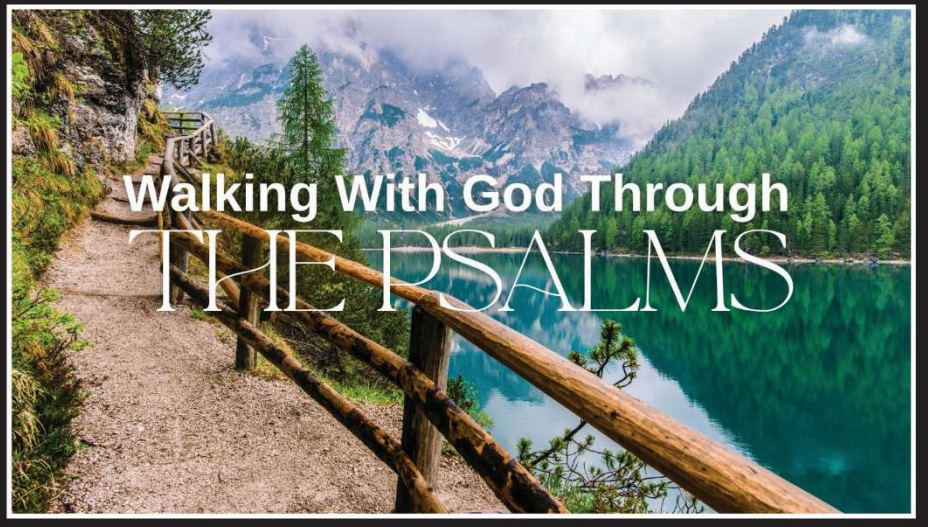


Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor



Facing the Future with Faith

Psalm 91:1-16

Psalm 91 is one of the great chapters in all of Scripture. For many believers, it is their favorite Psalm. It is a passage that shares with God's people His comforting care, His security, and His refuge for the believer in any season of life. We live in a day and age where fear is gripping and controlling the hearts of many people. In **2 Timothy 1:7**, God declares: *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* In **Psalm 91**, God is not simply telling us to stop being afraid. He is giving us a new perspective. He gives us **FOUR REASONS** we can face the future with faith, not fear.

1) **Intimacy** with the Almighty (*Psalm 91:1-2*)

Four names of God appear in these opening two verses:

- **POSSESSOR** - El Elyon - "the Most High" (v. 1a)
- **PROVIDER** - El Shaddai - "the Almighty" (v. 1b)
- **PROMISE-KEEPER** - YHWH / Jehovah - "the LORD" (v. 2a) (see **Exodus 3:14**)
- **POWER** - Elohim - "My God" (v. 2b) – the Creator Who spoke the worlds into existence, is expressed as My God.

APPLICATION:

2) **Insulation** from Adversity (*Psalm 91:3-13*)

- v. 4 - *"He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge..."* God is pictured here as a mother bird with a fierce, instinctive love to protect her chicks. In **Matthew 23:37**, Jesus used the same picture when He said to Jerusalem: *"How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."*
- "Commentator F. B. Meyer tells us there are four kinds of calls a mother hen makes to her brood: one when night is falling, one when danger is lurking, one when food is found, and one when she simply desires to have her chicks close to her."¹
- The *snare of the fowler* (v. 3) pictures the hidden traps and schemes set against us.

¹ As quoted by Jon Courson, *Jon Courson's Application Commentary: Volume Two: Psalms-Malachi* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 116.

- The *terror by night* and the *arrow by day* (vv. 5-6) picture both seen and unseen threats in every season.
- The *lion and the cobra* (v. 13) symbolically portray Satan. See 1 Peter 5:8, Luke 10:19, and Genesis 3:15. On the cross, Jesus stripped the devil of his power over the life of the believer. Hallelujah!

APPLICATION:

3) Intervention by the Angels (*Psalm 91:11-12*)

- *"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."*
- This very passage was quoted by Satan himself during the temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:10-11), which tells us that even the enemy recognized the reality of this promise.
- Hebrews 1:14 - *"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"* That is describing you and me, the heirs of salvation. See also Matthew 18:10.

APPLICATION:

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4) Inheritance of Abundance (*Psalm 91:14-16*)

- In these final three verses, the voice changes. The Psalmist is no longer speaking *about* God. Now God is speaking *directly* to His people. He steps forward in the first person and speaks seven personal promises to those who love Him:
- The basis of these promises is not what we have done *for* God but what we have done *with* God. He says, *"because he has set his love upon Me"* and *"because he has known My name."* It is rooted in relationship.

APPLICATION:

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It is one thing for medical doctors to add years to your life, but God adds life to your years. (see v.16).