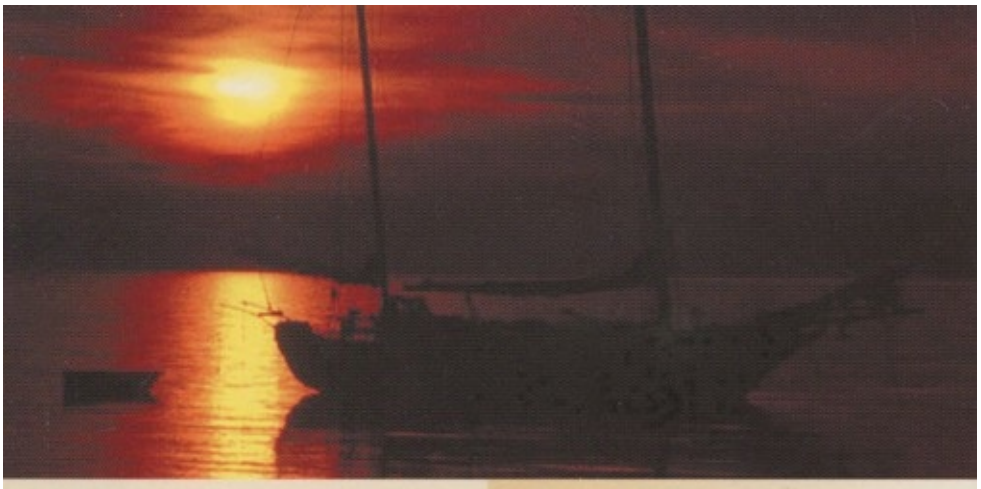


Your Promise *of* Protection



The Power of the 91st Psalm

GLORIA COPELAND



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PROTECTION

The Power of the 91st Psalm

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Harrison House

Tulsa, Oklahoma

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PSALM NINETY-ONE

King James Version

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the
Most High shall abide under the shadow of the
Almighty.

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

3 Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare
of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

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

5 Thou shall not be afraid for the terror by
night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

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6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in
darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at

noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten
thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come
nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and
see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is
my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither
shall any plague come nigh your dwelling.

11 For he. shall give his angels charge over
thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest
thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample
under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon Me,
therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on
high, because he hath known my name.

Psalm Ninety-One

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer
him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver
him, and honour him.
16 With long life will I satisfy him, and show
him My salvation.



PSALM NINETY-ONE

The Amplified Bible

1 He Who dwells in the secret place of the
Most High shall remain stable and fixed under
the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no
foe can withstand].
2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and
my fortress, my God, on Him I lean and rely,
and in Him I (confidently) trust!
3 For [then] He will deliver you from the
snare of the fowler and from the deadly

pestilence. [Then]

4 He will cover you with His pinions and
under His wings shall you trust and find refuge;
His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a

buckler. [Then]

5 You shall not be afraid of the terror of the
night, nor of the arrow [the evil plots and
slanders of the wicked] that flies by day,

6 Nor of the pestilence that stalks in
darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden
death that surprise and lay waste at noonday.
[Then]

7 A thousand may fall at your side and ten
thousand at your right hand, but it shall not
come near you.

8 Only a spectator shall you be [yourself
inaccessible in the secret place of the Most
High] as you witness the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your

refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,

10 There shall no evil befall you, nor any
plague or calamity come near your tent.

11 For He will give His angels [especial]
charge over you, to accompany and defend and
preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and
service].

12

Psalm Ninety-One

12 They shall bear you up on their hands, lest
you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder,
the young lion and the serpent shall you trample
under foot.

14 Because he has set his love upon Me,
therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on
high, because he knows and understands My
name [has a personal knowledge of My mercy,
love and kindness; trusts and relies on Me,
knowing I will never forsake him, no, never].

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer

him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.

13



Chapter 1

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO

1

DO?

God said to Noah...make yourself an ark. (Genesis 6:13-14).

With all the violence and calamity bearing down on us these days, that's a question you hear a lot. What are we going to do about crime in our streets? What are we going to do about economic failures? What are we going to do about international problems?

I'll tell you what we'd better do. We'd better

take a lesson from Noah. Look in Genesis 6 at the Bible's description of the earth back in his

day and you'll see why I say that.

The earth was depraved and putrid in God's sight, and the land was filled with violence (desecration, infringement, outrage, assault, and lust for power). And God looked upon the world and saw how degenerate, debased and vicious it was; for all humanity had corrupted their way upon the earth and lost their true direction (verses 11-12).

With a few exceptions that verse sounds like a description of today's world, doesn't it? What did God tell Noah to do about this desperate situation? He said, *"Noah, make yourself an ark."* That ark was to provide Noah's deliverance from the destruction to come. It was to keep him safe when the whole world was

perishing around him.

Start Building

I believe God is saying to us today, just like He did to Noah, *"Build yourself an ark."* Not an ark made of wood, but an ark made of the Word

What Are We Going to Do?

of God.

Do you realize that what you know from the Word of God will save your life? That's right. If you build God's promises of protection and deliverance into your heart and life, you can live in this crazy world with all of its danger and still feel secure. You don't have to be frightened by the things that are happening around you because even in the worst of times, God has proven He has the wonderful ability to deliver His people from danger.

Notice I said *His people.* Today, as in Noah's day, there are two groups of people on the earth: God's people and the rest of the world.

There is the family of Satan and the family of God.

Because God has already provided the gift of salvation to all men, the people in the world group constantly have the option to change groups by accepting Jesus as Savior. *("For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,"* John 3:16.) But until they do, the world group

won't enjoy the benefits that God's people have. As a result, the lives of these two groups of people can be strikingly different. They may be living in the same city, even in the same family. Yet one of them will have a covenant with God and one of them will not. One group will live in safety while the other group must submit to the dangers of the world on their own.

"It shall be well with him [the righteous]..."

but *"Woe unto the wicked! It shall be ill with him..."* (Isaiah 3:10-11). You may hear somebody prophesying about how bad things are going to become on the earth. Then you may hear someone else prophesy about the power and blessings that lie ahead of us. Both prophecies may be accurate. But the first is speaking to the people of the world and the second is speaking to the people of God.

Noah was a wonderful example of just how capable God is of protecting His people in the midst of a corrupt and crumbling civilization. The whole world went down around him, but the eight people in his family remained perfectly

safe.

Some people say, "Oh yes, I know that I am eternally safe. I know that because I am born again, I'll go to heaven when I die."

But I'm not just talking about heavenly

security. I am telling you that you can have physical security, financial security and every other kind of security you need to live in victory right here on this earth.

Loaded with Benefits!

You see, salvation includes more than just the guarantee of going to heaven in the sweet by-and-by. That's just the beginning. Salvation is a big word. In the Greek language it literally means deliverance, safety, preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, pardon, restoration, healing, wholeness and soundness.

If I were to use just one word, I would say salvation is *soundness* in every area of your life. It includes healing for your body, peace for your mind, righteousness for your spirit, physical and

spiritual protection, prosperity and financial blessing.

I like what Psalm 68:19-20 says:

Blessed be the Lord, Who bears our burdens and carries us day by day. Even the God Who is our salvation!... God is to us a God of deliverances and salvation; and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death [setting us free].

That same scripture in the *King James Version* says, *"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation...."* Just think about that. Every day God loads us with the benefits of salvation! He loads us with forgiveness, healing, safety, security, prosperity and deliverance from danger.

It's Not Automatic

Now you may be wondering, If safety and security and healing and deliverance are all part of my salvation, why haven't I been experiencing all these things?

What Are We Going to Do?

Because they don't come automatically.

They are manifested in your life only as you begin to trust God for them specifically.

Let me explain what I mean. Remember when you were born again? You discovered that God's Word promised if you would repent and confess Jesus as your Lord, you would be forgiven of your sins and translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son (Colossians 1:13). So you believed, obeyed, accepted Jesus as Savior and, sure enough, you were instantly saved. But that didn't heal you from the flu, did it?

No, before you could be healed from the flu, you had to hear God's Word about healing. You had to learn that Jesus bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases. Until you began to believe for healing, until you trusted God for it specifically and stood in faith for it, you didn't walk in divine health.

That's true about anything. Until you find out what actually belongs to you through the blood of Jesus, you can't lay hold of it by faith and see it happen in your life. That's why it's so

important for you to know God's promises of protection. You receive blessings by faith—and faith comes by hearing the Word. You can't have faith for something you don't know about. If someone were to deposit a million dollars in an account with your name on it but didn't bother to tell you about it, you'd never be able to enjoy it, would you? It would belong to you but you wouldn't know to withdraw it. So it would sit in the bank unused. That's the sad situation so many believers are in today when it comes to the mighty benefits of salvation through Jesus the Anointed One.



Chapter 2

Psalms 91:1

KEEPING THE CONDITIONS

2

He who dwells in the secret place of the

Most High shall remain stable and fixed

under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose

power no foe can withstand]. (Psalms 91:1).

Once you know from God's Word that

divine protection belongs to you, there are some

conditions you must keep to activate that

protection in your life. The Word of God makes

these conditions very clear.

You can find the first one at the beginning

of Psalm 91,

He who abides in the secret place of the

Most High shall remain fixed under the shadow of the Almighty.

If you are to enjoy God's protection, you're going to have to abide in Him. To *abide* means to dwell in. It is a word that implies not a temporary situation but a permanent dwelling place—the place where you make your home. It doesn't indicate a coming in and going out but a continual dwelling under God's shadow.

What does it take to become an abider?

Putting God's Word in your heart, for one thing. In John 15:7, Jesus said, *"If you live in Me—abide vitally united to Me—and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you."*

The truth that is alive in your heart is the truth that you act on every day. It doesn't come from simply reading a scripture once, shouting hallelujah, and going on. It comes from knowing the Word so well that it comes to your thinking

instantly in a crisis situation. Truth comes alive in you when you think about it, meditate on it

and apply it to your life, so at the moment of danger, the Word of God is your first thought. Abiding under the shadow of the Almighty is the result of spending so much time in the Word of God and in His presence that His truth governs your actions without even a conscious thought. If you want to be an abider, you can't afford to simply get into the Word for a while and then quit. You need to be consistent. Stay in the Word day after day after day. Take the 91st Psalm into yourself daily until it becomes engrafted in your heart.

Remember this: *it's the Word you act on today that will get you delivered.* It's not what you heard last year. It isn't even what you know. It's what you do. Keep yourself full of God's Word and you will do it.

If that sounds like a tall order to you, let me promise you something. For every minute you invest in the Word of God you'll get back a hundredfold in health, faith and deliverance. You'll never regret a second of it.

Disobedience Is Dangerous

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Another definition of abiding is simply obeying. First John 3:6 says, *"Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not."* The reverse of that is also true—whoever sins (or is disobedient) does not abide in Him.

If you'll look at the first chapter of Proverbs, you'll see just how dangerous disobedience can be. You will see why, when most people need supernatural protection, it isn't there for them.

Beginning in verse 23, God says:

If you will turn (repent) and give heed to my reproof, behold, I [Wisdom], will pour out my spirit upon you, I will make My

words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused

[to answer], have stretched out my hand

and no man heeded it, But you have treated

as nothing all my counsel, and would accept

none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your

calamity; I will mock when the thing comes

that shall cause you terror and panic

(verses 23-26)...

Then will they call upon me [Wisdom],

but I will not answer; they will seek me

early and diligently, but they will not find

me. Because they hated knowledge, and did

not choose the reverent and worshipful fear

of the Lord.... (verses 28-29)

But whoso hearkens to me [Wisdom],

shall dwell securely and in confident trust,

and shall be quiet without fear or dread of

evil (verse 33).

Thank God, we're living in the day of grace and mercy and it's never too late to call upon the Lord. But I am going to tell you this: If you haven't been abiding in the Word (God's wisdom revealed to us), it's going to be difficult for you to call on Him in faith when calamity comes. If you've been living every day by the world's standards, at the moment of crisis it will be hard for you to take your dependence off the world and put it on Him.

So what you need to do is start abiding in the Word of God now! If you don't, it will eventually cost you more than you want to pay.

Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the reverent and worshipful fear

of the Lord, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, Therefore shall they eat the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. (Proverbs

1:29,31).

In other words, if you're going to live like the world, your outcome is going to be like that of the world. " *But whoso hearkens to Me [Wisdom], shall dwell securely and in confident trust and shall be quiet without fear or dread of evil"* (Proverbs 1:33). Now *that's* the kind of supernatural protection promised to those who abide.

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Chapter 3

Psalm 91:2

SAY SOMETHING!

3

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I (confidently) trust! (Psalm 91:2).

I will say! There's something else important about the person who lives in the protective shadow of the Almighty. *He speaks in faith.* He says of the Lord, *"He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I (confidently) trust!"*

This man is doing more than just trusting God with his heart, he's saying it with his

mouth! That's what you need to be doing too. You see, faith brings God's supernatural power into this natural realm. And faith is released into this natural realm by words. So you need to be saying, "God is my refuge. He is my fortress. I trust in Him!"

I can't count the times I've said those words. I've meditated on the 91st Psalm and said it so often that at any moment of danger, that is what springs up inside me. When I run into trouble, my mouth doesn't say, "I'm scared to death." My

mouth says, "The Lord is my refuge. He shall deliver me!"

Make up your mind right now to get your mouth in line with God's Word. Do you know what will happen if you do? You'll be able to go to sleep at night. You won't lie there in worry or fear. Instead, you'll trust God with every part of your life. And no matter what circumstance you're in, you'll be able to just turn over and go to sleep. The Bible says God gives His beloved sleep (Psalm 127:2).

One night, years ago, Ken and I were

spending the night in an Israeli *kibbutz.* It was located very close to the border where enemy raids were frequent—and often deadly. I had thoughts that we might be in danger.

So what did I do? I said of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress. I trust Him with my life." Then I turned over and went to sleep.

You can do the same thing. You meditate on this verse long enough and speak it out often enough and you'll be able to go right to sleep wherever you are. You can sleep by faith!

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Chapter 4

Psalm 91:3-4

THE FOWLER'S SNARE

4

For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. [Then] He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler. (Psalm 91:3-4).

Once you "say" until you have that kind of peace on the inside, you can be assured you'll

have supernatural protection on the outside. You can be sure God will *"deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence"* (Psalm 91:3).

What's the snare of the fowler? The traps laid by the devil to cause you harm. (One friend of ours says the devil is the fowler because he comes along and tries to foul things up!) And *The. Amplified Bible* defines pestilence as *"...plagues; malignant and contagious or infectious epidemic diseases which are deadly and devastating"* (Luke 2:11). Doesn't that sound like AIDS or cancer?

I like the 91st Psalm because it's always so up-to-date. No matter what kind of "new" threats the devil comes up with, the 91st Psalm promises deliverance from them. Epidemic diseases, nuclear weapons, chemical warfare—read Psalm 91 closely and you'll see it covers

every one of them.

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Chapter 5

Psalm 91:5-8

SURROUNDED BY DANGER

5

You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow [the evil plots and slanders of the wicked] that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday. [Then] a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High] as you witness the reward of the wicked. (Psalm 91:5-8).

We live in a century with weapons that can

quite literally kill thousands of people at once. Chemical weapons or nuclear warfare can destroy whole cities. But despite the magnitude of the disaster, God has promised we can stand in the midst of it untouched!

Notice I said, *in the midst of it!* Clearly, when God says a *"thousand may fall at your side,"* He's not talking about heaven. He's talking about a place here on earth where you're seeing some disastrous things happen to the wicked all around you, and yet you are totally protected. You are covered by an invisible shield. You are in that secret place that the world knows nothing about. When you're in that place, it doesn't matter how terrible your situation might be, you can make it through in safety. (See Psalm 5:11-12; Psalm 27:5, *The Amplified Bible*. Put these scriptures in your

mouth!)

Ken and I have a friend who proved that beyond any doubt. He took the 91st Psalm into battle with him when he was in Vietnam years ago. He broke it down verse by verse and applied it to his specific situation.

To him, *"the arrow that flies by day"* mentioned in verse 5 meant the bullets of the enemy. So he would say, "I shall not be afraid of the terror of the night nor of the bullets of the enemy." *"The pestilence that stalks in darkness"* and the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday meant the Viet Cong and the deadly booby traps they had set.

And when he read that *"a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you"* he knew he would be protected even in open combat. So

he would agree and say, "I'll only observe these things, I won't be a victim of them."

Do you know he came through that war untouched? He had been in the midst of heavy fighting, in some of the most dangerous places in Vietnam, yet he believed God for his deliverance and walked away unharmed.

How could that happen? Look again at Psalm 91:4, *"He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a*

shield and buckler."

Our friend was hidden from the enemy. God covered him up like a mother eagle covers her babies by spreading her feathers over them. The devil couldn't get to him because God's truth and faithfulness were the shield and buckler which kept the enemy at bay.



Chapter 6

Psalm 91:9-10

DON'T FORGET TO DO YOUR

6

PART

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent. (Psalm 91:9-10).

No doubt, by now you're getting pretty excited about God's protection. But before we go on, I want to remind you once more—receiving that protection is conditional. You have to know what God has said before that shield and buckler will work for you. You have

to hear it from God's Word and receive it for yourself saying, "That's mine. Deliverance from God belongs to me!"

Look again at the first part of verse 9: *"Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the most High your dwelling place."* I have that first word, because, circled in my Bible. This verse tells you how to position yourself in the secret place. It says because you have made the Lord your refuge by obeying verses 1 and 2, you can count on Him do His part by rescuing you from danger. Notice verse 3 in *The Amplified Bible* starts *"for then He will deliver you..."*

When you think of Psalm 91, remember this: the first two verses are what we do and say. Verses 2-15 are God's answer and commitment to us. When we do our part—saying and trusting—God does His part—delivering and preserving.



Chapter 7

Psalm 91:11-12

ANGELS AT YOUR SERVICE

7

For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you, to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service]. They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12).

One of the ways God carries out your deliverance is through angels. You literally have angels at your service. Did you know that? The Bible teaches that they're sent to serve you and keep you safe as you carry out God's will in your life. Hebrews 1:14 says, *"Are not the angels all (servants) ministering spirits, sent out*

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in the service [of God for the assistance] of

those who are to inherit salvation?"

The angel of the Lord encamps round about those who fear God, to deliver them (Psalm 34).

Your angels just set up camp wherever you are. When you move, they move. When you go to town, they go to town. When you go to the grocery store, they go to the grocery store. When you go to war, they go to war.

In 2 Kings 6 you can find a picture of how angels operate. Elisha, the prophet of God, had received inside information from God on the strategy of enemy nations. He'd passed that information along to the king of Israel so Israel was never caught off guard in any military maneuver.

When the enemy king realized that information was leaking to Israel he assumed they had a spy in their camp.

"Who is telling the king of Israel our

military secrets?" he demanded.

His servant answered, "None of us, my lord O king. But that prophet Elisha knows what we

say in our bed chambers" (see 2 Kings 6:11-12).

So the enemy king and his entire army took off in pursuit of one man! They surrounded the city where Elisha was staying and *"when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots..."* (verse 15).

Elisha's servant panicked. A whole army against the two of them looked like very bad odds. "Master, what are we going to do?" he cried.

"Fear not," Elisha told him, "for they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (verse 16).

Don't you know that servant was counting? *One, two! There are two of us and scores of*

them. Elisha must be losing his mind. But Elisha wasn't looking at the natural realm. He was seeing in the spirit realm.

Elisha prayed, *"Lord, open his eyes that he may see."* Notice he didn't say, "Lord, protect me." He didn't need to ask for protection, he knew it was there.

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"...And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (verse 17). The mountain was full of protection for Elisha! God had sent battalions of angels to protect Elisha. I'm sure the extra angels had arrived before the enemy army ever got there. I say "extra" because we have angels surrounding us all the time and those regulars can quickly be reinforced.

Fear Not!

Before we leave this account about Elisha, I

want you to pay special attention to the answer he gave his frightened servant in verse 16. *"Fear not."* Those were the first words Elisha spoke.

What is the very first thing you're to do in trouble? **Fear not.** If you fear, you open the door to the devil. If you trust God, you open the door to God.

Over and over in the Bible God exhorts us not to fear. Psalms 91:5 begins, *"You shall not*

be afraid..." When angels would appear to people, "Fear not!" were usually the first words out of their mouths. That's because fear and faith don't mix. Fear and faith cannot come out of you at the same time.

When you start saying things that are out of line with the Word of God, when you start speaking in fear instead of in faith, you bind the hands of your angels. You prevent them from

doing their job. Psalms 103:20-21 tells us why:

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Angels *hearken* to the voice of God's Word. They respond to the Word! So when your heart is full of faith and your mouth is saying, "A thousand may fall at my side, ten thousand at my right hand but it will not come near me," they put that Word into action and protect you. But when your heart is full of fear and your mouth is speaking words of unbelief, your angels can only stand by helplessly. It's not that they abandon you, it's just that they have nothing to act on.

Never ever underestimate the power of your words. Scripture teaches us that God speaks of

things that are not as though they were (see Romans 4:17). That's how He creates—He speaks things into existence.

Whether you realize it or not, you do the same thing. When you speak words by faith according to the Word of God, you are opening the door for God's protection and blessing. When you speak words in fear that are contrary to the Word, you are opening the door for the devil to bring you destruction.

I know these are dangerous days. Almost every day on the news we hear about innocent people who are shot just standing on the street corner, or sitting in a restaurant. (Flying arrows aren't doing much damage these days, but bullets can be pretty deadly!) But when you have the Word of God alive inside of you, you don't have to worry about the unexpected. God is never caught by surprise.

So put away fear. Rebuke it out of your life. Talk to it as if it were a snake. Say, "Fear, in the Name of Jesus, I command you to be gone!" Then put it under your feet. Stomp it out of your life. If it rears its head again, rid yourself of it as swiftly as you would a rattlesnake.

Get your heart established on God's Word and your mouth full of faith. Keep your angels on the job. You never know when you're going to need them!

Out of the Fire

One of the most exciting scriptural examples of God's angelic delivering power is found in Daniel 3. There we see three of God's people in big trouble with the government. The king of the Babylonian empire had made an image and declared that *"...Whoso falleth not down and worshippeth (that image) should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace"* (verse 11).

Now, these three men of God—Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego—happened to be on the king's own staff. They were Hebrews who had

been captured but God's blessing was upon them to such a degree they had been given great responsibility over the affairs of Babylon. They served and trusted God. So despite the king's decree, they refused to bow down to that image. As we read this story, I want you to notice that these three men fit the pattern of the man described in Psalm 91. They were faithful to God. They abided in Him. And when they were faced with danger, instead of crying and whining about it, they spoke words of faith. When the king threatened to throw them in the fiery furnace for refusing to bow down to his idol, they said:

If it be so our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine

hand, O king. But if not be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up (verses 17-18).

In other words, they refused to bow *and* they refused to be afraid. They said, "Our God is

able to deliver us!"

That made the king so angry he had that furnace heated up seven times hotter than usual. The heat was so intense that the guards who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace were killed instantly.

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then...the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?...Lo, I see

four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God (verses 23-25).

Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego burn? It certainly wasn't because the fire had no power. It had power all right. It had enough power to kill the mighty men in the king's army who threw them into it. It just had no power over the bodies of *God's* men. In fact, the Bible tells us that not even a *"...hair of their head (was) singed, neither were their coats*

changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them" (verse 27).

What's more, God sent His angel into the fire to watch over them while they were there.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and

delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon (Daniel 3:28-30).

Isn't' that a great testimony of God's delivering power?! When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's enemies tried to get rid of them, these three servants of God were promoted

instead! They made the Lord their refuge. Their

trust was in Him. He was their deliverer and they never stopped saying so. They refused to compromise or give in to the intimidation of the enemy. *They did not bow and they did not burn!*

The Secret Place

I've always loved the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. But for years, I wondered exactly how they could come through a fire like that without even smelling like smoke. Then one day I was reading Psalm 27 and I found out.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the refuge and stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; in the secret place of His tent will He hide me; He will set me high upon a rock (verses 1,5).

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went into that fiery furnace, the presence of God settled upon them like a bubble. It surrounded

them. It covered them. They didn't get hot. They

didn't get scorched. The power of God was their deliverance. It hid them in the secret place.

But here's what is so exciting. That secret place isn't reserved just for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. It isn't reserved only for people who lived thousands of years ago when the Bible was being written.

No! God says anyone who abides in Him can dwell in that secret place. It's for anyone who has the faith to say, "In the secret place of His tent will God hide me; He will set me high upon a rock." It's for anyone who can say like these three Israelites did, "You don't have to worry about us, king. Our God is able to deliver us and what's more, He will!"

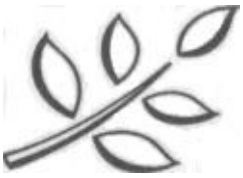
Do you understand that God is not limited? He can do anything it takes to make you safe. He can cover you with His presence in the midst

of chemical warfare, nuclear warfare or anything else the devil can produce. He can bring you through without a scratch.

The only thing that will limit God in your life is unbelief and fear. So determine now to

believe God's Word and trust in Him for your safety and protection. You might think, "Yes, Gloria, that's easy for you to say. You don't live in the neighborhood I do."

Listen, your neighborhood might be bad—but it's still not as bad as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's neighborhood. No one is trying to put you into a fiery furnace. And even if they did, God has already proven He can get you out!



Chapter 8

Psalm 91:13

FACING THE LIONS

8

You shall tread upon the lion and the adder,

the young lion and the serpent shall you

trample under foot. (Psalm 91:13).

Daniel is a good example of someone who stayed ready. And because he did, the plans his enemies devised for his death failed miserably. Daniel was a contemporary of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He was a member of the royal staff of Babylon just like they were. In fact, Daniel was one of three presidents of the empire, second only to the king himself. Daniel had so much influence that other

presidents and princes became jealous of his position and began to look for ways to get him removed. But the Bible says no matter how hard they looked, *"...they could find none occasion*

nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful..." (see Daniel 6:4).

Daniel was faithful. He was faithful in his service to the king and he was faithful to God. Finally the officials who were trying to get Daniel fired realized the only way they were ever going to get him was to put him in a corner by forcing him to choose between God and the king.

So that's what they did. They suggested the king pass a law that forbade anyone from making petition (or praying) to anyone other than the king himself for 30 days. Anyone who broke the law would be thrown into a den of lions.

Their suggestion appealed to the king's ego so much that he signed the law on the spot, without even thinking what it would mean to his trusted administrator Daniel.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously (Daniel 6:10).

Daniel knew about the king's new law. But he wouldn't compromise. He didn't even choose to switch to silent prayer. He simply kept praying just the way he always had.

When the others reported to the king what Daniel had done, the king was grieved. He trusted Daniel and respected him. He didn't want to throw him to the lions but he had been tricked by his staff. He had trapped himself by his own decree and he couldn't change his mind. So, *"...The king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, May your God, Whom you are serving continually, deliver you!"* (see Daniel

6:16).

Notice what the king said. He said Daniel served God *continually.* Remember what we learned about abiding? It means to dwell

continually in a place. Daniel was an abider! He was faithful. He stayed constantly in the presence and service of God. That was his ongoing state of mind, his natural habitat.

Let's look at what happened to this abider:

And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet... Then the king went to his palace and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music or dancing girls brought before him, and sleep fled from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den and to Daniel, he cried out in a voice of

anguish... O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God Whom you serve continually able to deliver you from the lions? Then Daniel said to the king, O king, live for ever! My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me... Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel should be taken up out of the den.... and no hurt of any kind was found on him, because he believed... in his God (Daniel

6:17-23).

Daniel's deliverance wasn't some kind of one-time thing God did just because He liked Daniel better than most other people. It wasn't just something God did so He'd have an interesting story to put in the Bible. God delivered Daniel because He *always* delivers those who abide in Him in faith.

You can trust God with your life. He'll do the same thing for you He did for Daniel if—I said *if*— you abide in Him in faith...trusting, expecting and confessing His delivering power.

Supernatural Trouble-Shooters

Some people seem to think angels aren't around much anymore. But they are! They were present throughout the Old Testament—and they haven't gone on vacation since then. If you want a New Testament example of their activities, read Acts 12. It tells of a very dangerous time in the history of the early Church. Peter had been arrested.

Peter therefore was kept in prison; but

prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the

keepers before the door kept the prison.

(verse 5-6).

It sounds like Peter was in a maximum security situation, doesn't it? In the natural, there was no possibility of escape. But God's people were praying and believing God for his protection and—

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. (verse 7).

That's the wonderful thing about God's protection. You could hire a hundred natural men to protect you, but they'd be limited by natural things. When you're dealing with angels, you're dealing with the supernatural.

That angel didn't have to have a key made. When he showed up the chains that bound Peter

just fell off. (If you'll read the rest of the chapter, you'll find it was easier for Peter to get out of prison than to get into the prayer meeting!)

I want you to notice something else about this situation. Peter wasn't staying up moaning and groaning about being executed. He was sound asleep. In fact, he was sleeping so soundly that the angel had to hit him to wake him up.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out and passed

on through one street; and forthwith the

angel departed from him (verses 8-10).

The angel of God just took Peter out of

prison. He had no problems with guards, chains,

keys or city gates... he simply woke Peter up,

got him out and sent him home.

I could tell you story after story where

angels have intervened to alter drastically the

outcome of situations, both in the Bible and in

our day as well. Some time ago, for example,

one of our ministry employees was riding to

work on his motorcycle when suddenly a big

truck pulled across the road right in front of

him. It happened so quickly there was nothing

he could do. He didn't have time to think. He

didn't have time to speak—he didn't have time to

do anything.

Many times that's how things happen.

Without warning, suddenly trouble is upon you.

It doesn't tell you it's coming in advance so you'll have time to fast and pray. You have to be ready. You have to live every day believing God. You have to say continually, "The Lord is my refuge and my fortress." Because at those moments, you don't have time to say it.

That's how it was with that fellow on the motorcycle. All of a sudden there was a truck in

front of him.

That's the last thing he remembered. He saw the truck and everything went blank. The next thing he knew he was walking around on the side of the road. A few yards away, his motorcycle lay underneath the truck.

A girl who was driving right behind, him saw the whole thing. She said when the motorcycle slid under the truck, the man who was riding it went up in the air, did a flip and landed safely on his feet by a fence nearby. His

only injury was a scratch on the arm.

I can't imagine anything that could make

that happen except angels. But here's the point.

That fellow was ready. He didn't have time to

grab his Bible and brush up on the 91st Psalm.

He was already prepared.

That's how it has to be. You can't wait until

the last minute and start memorizing scripture

when disaster strikes. You need to "say of the

Lord" **now**. You need to stay ready.

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Chapter 9

Psalm 91:14-16

THE INWARD WITNESS

9

Because he has set his love upon Me,

therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on

high, because he knows and understands My

name [has a personal knowledge of My

mercy, love and kindness; trusts and relies

on Me, knowing I will never forsake him,

no, never]. 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 will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation. (Psalm 91:14-16).

Once you start operating in faith, trusting God to protect and defend you in every situation, something is going to start happening to you. Something you may never have perceived before. You are going to start hearing

some directions from the Holy Spirit. Sometimes those directions won't seem very spiritual. For example, you may be heading out the door to go grocery shopping, and suddenly, from inside you will come the thought, "Don't go to the store the way you usually go, take a different route. Go this way." Or, "Don't go to that store, go to another one."

Why would God say something like that?

Maybe because He knows the store you usually go to is about to be robbed, and you would be in danger if you went there. That thought, impression or prompting is the inward witness. It is the Holy Spirit speaking to your spirit for your protection.

Remember the devastating earthquake that struck San Francisco in 1990? A close friend of mine, Billye Brim, told me about a friend of hers whose son was working there the day the earthquake hit.

That afternoon he was in his office, as usual, when the thought came to him that he should leave the office early and head for his

home in Oakland. The World Series was being played in a stadium nearby and he didn't want to be caught in the traffic on the freeway when the game ended. It just seemed like a natural thought.

He yielded to that impression and left work early that day. If he hadn't, he would have been on that freeway when it collapsed during the earthquake.

The Bible says God speaks in a still, small voice. He doesn't shout directions at you. He gives you impressions, thoughts, promptings and gentle urgings. You have to learn to be sensitive to them.

You also need to be pliable and ready to change your plans when something comes to you from your spirit that seems good. It just might save your life.

How do you become aware of that inward witness? It doesn't happen automatically. It comes by spending time with God. It comes when you listen for it in faith, expecting God to guide you.

You have to learn to listen. God may tell

you not to take your normal route home in order to save you from a traffic accident. He may tell you not to get on a plane you're scheduled to take. I've heard of several incidents when someone received a distinct impression not to get on an airplane and, sure enough, that airplane crashed. Then again I've had that thought before I boarded a plain and perceived it was just a natural thought. When you endeavor to follow God moment by moment, day by day, you'll know the difference.

While we are on the subject, Ken and I hijack every commercial plane we ride. As we walk toward the plane we say, "We take authority over this plane in the Name of Jesus. Satan, we bind your power in the Name of Jesus. You'll not touch the equipment, crew or passengers in any way. Ministering spirits (angels) you go before us and clear our way in Jesus Name."

Usually I'll pray a day or two ahead for the

Lord to prepare the crew, equipment and passengers for us and believe for a hassle free trip with no delays or bad weather.

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The Inward Witness

No matter how simple the instruction from God may be, pay attention to it. Be quick to listen and to hear. The Holy Spirit's job is to warn you of things to come and to minister grace and favor to you every day. Learn to listen to Him!

It's Going to Take Time

I don't want to scare you, but I do want to be honest with you. In the days ahead you're going to see a great deal of trouble in the world around you. Things on this earth are going to get worse, just like they did in Noah's day. The darkness will get darker and the light will get brighter. Jesus Himself compared this end-time age to that generation. He said:

But as the days of Noe were, so shall

also the coming of the Son of man be. For

as in the days that were before the flood

they were eating and drinking, marrying

and giving in marriage, until the day that

Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until

the flood came, and took them all away...

(Matthew 24:37-39).

69

Your Promise of Protection

There's something we need to learn from Noah. It is this: Don't wait until trouble hits to start building your ark, because you want to have it finished before trouble comes.

It took Noah many, many years to build his ark. Think about that! There he was, out in the middle of nowhere, building this big ship with no water in sight. Don't you know his neighbors laughed at him? After all they had never even seen rain.

"Crazy old Noah!" they must have said.

"Crazy old Noah and his boys talk about God

delivering them from the flood that's coming. They don't know what they're talking about!" You know, people made fun of Noah and his family all those years and the scriptures say they did not know or understand until the day the flood came and swept them away. They were in the dark. But when the flood came, NOAH WASN'T IN THE DARK—HE WAS IN THE ARK! He knew exactly what God was going to do and he was prepared.

Today, I am saying to you the same thing

God said to Noah. "There's a flood coming. Build yourself an ark!" Build it with the 91st Psalm. Build it with scriptures about your deliverance. Build it by abiding in the Almighty God. Build it by saying with your mouth, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust."

Don't wait until the flood comes and sweeps

you away. Start now. Meditate on God's Word of deliverance. Read it. Go over it every day until it is so deeply rooted in your heart that it comes flowing out at the first sign of trouble. Carry this little book around with you until you get so filled with this truth that your heart carries it for you.

Don't be in the dark. Be in the ark. Build yourself an ark—today!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION AND BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, *"Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10. *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be*

saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to*

give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). I'm also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4).

Begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those words and syllables you receive—not in your own language, but the language given to you by the Holy Spirit. You

have to use your own voice. God will not force you to speak. Worship and praise Him in your heavenly language—in other tongues.

Continue with the blessing God has given you and pray in tongues each day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You'll never be the same!

Find a good Word of God preaching church, and become a part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them.

We need to be connected to each other. It

increases our strength in God. It's God's plan for us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gloria Copeland is an author and minister of the gospel whose teaching ministry is known throughout the world. Believers worldwide

know her through Believers' Conventions, Victory Campaigns, magazine articles, teaching tapes and videos, and the daily and Sunday *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast, which she hosts with her husband, Kenneth Copeland. She is known for "Healing School," which she began teaching and hosting in 1979 at KCM meetings. Gloria delivers the Word of God and the keys to victorious Christian living to millions of people every year.

Gloria has written many books, including *God's Will for You*, *Walk With God*, *God's Will Is Prosperity*, *Hidden Treasures* and *Are You Listening*. She has also co-authored several books with her husband, including *Family Promises*, *Healing Promises* and the best-selling

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She holds an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts University. In 1994, Gloria was voted

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