

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty
(Psalm 91:1)*

This psalm exhibits faith at its finest. Its promises are sublime beyond belief! Whoever can indeed lay hold upon them, can rest in the assurance that they are indeed his, must be called the most blessed of living persons. “*He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler,*” “*from the perilous pestilence.*” “*You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor the arrow that flies by day.*” “*No evil shall befall you.*” “*Angels shall bear you up lest you dash your foot against a stone.*” “*You shall tread on the lion and the cobra.*”

The comprehensive range of these blessings is breathtaking. Let us consider precisely what is promised by merely taking up residence in the “*secret place of the Most High:*” deliverance from the three great *fears* that trouble, threaten, intimidate all mankind. These are those which stand between us, and any degree of quiet confidence, repose and peace.

1. Traps, snares, and grievous entanglements into which we may fall at any time. These are set for us both by men and demons who wish to use us, to subject us, to devour us, for their own purposes and gain. What makes us likely to fall into them is our often foolhardiness: we are not always wise in our decisions. Then there is our simple ignorance. There are always pockets of darkness into which we must walk. Our information is always short. And then there is our failure to be alert and watchful at all times. We grow weary, drop our guard and step into the snare, and are caught.
2. Disease, sickness, injury, “accidents.” There are well-known fearsome pestilences, as well as ten thousand others heretofore unknown, that are always developing out of mutating organisms. Who knows when any one or more of those incurable afflictions will render us helpless sufferers, wiping out our “quality of life,” assets, and remaining years? Who knows when some calamity will hit us, tearing our bodies apart, taking away all life’s joys and making us someone’s pitied charge?
3. Attacks. The “arrow that is always flying in open daylight. The snakes and lions. The destruction that lays waste at noonday. There are thieves, muggers, robbers, madmen. There are lawyers clustered like buzzards, circling in the skies, waiting to sue and bankrupt anyone who unsuspectingly makes himself vulnerable through a thousand cleverly designed legal entries. There are governmental powers and agencies ready to ravage and ruin and render on the helpless. How can one ever rest with all these threats hanging over his head every hour of every day that he lives? Surely the only thing that keeps these fears from driving the majority of people mad is that they do not have enough soberness of mind to seriously think of them. But we are told that he who dwells in this secret place shall have *nothing to fear from any of these!*

What? Are the health, wealth and prosperity preachers right after all? Is there a place of faith to which we can attain that will insure that we shall never make a mistake and fall into a trap, shall never be sick, shall never be injured, shall never be victimized and plundered by wicked men? In short, we shall be “done with troubles and trials?” Not at all! In the first place, history and reality deny it. The holiest of saints often suffer, are denied, and abused most in this present world. Secondly, our text itself denies it. “*He shall call upon me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble*” (vs. 15). Here is the very person dwelling in that secret place “in trouble.”

What then is the blessedness promised? He who abides in this secret place shall have no *fear* of these threats. They have been robbed of the power of their terror. The reason is this: He is abiding under the shadow of the Almighty, hard under El Shaddai’s “wings,” covered with His “feathers.” Absolutely nothing can touch him without the express will of Him Who is “Almighty.” And He will permit nothing to touch the object of His love except that which is for his *good!* Pestilence, arrows, disease, wicked men, ten thousand demons can do nothing to him who reposes in Christ. Evil may touch him, but it does not “befall” him. Accidents do not slip past God’s garrison. Whatever touches us comes from His wise and loving Hand. We can welcome it in peace, knowing that the outcome is to His glory and our salvation.

-C.M.