

Part 3 – Under His Wings and Feathers

In part 2 we learned how, when we dwell (and *remain*) in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High (i.e. stay *spiritually* close to our Heavenly Father via studying His Word and praying to Him) then we’ll *always* be able to find peace of mind, and internal strength, from trusting in God’s Word no matter how hard times get. And Moses used the terms ‘refuge’ and ‘fortress’ to explain the protection our Heavenly Father gives us, when we love and serve Him. A "refuge" is *a place people can fall back to* in times of hardship or danger. A fortress is similar, but the typical "fortress" is a building designed for battle. It provides safety from an attacking enemy and gives those inside *the means to withstand an assault*. So, whenever we’re having hard times, the Word of God is what we can (and should) *always* ‘fall back to’ by studying, and *remembering*, the Scriptures, which *give us hope* that the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us through whatever comes our way. And, when we do this, the Holy Spirit will *always* give us the strength to endure (withstand) whatever spiritual attacks (assaults) that come our way.

And we also learned of two things we’ll be protected *from* when we abide under the shadow (protection) of His wings (His Word and Holy Spirit). And one of them is the ‘snare of the fowler’, which symbolizes the many ways Satan tries to ‘entrap us’ by enticing us to sin against our Heavenly Father. Satan’s ultimate goal is to try to get all of God’s children to apostatize, which means to rebel against God by *willfully* (and *habitually*) sinning against Him. But, if we keep our heart and mind firmly on God’s Word (our ‘Rock’) then we won’t fall into Satan’s traps (snares). And, if we should happen to stumble (for we all sin at times, Rom 3:23) the Lord will help us to get back up (repent) and learn from the experience, so we become stronger in our faith and learn how to better resist temptations. And we also learned that, if we continue to ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’ (trust and obey Him), then He’ll also protect us from the noisome pestilence, which is an *epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating* and is also symbolic of *something that is destructive or pernicious*. And, while this doesn’t mean we won’t ever get sick, it means He won’t let us be ruined (spiritually or physically) by any diseases going around *and* He certainly *will not* let us die before it’s our time to go. Our Heavenly Father will *always* make sure we’ve got what we need (decent health included) to serve Him in the capacity He wants us to do so. That is, however, so long as we do our part to take care of our flesh body and strive not to step into Satan’s traps on purpose! So long as we do our part to stay under His protective wings (in the ‘secret place’) then He’ll always protect us *and* enable us to serve Him on earth. And this is the thought we pick up with in this precious Psalm...

Psalms 91

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

So, the Holy Spirit (via Moses) is, again, explaining how the Lord (YHVH) will *always* protect us when we ‘dwell in’ the ‘secret place’ of the Most High (vs 1). And, again, he uses the analogy of a mother eagle taking care of her eaglets to describe how God protects, and cares for, His people, Israel – which today includes *anyone* who believes in (and serves) Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26-29). And let’s remember that, back in Ex 19:4, the Lord (YHVH) made the comparison of how He protected Israel to an eagle who bares (which actually means to ‘lift’ in the Hebrew, #5375) her young eaglets on her wings. It’s a beautiful picture. When an eagle mother teaches her young one’s fly, she does so by creating an updraft, through flapping her wings above the nest, which helps the young feel the sensation of being airborne *and imprints the motion of flight*. And when they do begin to fly, she stays close by them so that, if they should fall, she can swoop down *to catch them* on her wings, providing a safe landing and allowing the young bird to regain strength before *trying again*. And, Deut 32 uses this analogy as well, but includes how an eagle stirs up her nest, removing soft nesting materials like moss and feathers, to make the environment less comfortable, to further encourage departure, so the young eaglets *can learn to fly on their own*. And, in a very real way, God did truly act ‘like an eagle’ *flying above Israel* because He *was* in a flying vehicle (which was covered with a cloud) which He used to protect, and lead, His people, Israel. So, *that’s* the ‘image’ our Heavenly Father is trying to relay to us to with this analogy, to help us understand *how* closely He remained to Israel when He led them out of Egypt *and* in their wanderings in the wilderness.

But the analogy also teaches us how closely He remains *to us, spiritually*, when we love and serve Him (i.e. ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’). For truly, there is nothing closer (more intimate) than having the Holy Spirit of God *within us*. And we’re given His Holy Spirit when we believe in, and obey, Jesus Christ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1220>]. And so, this 4th verse gives us *more details* as to how our Heavenly Father protects us ‘under His wings’. The word ‘**cover**’ here is enlightening, for it means *to entwine as a screen*; by implication, **to fence in, cover over**, and (figuratively) **protect** (#5526). And it’s even been rendered as ‘*hedge in*’ as well as to *defend*. So, this ‘cover’ (‘hedge’ i.e. fence of protection) IS God’s ‘feathers’ and ‘wings’, metaphorically speaking. Therefore, *because of* our faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 8:26-34, Heb 7:25) our Heavenly Father keeps us closely guarded *because* we are His servants. And He does so through the blessed Holy Spirit *within us*.

So, when we keep (guard and protect) God’s Word *within us*, His Holy Spirit guards and protects us. And He can do so, *perfectly, because* His Holy Spirit *is within us*. And there’s no quicker way to get His attention than through praying to the Lord (YHVH) *in Jesus’ name* (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26). As the two-part study on ‘**The Vine**’ reveals [which you can study via this link: <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992>], we’ve got a ‘wireless’ connection to our Heavenly Father, *via our faith in Jesus Christ*. And that means we can communicate with God Almighty *no matter where we are*, so long as we pray *in the name of Jesus Christ* (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26) *and* sincerely trust *and* obey Him. So, spiritually speaking, when

we continue to dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High, that means we study God’s Word to absorb it into our heart (desires, emotions) and mind (thought process) so that we can sincerely strive to obey Him. And when we so sincerely, and faithfully - each day - He will also keep His ‘feathers and wings’ over us *by His Holy Spirit* that, literally, dwells *within us*. So, we are ‘covered’ – spiritually – by God’s Holy Spirit, which is likened to (metaphorically) wings and feathers here in Ps 91:4. The Holy Spirit of God puts a ‘cover’ (or a hedge; a spiritual ‘fence’ of protection) upon us (physically and spiritually) when we keep our heart and mind firmly upon His Word (i.e. in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High). But, we must *remain under* His ‘hedge of protection’ which is likened (here in Ps 91:4) to being covered with God’s feathers and wings (symbolic of His Word and guidance of His Holy Spirit). If we neglect to study God’s Word – and strive to obey it sincerely – then we are like a little chick that runs out from its mother’s wings and is thus, susceptible to being preyed upon by hawks and other birds of prey.

Moreover, the word ‘**trust**’ (here in Ps 91:4) means *to flee for protection* or, figuratively, *to confide in* (#2620). So again, the Holy Spirit (via Moses) is relaying another important point to how God protects us by using (again) the analogy of an eagle with her young ones. And, it’s very much like a mother hen with her chicks, which you’ve likely seen more than an eagle. But, both birds will protect their young ones with their wings. Not only from the heat, cold, wind, rain, sleet and snow (yea, all elements) but also from predators. And chicks know, instinctively, to remain under her wings for protection. Jesus Himself used this analogy also in Lk 13:34. And that’s *exactly* what we should be like too. For truly, **our only protection in life is when we remain spiritually connected to our Heavenly Father**. As David wrote in Ps 118:8, *it is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man*. And that’s because, when we trust in mankind, our heart departs from the Lord. And only curses result from that (Jer 17:5-6). But those who trust (and hope in) the Lord (YHVH) are like a well-watered tree that *continuously* produces good fruit (Jer 17:7-8).

But, just *how* do we remain spiritually connected to our Heavenly Father? Through His written Word. **The word of God connects us to our Heavenly Father (spiritually) because His written Word IS His Holy Spirit in written form** (John 6:63). So, *every time you study God’s Word, you are willingly taking the Holy Spirit into you – if you are sincerely seeking Him*. But, if you are not studying His Word in earnest, then you won’t benefit much from it, if at all; and you may even end up believing in traditions of man - which are a perversion of God’s Word - and actually *makes void* God’s Word (Mk 7:5-13) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>]. Further, God’s Word also teach us right from wrong; and it also give us much advice for all aspects of life. From social interactions, to economics, to healthy living and more. And if we’re ever having a bad day, are stressed out or worried, we have only to think about what we’ve learned from God’s Word to find refuge from our fears, anxieties and worries (Phil 4:6-8). And if you can’t remember any Scriptures, simply open up the Bible and start reading! And while you’re at it, notice now much your open Bible looks like the *open* ‘wings of an eagle’...

Now, this 4th verse (in Ps 91) also draws on another analogy to explain God's protection. It likens God's truth (i.e. His Word) as a shield and a buckler. The word '**truth**' here not only means *truth* but also *stability*, *certainty* as well as *trustworthiness* (#571). And, in John 17:17, Jesus declares that *God's Word IS the truth*. Therefore, God's Word is the only thing we can truly trust in *because* it teaches us in the 'path of life' (Ps 16:11), which is the 'path of righteousness' (Prov 12:28), which leads us to *eternal* life. As Jesus so profoundly said in John 6:63: *It is **the spirit that quickeneth**; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they **are spirit**, and they **are life***. The word '**quickeneth**' here means to *vitalize* or to *re-vitalize* (#2227). Indeed, God's Word both *vitalizes* us and *re-vitalizes* us because *it gives us hope*. One of the main things that draws people down, spiritually, is lack of hope. Lack of hope for *their* future and/or the future of their nation *and* children. Many people are disheartened because they feel things won't ever get better and their future is quite bleak. And many people fall away from their faith in God (Jesus Christ) because they feel the only way to 'get ahead' in life is to 'join in' with the wicked because it *seems like* only the wicked are prosperous.

But, as we learned in our studies in the Psalms, God's Word sternly warns against this attitude (mindset). Psalms 37 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/423] even directly addresses it and thus, promises us that the wicked truly don't get ahead. They are, in reality, only digging their own grave! *For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth* (Ps 37:9). And truly, this promise is reiterated *over and over again* in the Word of God. And, once we believe in this *eternal truth*, our outlook in life changes. Why? Because we realize that living life for the 'lusts and pleasures' of the flesh is *not worth living for at all*. Rather, living your life *to please God* is not only deeply satisfying (spiritually) but it also brings *many* blessings, even to your flesh body – such as good health and safety. And that's why (in this Ps 91:4) we're told that God's truth (His Word) is a shield and a buckler to us. The word '**shield**' here refers to *a large shield* (#6793) and the word '**buckler**' is a *shield that surrounds a person* (#5507). So, the indication here is that, the truth (God's Word) will protect us in all our ways (as a shield all around us) so that we won't be harmed... so long as we keep the truth firmly in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts), just as a person keeps their shield up to protect their body when they're fighting in a war.

Thus, God's Word protects our heart and mind from lusts, lies, and emotions, *that cause us to sin*. And truly, as Paul pointed out in Eph 6:16, the most important part of the Gospel Armor (i.e. our spiritual armor) is *the shield of faith* because *that* enables us to 'quench all the fiery darts of the wicked', which are lies and deception (perversions of the truth). And we need this *because* it is lies and deception that Satan uses *to deceive people into giving up their faith in God* (i.e. Jesus Christ) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>]. As 2 Cor 11:13-15 warns us, false apostles transform (disguise) themselves into apostles of Christ; and even Satan himself does not present himself as evil, but rather, as an 'angel of light'. And his ministers (those who work for him) also

disguise themselves as ministers ‘of righteousness’. Truly, Satan’s *favorite* place to work from is *the pulpit!* [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>]. That’s why it’s **so** vital we put truth into our heart, and mind, so we can *spot any lie* that comes our way. And remember, *lies most often presented to us as a ‘truth’ but* are twisted *slightly*. We’ll learn more about this when we get to verse 11, which is the very verse Satan twisted – *just a little bit* – in an attempt to try and get the Son of God Himself (Jesus Christ) to sin. Thankfully, his attempts were unsuccessful; but it teaches us a lot about his methods. Satan and his followers – yea anyone who is not truly serving Jesus Christ – *don’t claim to be evil*. They *always* claim to be righteous *and* that they speak ‘the truth’. So, it’s up to ‘test the spirits’, as John so wisely warned us (1 John 4:1) *so we can spot a lie* (even if it’s a slight perversion of the truth) instead of falling ‘head over heels’ for it. Again, that’s *why* the truth (the Word of God) is our shield and buckler *that protects us from* the ‘fiery darts of the wicked’ (Eph 6:16), which are lies presented as truth. Ps 119:114 also expresses this verse quite beautifully when it says: *Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word*. Thus, learning of, trusting in *and hoping in* God’s Word (the truth) IS how we remain under His protective wings and feathers. And if we want to obtain eternal life, and live a happy flesh life until then, we must continue to strive to *remain under* His precious wings for protection...

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*24 **Faithful** is he that calleth you, **who also will do it.***

1 Thess 5:16-24

We’ll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.