter how nice you are, how enthusiastic you are, how sincere or busy you are in the ministry, there is no other way to obtain grace but through faith!

“Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2 - NKJV)

Faith is like a “pipeline” for His grace to flow through. *“Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” (Heb. 11:6 NIV)*

*“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive **anything** from the Lord” (James 1:6-7 - NKJV)*

No Faith Example: *“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?”*

*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**?” Mark 4:37-40 (NKJV)*

Little Faith Example: *“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of **little faith**, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:30-31 – ESV)*

Great Faith Example: *“And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”*

⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” Matthew 8:7-10 (NKJV)

The lesson here is that if we must have faith and keep our eyes on Jesus so our faith can remain strong but how can we keep our eyes on Jesus? We can keep our eyes on Christ by keeping our eyes on His Word, the Bible. I believe the best way to keep your faith strong is to read the Bible every single day. The Bible says we cannot live by bread alone (food) but by every word that precedes from the mouth (the Word or the Bible) of God (Matt 4:4).

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6 - NKJV)

“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2: 17 - NKJV)

Who does God give Grace to? The humble, those that depend upon God!

“Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5 – NKJV)

Humility and Faith are synonymous with one another. You can't have one without the other.

Examples of Humility, total dependence on God: The lifestyles of Jesus, Moses, Apostle Paul, Apostle Peter, David, Esther, Gideon, Ruth, Abraham, etc...

Testimonies of Humility – His Protection: Story of the 12 Spies (Numbers 13 & 14), King Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:1-30), King Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:1-23)

*“Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,⁶ and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ⁷ Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸ And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; **nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.**” (2 Chron. 5-12, NKJV)*

VI. Conclusion: How to continuously stay under the Shadow of the Almighty

- a. Cultivating our relationship with Jesus (John 15:4)
- b. Walking in the Spirit (Romans 8 & Galatians 5) and submitting to His Authority, direct or delegated (Is. 9:6-7 & Romans 13)
- c. Remembering who we are in Christ and our authority (Rom. 5:17 GNT)
- d. Wear the whole Armor of God everyday and put all your Trust in God!

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”* (Eph. 6:10-18)

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” – James 4:7 (NKJV)

SCRIPTURES TO MEDIATE AND PRAY THROUGH:

Psalm 34 (NKJV) - The Happiness of Those Who Trust in God

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ²My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad. ³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. ⁴I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. ⁵They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. ⁶This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*, And saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel^[a] of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. ⁸Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him! ⁹Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! *There is* no want to those who fear Him. ¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*. ¹¹Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹²Who *is* the man *who* desires life, And loves *many* days, that he may see good? ¹³Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their cry. ¹⁶The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. ¹⁷*The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. ¹⁹Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. ²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²²The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Psalm 91 (NKJV) - Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God

¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.^[a]
²I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
³Surely He will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.
⁴He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. ⁵You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, ¹⁰no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. ¹¹For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways ¹²they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent^[b] ¹⁴“Because he^[b] loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name. ¹⁵He will call on Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.”