

July 1, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 91:1-2 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust."* (NIV)

I love this Psalm and I especially love how it begins, *whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High*. Now, what does that exactly mean? The word dwell carries the same connotation as the word remain or abide in **John 15:5** *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."* (NIV)

To remain or dwell means to come and stay; to not leave; to make your home here. I think many times, we treat the LORD like our spiritual 'genie.' We call on Him when we have a need, but when everything seems to be going okay, we focus on ourselves and what we want to do. To abide or remain in Him means to literally stay inside His will and His way. To do that, we must continually be connected and 'on the same page.' It is all about Him and His plan for our day. We need to move from the "please bless me" stage of existence into the "I will bless You LORD" stage of living. Everything needs to be focused on the King of Glory.

There is a blessing that comes with this type of living. It is that we have complete assurance and confidence in Him. The psalmist says that He is my refuge and fortress. These were places of safety in a very dangerous world. He will still be that for you as well. Come to Him. Abide in Him. Dwell in His presence. Enjoy His love and comfort and peace. He is waiting. He desires for you to come. Will you stay in Him today? I pray that I will.

Dear LORD, help us to stay in You and dwell in Your presence today. When we are tempted to leave because of our own desires, remind us of the price You have paid and the joy and peace we have in You. In Jesus Name, Amen