

A person wearing a yellow raincoat with the hood up, seen from behind, looking out at a dark, stormy sea under a heavy, grey sky. The scene is dramatic and atmospheric. At the top of the image, there is a decorative border with diagonal yellow and black stripes.

SAFETY

IN THE STORM.

**DISCOVER THE KEYS TO
LIVING IN DIVINE
PROTECTION DURING
TROUBLED TIMES.**

SHAYNE B. HOLES GROVE

Safety in the Storm

Written by Shayne B. Holesgrove

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Editor: Marna Holesgrove

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Introduction

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 NKJV

COVID-19, Tsunamis, diseases, earthquakes, crime, economic hardships – we live in a troubled world. “Why do bad things happen?” “Is God in control of all this mess?” “Why would a good God allow all this suffering?”

Is there safety in the storms of life?
Jesus said that we would have trouble in this world, and He was speaking to His followers. Christians are not exempt from troubles, but here's the good news: We do not have to be troubled by the troubles, we can "be of good cheer" because of our hope and security in Jesus! There certainly is safety in the storms for those who trust in Jesus.

In this book, I will share some truths with you from God's Word that have helped me to live in peace and joy for more than 10 years. Yes, I have had my

fair share of troubles (sickness, near death experiences, financial pressures, death, tragedy and more) but my testimony is that, through it all, I have lived a trouble-free life and enjoyed the peace and joy that Jesus brings. You can experience this, too.

Jesus said that He came so that we might have and experience life to the full (John 10:10). You cannot truly experience a life full of peace and joy unless you have Jesus. The Bible calls Him the Prince of Peace. **Do you know Him?** The promises for peace and

protection that we will be talking about in this book are freely available to you, right now, but you cannot experience them apart from Jesus. He is the way to peace and the truth that unlocks a life and eternity of peace with Him.

“So then faith comes by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God. ”

Romans 10:17 NKJV

As we dig into the truths in God’s Word concerning supernatural protection, I am praying that faith would be ignited in your heart and that it would cause

you to live a troubled-free life and
overcome whatever is trying to
overcome you.

1. A troubled-free life starts with knowing Jesus.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given... And His name will be called... Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. There is no true peace apart from Him, but when you know Jesus, you can know true peace. Peace is not the absence of problems, but rather being secure amidst turmoil because you have

eternal (not temporary) hope like an anchor in the storms of life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 3:16-17 ESV

Out of His great love for the world and everyone in it, God gave us Jesus. Many

people feel that Jesus came to condemn the world because of sin, or He came to point out our sin and show us how to live better lives. But the Scripture is quite clear: He came to save us. The word “save” can also be translated “to rescue from perishing or danger”. Mankind was perishing because of sin – but Jesus came to rescue us out of that danger. Jesus came so that whoever believes in Him would be rescued from perishing (destruction) and receive eternal life. But what is “eternal life”?

Most people automatically assume that eternal life means “living forever”, but that promotes the idea that when we die, we cease to exist. We are all created as eternal beings and after we die on this earth, we will live forever with Jesus or forever without Him. Others say that eternal life is *living forever with Jesus*, but that’s not completely accurate either. In John 17:3, Jesus (the Author of life) defines eternal life for us:

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and

Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

John 17:3 ESV

In John 17:3 Jesus defines “eternal life” as “knowing God” – a relationship or friendship with Him. This is more than just some intellectual “knowing”. The word “know” is given a deeper meaning in Genesis 4:1 which says that “Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived”. This is talking about an intimate knowing that produces life.

John 17:3 shows us that eternal life is a relationship or friendship (knowing) with God; something real and personal. With this in mind, let us read John 3:16 again:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (relationship, or a friendship with God)."

John 3:16 ESV (Brackets mine)

God loved us so much that He prepared the way for us to have and enjoy a friendship with Him by sending His Son, Jesus. The only way to have relationship with God (be saved) is to believe Jesus.

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.
John 14:6 ERV

The gospel (the message of Jesus and what He has done for us and is freely offering us) is the good news message that unlocks peace in our lives. When

we realize that we've got peace with God because of Jesus, it enables us to live in a place of true peace.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”.

Romans 1:16-17 NKJV

The word *gospel* by definition, means “good news.” The gospel is the good news of what Jesus has done for us and freely offers us. It is not the gospel of what you need to do for God but what He’s done for you. The gospel is good news that Jesus has completely forgiven you! Yes, that’s right! It’s not the message of *how you can be forgiven* but rather the message of *how you are forgiven* and how you can experience it.

When you realize how forgiven you are because of Jesus, you will start to live in

peace. There are a lot of people going out of their minds (literally going crazy) trying to please God, trying to appease God, trying to make right with God, trying to obtain forgiveness for their sins... but the truth is that you are already forgiven!

A lot of people live under a constant burden of condemnation, guilt and shame because they don't feel like they're good enough for God. They feel like they've done too much wrong or they aren't doing enough right.

Salvation is not about what you do or don't do – it's about what you believe.

When we believe that because of Jesus, God has completely forgiven us and that He's not holding anything against us, we are liberated from fear and enabled to live in peace and freedom. Having peace with God enables us to live at peace.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29 NKJV

Jesus was the sacrificial lamb which took away the sin of the world; not just the sin of the believer, but the sin of the whole world (this includes unbelievers).

Jesus came to deal with the sin problem for all time, for all men. Every single person on the face of the earth is forgiven, whether they're a Christian or not. Every sinner in the whole world – is completely forgiven! That doesn't mean that there aren't consequences for sin

here on earth; it just means that God is not holding your sins against you! And it doesn't mean that everyone is saved. Everyone is forgiven but in order to be saved you need to believe. The Bible says that all have sinned and all need salvation (Romans 3:23) but the good news of the gospel is that every sinner is forgiven past, present, and future because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Romans 5:1 NKJV

When we put faith in Jesus, we are justified (made right with God; made “just-as-if-you’ve-never-sinned”) and you have peace with God as a result. When your soul is at peace, you can experience peace in all areas of life.

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised

Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

The way to be saved is by confessing (which means to agree with God) that Jesus is Lord, and believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead to make you right with Him. Salvation is simply about putting your faith and

trust in Jesus to be saved and not in your own efforts.

If you have never made a decision to put faith in Jesus for salvation, pray this prayer sincerely:

Jesus, I confess that You are Lord and Savior. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. By faith, I receive salvation now. Thank You for saving me!

If you prayed that prayer, you are now a believer in Christ, and the promises we'll be talking about in this book are available to you.

2. Your problems are not from God.

“The Son shows the glory of God. He is a perfect copy of God’s nature, and he holds everything together by his powerful command...”

Hebrews 1:3 ERV

Jesus perfectly represents Father God’s true nature and that’s why Jesus said, “if you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father.”

(John 14:9) If we look at how Jesus was during His time on earth, we can see the heart and the will of God the Father. Nowhere in Scripture do we see Jesus putting sickness or tribulation or hardships on anyone. Jesus never refused to heal anyone - because God's will is to heal everyone. Jesus said that He only did what He saw His Father do, which means that God never puts sickness on anyone! (John 5:19) When we look at the earthly life and ministry of Jesus, we can see God's true nature in action. Jesus came to seek and save the

lost, and to rescue us from perishing (see Luke 19:10; John 3:16-17). Jesus never caused perishing. God is a good, loving Father who would never cause suffering! Sadly, many religious people do not know the true nature and heart of God; they do not understand that God is not the author of problems, but that *He is the answer to them.*

If you believe that God is the cause of your suffering, how can you trust Him? How can you truly love anyone who

wants you to suffer even if you end up getting something positive out of the suffering? We can all learn through difficult circumstances, but it is far nicer to learn in other ways!

If you believe that your suffering is from God then you need to “honour God” by accepting every negative thing that comes against you as God’s will for you. If God is the one putting sickness on you or allowing you to get sick to teach you something, then you shouldn’t take

medicine and seek medical intervention. No! You should submit to “God’s will” for you and let the sickness run its full course so that you can learn as much as you can through the sickness. Can you see where this way of thinking takes you? If you were to seek medical intervention you would be working against God!

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7 KJV

Not everything that happens in life is from God or is God's will. I once heard a preacher teaching about how God is in control of everything and that everything that happens is His will for some greater purpose. This guy continued to explain that even someone being raped is God's will for some greater purpose. This is complete rubbish and an assault on the true nature of our loving heavenly Father! No good dad would ever wish rape or suffering upon their child.

“The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].”

-Jesus (John 10:10 AMP)

This is good, simple theology: *if it's good it's from God, if it's bad it's from the devil.*

God isn't the one causing destruction and suffering in life. It's not God's fault when things go wrong. We live in a fallen world where things go wrong

because of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12). We also have an enemy, the devil, who is seeking to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8). And don't allow yourself to be scared of the devil – you don't have to worry about the devil, because God has given us authority over all the power of the devil (Luke 10:19). We can resist him and see him flee (run in terror) (James 4:7).

Many people (even well-intending Christians) know about God, and they think that they know Him, but they don't know His true nature and they end up

misrepresenting Him. You can know about someone without knowing their heart and sadly, many Christians know about God, but they are misinformed about His true nature. They don't know His heart.

For example, many Christians get angry with God when things don't turn out the way they hoped or expected them to. If we find that we're angry with God, it reveals that we don't know God's true nature or how He does things. Jesus, who is our example, was never angry

with God. We are never justified in being angry with God. Now, God won't fall off of His throne if you're angry with Him, and He will only ever deal with you in love and grace, but your anger towards God will negatively affect you and cause negative fruit in your life.

Often people get angry with God because they don't understand why He didn't do something they expected Him to do – if God is so good, why does He allow bad things to happen?

There are things in life that we should embrace (these are from God) and other things we need to resist (things from the devil and anything negative). James 4:7 says that we should submit to God but resist the devil. If we do not resist the devil, he will not go away. If you believe that everything that happens in your life is of God or from God, then you should never resist it. If you believe this, then when challenging situations (even sickness) come your way, you should embrace them and allow them to run their full course. But

the Bible shows us that there are things to resist. The word *resist* means to “actively fight against.” Any sane person facing sickness will fight it with every means available. As believers, we fight against sickness with faith and even medical help. This is because we do not see sickness as a good thing. Only twisted religious people see sickness as a good thing. It’s not!

“...The Son of God came for this:
to destroy the devil’s work.”

1 John 3:8 ERV

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Not everything that happens in this life is God's will.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

Acts 10:38 NKJV

Jesus “went about doing good... healing all who were oppressed by the devil” – it

doesn't say "oppressed by God"! God is never the one oppressing anyone. God is good and the giver of good gifts (James 1:17). Oppression (sickness, bondage, poverty) is never God's will and is never from God. It's a work of the devil which Jesus came to destroy.

We would all agree that we should resist the temptation to sin. Sin is not a good thing and God doesn't want us to sin. God hates sin. God hates the effects of sin. He hates the way it hurts and destroys people. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, they opened the

door for sickness, heartache and suffering into the world. Jesus went to the cross to redeem us from all the chaos that was brought into the world in the Garden. Why would God use sickness, sin and suffering to try and teach us something? Why would he use as tools, things that He hates? It doesn't make sense.

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good...”

Psalm 34:8 NKJV

In order to live in victory and live untroubled in a troubled world, you need to know and be convinced that God is a good God and that He is not the author of your troubles. He is not your problem – He is the answer to your problems!

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11TLB

3. You can experience joy and peace.

“Then the Holy Spirit made Jesus feel very happy. Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth....”

Luke 10:21 ERV

Can you imagine what it looked like when Jesus was “very happy”? I’m pretty sure it wasn’t a quiet and reserved “hallelujah” like we may see in most churches. Jesus was anointed with the

oil of gladness more than anyone else (Hebrews 1:9) then I am sure He expressed His joy more than the most enthusiastic sports fanatics watching their team winning the world cup. If we're honest, the picture most of us have of Jesus isn't correct. We don't picture a happy Jesus.

The Holy Spirit made Jesus "very happy" and if you allow Him to, He'll make you "very happy" too. Being thankful and full of praise is a choice – you're choosing to focus on something to praise God for,

and be thankful for. It all comes down to focus.

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]”

John 16:33 AMP

Jesus said that we will have trouble in this world – there will be difficult and unpleasant circumstances. We live in a fallen world and there is an enemy who would love to make us miserable. But true joy isn't found in the absence of problems. Circumstances, challenges and problems only have the power to depress you and make you miserable if you allow them to. There will always be good and valid reasons to be sad, depressed, worried, anxious and fearful, but all of that is rooted in circumstances which are temporary and subject to

change. Jesus said that we will have things happen in this world which can make us sad, but we can be (and should be) courageous and full of joy because He has overcome the world! He's encouraging us not to focus on the depressing things but to focus on His victory which is eternal, and allow that to fill us with joy! It takes courage to have the right focus when the world is focusing on all that is negative and trying to infect everyone with fear and hysteria (while calling it being realistic and having common sense).

We don't have to give into the fear and panic that the world is immersed in.

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:18 KJV

We can't (and shouldn't) ignore the things going on in the world and in our lives. We live in this world, but we are

not of this world. If you have a snake in your house, it's wise to catch it and get rid of it. If you have a problem in life, deal with it – don't ignore it!

Jesus taught us to speak to our mountains (problems) and tell them what to do (Mark 11:22-24). We have God-given authority over all the power of the devil and we should exercise it by speaking to the issues and bringing correction. The problem is that most of us focus on the problems, talk about the problems to everyone, think about them, pray about them, talk to more

people about them... and then we wonder why we are so sad and miserable, and why we are so gripped with fear!

You have the power to choose how much joy and peace you experience, and it starts with choosing what you focus on. If you choose to focus on the Jesus and His promises, which are eternal, then you will experience joy and peace.

“You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,

because he trusts in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is an
everlasting rock.”
Isaiah 26:3-4 ESV

Perfect peace can only come from God and comes as a result of keeping your mind fixed on Him. It's an issue of trust – if you're not trusting God, you won't experience any peace. But as you fix your focus and attention on God and

His promises, faith will rise in you and
you will experience perfect peace.

4. It's a choice to rejoice!

“Always be filled with joy in the Lord. I will say it again. Be filled with joy.”

Philippians 4:4 ERV

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:4 KJV

Paul is writing from prison. He's in prison because the government don't want him to live out his faith in Christ

and fulfilling His calling by telling others about Jesus. He was being persecuted (being punished) for doing the right thing.

How many of us would be depressed and upset if we were in prison for our faith in Jesus and doing what He's called us to? Many Christians are depressed while living in a level of luxury that many other people would love to have. If you allow your circumstances to determine joy, your emotions will be up

and down like a yo-yo and you'll be a victim to your environment. But you can be full of joy in spite of what's happening around you.

When times are tough and it seems that all hell is breaking loose, we need joy more than ever before because it gives us strength to get through. If Paul could encourage us to rejoice in the Lord always (no matter what) even while he was in prison, then we need to realize that the level of joy that we experience

is dependent on our focus – not our circumstances.

You may be going through a really rough time. Things may look bleaker than ever before. There may not be any reason to rejoice in your circumstances at the moment, but there is always a reason to rejoice in the Lord! His promises are eternal, and He is faithful to do what He has promised (Romans 4:21). Being full of joy is a choice – you need to choose to rejoice in the Lord.

You do that by choosing to focus on Jesus and what He has done for you, more than on what's happening around you. It's a choice. You have to choose to rejoice.

Yes, bad things happen and life isn't always pleasant, but God is always good and we always have a reason to rejoice no matter how crazy things are.

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”

Psalm 34:3 KJV

Your heart will get happy when you choose to focus on the right things. When you magnify something, you make it bigger. When we focus on God and on His promises we make Him bigger (in our minds) than our problems. You get to choose what you focus on, and that determines whether you experience joy or not. It's a choice to rejoice.

5. Protection.

“God is our protection and source of strength.

He is always ready to help us in times of trouble.

So we are not afraid when the earth quakes and the mountains fall into the sea.

We are not afraid when the seas become rough and dark

and the mountains tremble...

...The Lord All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our place of

safety.”

Psalm 46:1-3, 11 ERV

The world and its systems are not constant or reliable. Things can change at any moment. If your hope and security is in the economy, your investments, your health, the government or anything other than Christ, you will most likely be shaken at some point but you can live unshakeable in the middle of chaos!

Why do bad things happen? We live in a fallen world where things can go wrong because of Adam's sin and people's decisions. God isn't the one orchestrating the negative events in our lives. He is a good Father who only ever wants good for us.

As believers in Christ, we do not have to suffer like the world suffers because God is with us (Hebrews 13:5) and He is for us (Romans 8:31).

“He that dwelleth in the secret
place of the most High shall abide
under the shadow of the
Almighty.”

Psalm 91:1 KJV

“You can go to God Most High to
hide. You can go to God all-
powerful for protection.”

Psalm 91:1 ERV

This is a promise of favour and
protection. However, many Christians

read this and because they know of another Christian who experienced some tragedy, they don't really believe this verse. If we were to know the true nature of our loving heavenly Father – that He is good, kind and gracious – then no matter what we know from experiences, we would be confident in the One making the promises and expect that what God says, is. Too many believers hope that what God says in His word may be, but we can be confident that what God's word says is.

This promise of favour and protection is for those who dwell in the secret place of The Most High – it's not something that happens automatically. God's protection isn't based on our right performance – it's ours because God is our Father and we are His beloved children – but it isn't automatic. Like all the benefits in our relationship with God, we need to receive it. We might know that God wants to protect us and we might want God to protect us, but unless we believe it and trust in it, it won't work for us.

“Yes, the good news about it was told to us just as it was to them. But the message they heard did not help them. They heard it but did not accept it with faith.”

Hebrews 4:2 ERV

The Word of God is powerful and never fails. It's a seed that, if planted, will produce fruit and so we need to make sure that it is “planted”. When we receive the Word (allow it to take root in our hearts by accepting or believing it), the power of the Word is unleashed in

our lives to accomplish its purpose. For example, when we accept, believe and are fully persuaded that God is our protector then we will experience supernatural protection. The Word of God only helps us and benefits us when we accept it with faith (being fully persuaded). Desiring God's protection, healing, provision etc. doesn't bring it. We must be convinced that it is the truth and that what God says is guaranteed.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is

through him that we utter our
Amen to God for his glory.”

2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV

In the New Covenant this promise of protection that we see in Psalm 91 is even more sure because of Jesus. Jesus is God's yes to all the promises of God. We could never earn or deserve God's protection through good behaviour or holy living but by faith in Jesus, we qualify for the promises and see them come to pass! All we need to do is say “amen” (choose to agree with the

guarantee and the promise) to receive it.

When we believe, our hearts will be at rest and we will not worry or be filled with fear. Faith and fear cannot cohabit.

What does it mean to “dwell in the shadow of the Almighty”? It means to be in faith. Faith is being fully persuaded that what God says is true. When we dwell or abide in Him, we will experience supernatural protection.

As a believer you are never disconnected from Jesus - you are one with Him and nothing can ever change that (1 Corinthians 6:17). When we think of “dwelling in” or “abiding in Christ” we often think that we come in and go out of this place based on our obedience or holiness, but it’s all really an attitude of the heart – faith! We dwell in the secret place and abide in Christ by relying on Him (having faith or trust in Him) as our protector, provider, healer and source of everything we need.

Say it out aloud:

God is my protection and source of strength. He is always ready to help me in times of trouble. So I am not afraid when the earth quakes and the mountains fall into the sea. I am not afraid when the seas become rough and dark and the mountains tremble. The Lord All-Powerful is with me. My Father God is my place of safety. I am fully persuaded that God is with me and He is my protector. I am in Christ, and therefore I am protected. Amen!

6. I will say.

“I say to the Lord, “You are my
place of safety, my fortress.

My God, I trust in you.”

Psalm 91:2 ERV

You may have heard it said that *the safest place to be is in the will of God*. The statement is true but the problem with it is that it can cause you to live in fear, constantly wondering if you're in God's will or not. The will of God is not merely geographical and it isn't talking about a specific job that you should take, a

certain house you should be living in or which grocery store you should be going to, today. You'll drive yourself crazy thinking that God is giving you specific orders for every step you take! You'll never experience the peace of God because you'll end up second guessing your every move.

God isn't interested in micromanaging you. He gave you a free will and deals with you in grace. Yes, He does have a will for your life, but He doesn't want to choose what shirt you're going to wear

today or which route you should drive to work. And yes, God will sometimes prompt your heart to go a specific route to work (to avoid something you're not aware of), or He may lead you to go to a certain store to purchase your groceries (to get savings you're not aware of and to bump into someone who needs some encouragement) but these situations are generally a rare exception and not the norm. God will also always lead you in peace and not in fear. God won't be mad at you if you don't go to that specific shop and you may miss out

on something, but you are blessed and can be a blessing wherever you go. The safest place for you to be is in the will of God, and the will of God is that you be *in Christ*.

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Colossians 3:3 NKJV

All the promises of the Old Covenant (including protection) are yours because of what Jesus has done for you. It's not based on your performance or holy living.

“The yes to all of God’s promises is in Christ. And that is why we say “Amen” through Christ to the glory of God.”

2 Corinthians 1:20 ERV

Because of Jesus, the promises in the Bible are now a guarantee for us. All we need to do is say “*amen*” (which means “*yes*”). All you need to do to activate any promise (or guarantee) in the Word is accept it by agreeing with God.

“**I will say** of the Lord, “*He is my refuge and my fortress; My God,*

in Him I will trust.”

Psalm 91:2 NKJV (Emphasis mine)

Notice that you have to *say*, “He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.” The promises of God are voice-activated. When we audibly speak out our agreement with and acceptance of God’s Word, it releases power to accomplish it. Our words are either releasing the power of life or the power of death (Proverbs 18:20-21). Speaking out our agreement with God and His Word is part of the process of receiving

from Him and activating the promises from His Word. God Almighty is our safe place, our refuge and our protector, but it doesn't happen automatically.

Activate this wonderful protection by saying regularly of the Lord, and saying it out loud: *Father, you are my refuge and my fortress, I trust in You!*

Say it out aloud:

God Almighty is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.

7. Supernatural Protection.

“Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.”

Psalm 91:3 KJV

“God will save you from hidden dangers and from deadly diseases.”

Psalm 91:3 ERV

“For he rescues you from every trap and protects you from the fatal plague.”

Psalm 91:3 TLB

As a believer you are one with Christ (1 Corinthians 6:17) and God will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). You have uninterrupted union (oneness) with Jesus. Even when you make a mistake, you are still one with Him, and it doesn't affect the way He relates to you. Your sin might affect your heart towards God and might cause you to think that He is angry or distant, but God never changes and nothing you could do could change His mind about you.

Dwelling in the secret place and abiding in the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1; John 15:4) isn't talking about God connecting and disconnecting with you, it's talking about you walking in relationship with Him and allowing His life and blessing to flow into your life. When you are married, you become one with your spouse (Mark 10:8). You could live in the same house and even do a lot of things together without connecting: without enjoying heart-to-heart intimacy. Even if you're disconnected and you don't feel like you're *one* with

your spouse, you are one - you just don't feel like it. Even when you don't feel like you're one with God, you are. Any change in relationship with God is from your side because He doesn't change (Hebrews 13:8). When we're abiding in Him (walking in fellowship with Him) and when we're activating His promises by speaking out our faith (Psalm 91:2), then we will experience supernatural protection and safety.

A *snare* is "anything serving to entrap or entangle unawares; a trap". It also

means “to catch or involve by trickery or wile.” (dictionary.com). When we’re abiding in God and dwelling in the secret place, it will keep us from stepping into one of the devil’s traps. We will easily identify his trickery and we won’t fall for his deception. When we’re in close fellowship with the Lord we will hear His leading more clearly and know when and how to avoid hidden dangers that the enemy has planned for us.

When we're walking in relationship with God and allowing His life and blessing to flow into our lives He will also protect us from *deadly diseases* or *fatal plagues*. We do not have to suffer what the world suffers. Our inheritance in Christ includes protection from disaster and immunity from contagious diseases.

“For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those

who heard *it*.”

Hebrews 4:2 NKJV

This supernatural protection is activated through your faith. When you are fully persuaded of what God says concerning supernatural protection, and you release your faith by speaking it out (Psalm 91:2; Mark 11:23-24) then it's activated. God's Word will profit those who mix it with faith. When we speak it out from a heart that is fully persuaded that what we're saying is true, the words

will accomplish what it was sent for
(Isaiah 55:11).

Say it out aloud:

God will never leave me nor will He forsake me. I am one with Him and walk in relationship with Him, allowing His life and blessing to flow into my life. I hear the Lord's voice clearly and easily identify the devil's trickery. I will not fall for his deception. I am protected from hidden dangers and from deadly diseases and plagues.

8. Abiding in Him.

“He shall cover you with His
feathers,
And under His wings you shall
take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and
buckler.”

Psalm 91:4 NKJV

This is a word picture to reinforce the message from verse one: *dwelling in the secret place* and *abiding under the shadow of the Almighty*. As a believer Christ is always abiding in you – He will

never leave you nor will He ever forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). But are you always abiding in Him? Another word for *dwell* is *abide* , and so when Scripture talks about *dwelling* or *abiding* in God, it's giving the idea of staying there and being established in Him - not visiting from time to time.

Many Christians have a *visitation-based* relationship with God where they visit Him and He visits them on Sundays or during their time of daily devotion. But He never leaves us and is always

wanting to fellowship with us. We shouldn't compartmentalise our lives and put God in a box, work in a separate box, family in another and finances in another, too. God doesn't want to live in a *God-box* that you created for Him. He wants to be in every box and do life with you.

Dwelling and *abiding* in Christ is about us recognizing that He is always with us, and then doing life with Him – recognizing that He is with us at work, home and even the gym, and inviting

Him to help us, lead us and enjoy the day with us.

There is nowhere that we can go to get away from God - but we *can* separate ourselves from Him in our minds and hearts. We separate ourselves from Him when we allow condemnation, guilt or shame to rule in our hearts, rather than His love, acceptance and a consciousness of His righteousness. We disconnect ourselves from Him when we choose to go our own way through sin or choosing to follow our own

desires and will, rather than His. But for whatever reason we disconnect from Him, all it does is stop us from receiving the life and blessing of God. Without abiding in Jesus we can experience no fruitfulness (John 15:4). His blessing and life doesn't stop flowing towards us, but when we disconnect from Him it stops us from receiving.

“You can go to Him for protection. He will cover you like a bird spreading its wings over its babies.

You can trust him to surround

and protect you like a shield.”

Psalm 91:4 ERV

We can experience supernatural protection when we're *abiding* in Christ. Picture a mother hen with her chicks under her wings. As long as the chicks are under her wings they are surrounded and protected like a shield on all sides, but the moment a chick steps out from under the wings, they become an open target for danger. God wants us to dwell under His wings. He wants us to stay there because He

knows that it's the safest place to be. But He will not hold you captive; you have a free will and can wander off at any time, but that's when you start inviting trouble.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

The good news is that whenever we disconnect ourselves, He is never disconnected from us. The

disconnection was only ever in our minds, and it's super simple to reconnect: our loving and gracious Father is waiting with open arms to receive us and help us!

Say it out aloud:

God will never leave me nor will He forsake me. I choose to focus on His unconditional love for me. I choose to focus on His acceptance of me in Christ. I choose to be aware of His righteousness in my life (2 Corinthians 5:21).

9. No need to fear!

“You shall not be afraid of the
terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence *that* walks in
darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays
waste at noonday.”

Psalm 91:5-6 NKJV

“You will have nothing to fear at
night and no need to be afraid of
enemy arrows during the day.
You will have no fear of diseases

that come in the dark or terrible suffering that comes at noon.”

Psalm 91:5-6 ERV

The Christian life isn't a trouble-free life – it's a troubled-free life. We aren't exempt from battles in this life but we are given the weapons to overcome and to walk in victory. There will be many terrifying things around us, but we don't have to be terrified. *You shall not be afraid of the terror... you will have nothing to fear... no need to be afraid of the attacks of the devil and you will have no*

fear of disease or terrible suffering. Fear is not a part of your inheritance in Christ.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

You have a spirit of power (Romans 8:10-11; 1 John 4:4) of love (Romans 8:37) and of a sound mind (1 Corinthians 2:16). You do not have to fear anything! Think about this for a moment: is God scared of anything? Most certainly not! He is the greater

One and He lives inside of you (1 John 4:4). Fear is scared of you because of who you are in Christ and because Jesus lives in you. You are one with Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:17) and He will never leave you alone (Hebrews 13:5). God is for you and never ever against you (Romans 8:31). What have you got to be scared of?

If you meditate on these things you'll realize that fear is completely irrational. Fear of spiders, fear of demons, fear of lack, fear of terminal illness, fear of

death, fear of rejection or even fear of being alone – it's all irrational because Jesus is the answer to every fear you could ever have. The more you are convinced that what He says is true, the less you will fear.

Say it out aloud:

I will not be afraid of terror – I have nothing to fear; no need to be afraid of the attacks of the devil nor will I have any fear of disease or terrible suffering. Fear is not a part of your inheritance in Christ. I have a spirit of power, of love

and of a sound mind. The Greater One lives in me and therefore fear is scared of me!

10. Nothing bad will happen to you!

“A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right
hand;

But it shall not come near you.

Only with your eyes shall you
look, And see the reward of the
wicked.”

Psalm 91: 7-8 NKJV

“A thousand people may fall dead
at your side or ten thousand right
beside you, but nothing bad will

happen to you!”

Psalm 91:7 ERV

When we are dwelling under the shadow of the Almighty, abiding in Him (Psalm 91:1) and speaking out our faith (confident persuasion) in what His Word declares about us (Psalm 91:2) we will experience supernatural protection. This verse is specifically talking about supernatural protection from deadly plagues that are on your doorstep, even COVID-19.

Even though contagious diseases are affecting people and there are many who are falling dead all around you – it will not come near you!

Verse 10 reiterates this promise, saying: *nor shall any plague come near your dwelling* (NKJV) or *no diseases will come near your home* (ERV). We do not have to suffer what the world suffers, and we should not expect to be affected by the negative things they experience because we are dwelling in the

protection of our Father who is Almighty God.

“Surely he shall deliver thee...”

Psalm 91:3 KJV

God's Word is a sure thing, therefore you can be sure and say “surely He will deliver me.” He is faithful and you can trust that what He says He will do. When we believe God's Word concerning His supernatural protection against diseases, economic turmoil and deadly plagues, and we speak out our faith that we are fully persuaded that He will

(surely) deliver us from the negative things that the world experiences – we will experience His supernatural protection. Our faith in His ability unleashes His power to work on our behalf.

You may not believe what I'm saying, and that's why it isn't working for you. You may even be thinking that it is arrogant or presumptuous to say "nothing bad will ever happen to me!" but that is faith! Faith is a confident expectation - it's not hoping and

wishing. You need to believe God's Word and boldly declare it: "It's a sure thing that God – my Father – will deliver me from the destruction that everyone else is experiencing!"

Say it out aloud:

I will not suffer what the world suffers.
No plague shall come near my home.
No diseases will come near my household. It's a sure thing that God – my Father – will deliver me from the destruction that everyone else is experiencing!

11. No diseases will come near your home.

“Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”

Psalms 91:9-10 KJV

“You trust in the LORD for protection. You have made God Most High your place of safety. So nothing bad will happen to you.

No diseases will come near your home.”

Psalms 91:9-10 ERV

You may have been born into a nation and under a government which protects and looks after its people well - but as a protected citizen of your nation you can still step out from that protection and provision (by your free will). For example, if you were to visit a nation that would kill you for being a Christian, your government won't be able to protect you.

As a Christian you have been born from above and now your citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). And the good news is that even though you are living in this world, the protection and provision available in the Kingdom of Heaven is extended towards you while you are here on this earth. This is simply because you are a child of the King and also one of His duly appointed ambassadors on this earth (1 Corinthians 5:20).

A nation's government always looks after their ambassadors, affording them the necessary protection and provision. You can still, however, step out from the provision and protection that is yours. The condition for the provision and protection in Psalm 91 is that we are dwelling in the shadow of the almighty, or abiding in Him (Psalm 91:1). When we're abiding in Him (walking in fellowship with Him) and when we're activating His promises by speaking out our faith (Psalm 91:2), then we will

experience supernatural protection and safety.

We need to believe for it, trust in the Lord for it, and speak out our faith in His Word for it (Psalm 91:2). If we are not boldly declaring that we are confident in God's protection – that *He is our refuge and fortress* – then we don't really believe it. Jesus said that we speak what our hearts are full of (Matthew 12:34). What's in the heart is the root which produces the fruit that comes out of your mouth. What you say is an

indicator of what you really believe in your heart. If you aren't saying the right things, please don't try to change your speech – that's like trying to change the fruit, and it'll only be a temporal change. You need to deal with the root! Rather fill your mind and heart with the Word of God and meditate on it until it starts to overflow out of your mouth.

When we trust in the Lord for protection and make Him our habitation, or dwelling place, we can confidently expect that nothing bad will happen to

us (except for persecution: we are not exempt from persecution [John 15:20] but the Holy Spirit will always warn us of coming trouble.). The point is that because we make God (our Father) our refuge, nothing evil can just happen because we are under Divine protection, and no diseases or plagues can come near us, our families and homes.

I read an amazing testimony on this verse from a pastor who ministered in a neighbourhood of London during the

1850's. There was an outbreak of Asiatic cholera and many people were dying daily. It got so bad that this pastor was burying people (friends of his, too) daily. It was really bad and he even started to feel sick, but then something happened and this pastor wrote, saying,

"I was returning mournfully home from a funeral, when my curiosity led me to read a paper which was wafered up in a shoemaker's window in the Dover Road. It did not look like a trade

announcement, nor was it, for it bore in a good bold handwriting these words:

“Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”

The effect upon my heart was immediate. Faith appropriated the passage as her own. I felt secure, refreshed, girt with immortality. I went on with my visitation of the dying in a

calm and peaceful spirit; I felt no fear of evil, and I suffered no harm.”

You will start to experience the protection that you read about in the Word when you start to believe it (accept it as fact) and boldly declare it as your reality. “You, O LORD, are my refuge! Nothing bad can happen to me! No disease can come near me, my family and our home!” Amen!

Say it out aloud:

God, my Father, is my refuge. Nothing evil can just happen to me because I am under Divine protection. No diseases or plagues can come near me, my family or home.

12. An angelic security detail.

“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.”

Psalm 91:11-12 NKJV

“He will command his angels to
protect you wherever you go.
Their hands will catch you so that
you will not hit your foot on a
rock.”

Psalm 91:11-12 ERV

Psalm 91 is all about the Divine protection that is ours because we are *dwelling in the secret place of the Most High* and *abiding under the shadow of the Almighty* (Psalm 91:1).

After the fall of man in Genesis, the world became full of evil and thus an unsafe place – unsafe because the world had become fallen, and death had now entered the world, causing destruction and suffering, but also unsafe because satan took over man's abdicated role to rule over the earth.

Man now needed protection from both evil in creation (natural) and protection from the evil orchestrated by satan (supernatural).

Before the cross, God provided protection to those in covenant relationship with Him. Under the New Covenant we not only have God's Divine protection from natural evil, but we have also been given authority to deal with the supernatural evil (attacks and dangers) (Luke 10:19).

We have been conditioned (by traditions of men or maybe even Hollywood) to believe that we are each assigned one guardian angel to watch over us. The Scripture says that *He shall give His angels* (plural) *charge over us* – God has commanded angels to protect you! We don't really know how many angels are following you around and we don't really know how it works, but as a child (and an ambassador) of the King you have a security detail that is more than sufficient. God loves you so much that He has surrounded you with secret

agents to ensure that you will not be harmed.

Billy Graham shares a number of testimonies of angelic protection in his book, *Angels: God's Secret Agents*. Here is one of those testimonies:

"The Reverend John G. Paton, pioneer missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, told a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons

out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them.

When daylight came they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The

chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?"

The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard - hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent His angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation."

God loves and values us so much that He has commanded His angel armies concerning us, to protect us in all our ways. Why then do bad things happen to “good Christians”? There are many answers and I do not know all of them. But when we read Psalm 91 we are told right at the outset that this protection works for those *dwelling* and *abiding* in God (Psalm 91:1). It works for those who appropriate (take) it by faith and boldly declare confidence in our Father’s protection (Psalm 91:2).

Say it out aloud:

I am confident that my Father loves me and is protecting me. He has commanded His angels concerning me, to protect me in all my ways. I have both natural and supernatural protection.

13. The devil will try use

Scripture against you.

“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.”

Psalm 91:11-12 NKJV

“He will command his angels to
protect you wherever you go.
Their hands will catch you so that
you will not hit your foot on a

rock.”

Psalm 91:11-12 ERV

God commands His angels to protect you wherever you go. What a comforting thought that is: that He loves us so much that He would put a highly effective security detail around us. Some people wrongly think that we need to command angels and tell them what to do – while we will judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3), God is the one who gives them instructions (Psalm 103:20). We should never pray to angels but to

the Father in the Name of Jesus (John 14:14) and the Father will give them their instructions concerning us.

The devil misquoted these verses when tempting Jesus while He was in the wilderness (Matthew 4:6). Satan left out a part of the verse (*in all your ways*) and added to it ("**lest at any time** thou dash thy foot against a stone." Matthew 4:6).

This is often how the devil will work with us – he knows the scriptures better than most of us, and so he'll use it to lure us, but then take away from scripture and

add to it. If we are ignorant of the devil's schemes (devices) he will take advantage of us. If we are not grounded in the truth of the Word he will do his best to deceive us.

One of the biggest deceptions he uses against good Christians who are struggling with an illness or negative financial situation is to butcher scripture (take it out of context and misinterpret it) and get Christians to believe (and accept) that this challenge is sent by God to make them stronger or to bring

Him glory in some way. The devil will back up this thought with passages from the Book of Job and Corinthians where it talks about *Paul's Thorn*.

Denominations have taken these misinterpretations and made doctrines out of them (traditions of men). I believe that beliefs like this only cause passivity and are very dangerous. They also cause people to misunderstand the true nature and character of our loving God.

The point is that we do have angelic

protection - while we are *abiding under the shadow of the Almighty* (Psalm 91:1). We've already looked at what that is and how we can activate this protection. Another point is that satan will try to use Scripture against us so that he can destroy us. That's one of the reasons why bad things sometimes happen to believers - because we have submitted to a demonic lie/temptation which might have even sounded like Scripture, but it was twisted and butchered.

The devil will never use Scripture correctly when dealing with us. In our battle against the devil, a casual knowledge of Scripture certainly is not enough. We need to study the Word so that we understand it and come to know Jesus more. Jesus is Truth and so the more we know Jesus/ Truth, the more we will be able to discern between the devil's lies and what is right.

Say it out aloud:

I will not listen to the devil's lies. God is a good God and He is my rescuer. He does not cause any suffering or problems in my life – He is the solution to the problems in my life. I am under His protection

14. You will have power.

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

Psalms 91:13 KJV

“You will have power to trample
on lions and poisonous snakes.”

Psalms 91:13 ERV

Dwelling under the shadow (protection)
of the Lord doesn't mean that there
won't be any dangers around us – but

we will be protected! As verse 7 said, *a thousand people may fall dead at your side or ten thousand right beside you, but nothing bad will happen to you* (ERV). Although there is danger all around you, you are not endangered.

Lions, poisonous snakes and dragons would certainly be a serious threat to our safety, but because we are abiding in God (Psalm 91:1) and speaking out our confidence and trust (faith) in Him (Psalm 91:2) we will be safe. Verse 13 isn't saying that God will defeat these

threats for us, but that we will have the ability to deal with them.

In Genesis 3:1, satan comes to deceive Adam and Eve in the subtle (and deceptive) form of a serpent. In other parts of Scripture the enemy is compared to a lion (1 Peter 5:8) and a dragon (Revelation 12:3-4; 7-9). In Christ we have supernatural ability and Christ-delegated authority over the devil and his works (Luke 10:19), to destroy them. The only suffering we are not exempt from is persecution for our faith (2

Timothy 3:12). In Christ we are not helpless against the devil and his attacks but are fully equipped to whip him and win! We can experience complete protection against and total victory over the devil because our confidence is in Christ in us (Colossians 1:27). In Christ we have more authority over the devil than he has over an ant (Luke 10:19)! We should never be scared of him nor intimidated by his works – Christ in us is far greater than the devil and anything he could ever do (1 John 4:4)!

I love how *The Treasury of David* comments on this verse:

'Over force and fraud shalt thou march victoriously; bold opponents and treacherous adversaries shall alike be trodden down. When our shoes are iron and brass, lions and adders are easily enough crushed beneath our heel. "*The young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*" The strongest foe in power, and the most mysterious in cunning, shall be conquered by the man

of God. Not only from stones in the way, but from serpents also, shall we be safe. To men who dwell in God the most evil forces become harmless, they wear a charmed life, and defy the deadliest ills. Their feet come into contact with the worst of foes, even Satan himself nibbles at their heel, but in Christ Jesus they have the assured hope of bruising Satan under their feet shortly. The people of God are the real "*George and the dragon,*" the true lion-kings and serpent-tamers. Their dominion over the powers of darkness makes them

cry, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy word."

Many believers don't believe this. They see themselves as weak and powerless; they are crying out to God to do something. But you are not weak and powerless. You have Jesus in you (1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:11; 1 John 4:4). Protection and authority won't work in your life unless you believe it (Hebrews 4:2). We have God-given authority and supernatural ability (Acts 1:8) to overcome the devil and his

works. We are not without help because our Helper lives in us and *will never leave us nor forsake us* (Hebrews 13:5).

Say it out aloud:

Jesus has given me authority and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, to overcome the devil and destroy His works. I am not waiting for God to deal with the devil because He has already dealt with the devil at the cross, and given me supernatural ability to whip him. I will resist the devil and see him flee.

15. Delivered by God.

“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.”

Psalms 91:14 KJV

“The Lord says, “If someone trusts me, I will save them. I will protect my followers who call to me for help.”

Psalms 91:14 ERV

“Because in Me he hath delighted,
I also deliver him--I set him on
high, Because he hath known My
name.”

Psalms 91:14 YLT

God shall protect and deliver us from
hurt, harm and evil because we have *set
our love upon Him*. This is the same thing
as *dwelling in the secret place* (Psalm
91:1). These verses are the Words of
God, and He is talking about those who
have been so captivated by Him that
their hearts and desires are united with

His. God is talking about His friends;
those whose hearts are attached to His.

The Hebrew word for *set his love upon me* expresses a very strong attachment of heart, and tries to convey that this person has God as the object of their affection. This kind of affection towards God cannot be produced independent of first seeing God's character and nature. When we see His unconditional love and grace for us, a strong desire to know Him more and have deeper intimacy with Him will spring forth from

our hearts and we will overflow in genuine love for Him.

“Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with Him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of Himself to us. Love like that.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 MSG

Don't try to love God. You cannot love God without knowing and experiencing His love for you. Start by watching how He loves you and let Him love you. No one ever loved God without first knowing His love (1 John 4:19 – *We love him, because he first loved us*). Only once you have received this extravagant love and experienced it will you start to overflow with this extravagant love – you cannot give what you do not have! This unconditional extravagant love

causes us to overflow in genuine love towards others and God. It will naturally cause our friendship with the Father to deepen and become more and more intimate. It's in this place that we truly trust Him (have confidence in what He says). And because of that we will experience protection and deliverance because we can boldly speak out our faith that *surely He will deliver me* (Psalm 91:2).

We are delivered by God – He doesn't just send His angels concerning us, but

He Himself will deliver us – not because we deserve it but because we know God's love and in turn, we love Him. God didn't say that He'd deliver us because we're perfect; He delivers us because we know His love and love Him, which results in a deep confident trust in Him.

Say it out aloud:

God loves me! I focus on His love for me knowing that His love makes me a conqueror. The more I focus on His love for me, the more I am responding in

love to Him. My heart and desires are united with His.

16. God sets me on high.

“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.”

Psalms 91:14 KJV

“Because in Me he hath delighted,
I also deliver him--I set him on
high, Because he hath known My
name.”

Psalms 91:14 YLT

God will set you *on high* – far out of reach of destruction and far out of reach of all of your enemies. It's as if you're in the middle of a flood, and God lifts you up and sets you (firmly positions you) in a place of safety – high up, away from the danger. This also means that while you might have all these problems around you and while you might have enemies attacking you, God honours you. Why would He do that? To show you *and* your enemies that you are His, and that He is taking care of you. The reason that God *sets us*

on high is because we have *known His name*.

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 14:13-14 NKJV

Jesus gave us the right to use His name. This is like power of attorney - which is when someone gives authority to another person to act on their behalf in specified matters. When we pray or

declare something in the Name of Jesus, we are acting in this power of attorney to bring glory to the Father, and it is as if Jesus is saying what we're saying - and therefore it is done! We have been authorized to use the Name of Jesus to release God's power into situations.

Because he hath known My name -
because we have knowledge and understanding concerning Jesus' name and we are exercising our divine authority to use His name - *I will set him on high* - we will be lifted out of danger

and honoured by receiving protection. This isn't merely talking about a knowledge of information *about* His name but an *experiential* knowledge of using His name.

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who,

seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received

strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.”

Acts 3:1-8 NKJV

“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

Acts 3:16 NKJV

Peter didn't beg God to heal the cripple
– He used the Name of Jesus. He said, *in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.* Peter didn't have any power to heal (Acts 3:12) but he knew that Jesus had authorized him to release His healing power through His name.

“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV

We are authorized to use the Name of Jesus and see demonic forces bow their knees and submit to His Lordship.

Whatever attack is coming against us (sickness, lack, or destruction) must bow its knee and submit to the Lordship of Jesus when we exercise our right to use His name. We speak to sickness, to storms and every other attack and tell it

to go in the Name of Jesus, and we see things happen. We see our deliverance.

Say it out aloud:

I have been given the power of attorney to use the power of God. I release His power into situations by using His name. When I pray, in the name of Jesus – what I say comes to pass. When I declare things, in the name of Jesus – what I declare comes to pass. When I command demonic powers to go, sickness to go and attacks to stop, in the name of Jesus – what I command comes

to pass. I have the divine right to use the name of Jesus and experience deliverance from whatever comes against me. This brings glory to God!

17. If it be Thy will.

“When he calls on me, I will answer; I will be with him in trouble and rescue him and honor him.”

Psalm 91:15 TLB

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.”

Psalms 91:15 KJV

God has declared that when we call on Him, He hears us. And when we are in trouble, He will be with us and He will rescue us, and honour us. We never have to wonder if God is hearing our prayers – He always hears us; He hears every word we say (Matthew 12:36). God is always listening, but will our prayers always be answered?

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,

we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

1 John 5:14-15 KJV

If we ask according to His will we can be confident that He not only hears us, but that we have what we're asking for! Is it God's will to protect us? Most certainly! Throughout Psalm 91 we see that God offers us supernatural protection. In this Psalm, God Himself declares that He will look after us and deliver us (Psalm 91:15). It is God's will to protect

us against both natural disasters and supernatural evil.

Since we can clearly see this in the Word we can boldly say of the Lord, *You are my refuge, my fortress, and my God in whom I trust! You will surely deliver me* (Psalm 91:2-3). The only reasons people don't ask God for help is because they don't believe that He will help them. And if they aren't asking boldly and confidently they aren't in faith and they won't receive anything. When you know God's will (which is

revealed in His word) you can be confident in praying about it and expectant that you have what you are asking for because He wants you to have it!

Protection is always His will. Healing is always His will. Provision is always His will. If you are not convinced of His will then it won't work for you. You need to get into God's Word concerning these things and then when you see it, expect it to happen for you! We can be confident in expecting to see what God's

word talks about because it's God's word and it is a sure thing. He is faithful and true, and He will never back down on a promise!

Praying *if it be thy will* is not confidence. If you're praying like that you aren't convinced of anything and you certainly aren't in faith. Faith is being thoroughly convinced that what God says *is*, not that it *may be*, but that it *is* (Romans 4:21). How do we know if we're praying according to the will of God? Well, when we're praying according to the Word of

God we certainly are praying according to His will and we can be confident and expectant that we have what we are asking for.

Say it out aloud:

When I call on the Lord – He answers me. When I ask Him for help – He helps me. God is my refuge, my fortress, and my God in whom I trust! I know that He will surely deliver me. His Word reveals that: protection is always His will, healing is always His will and provision is always His will. When I pray according

to the word; I pray according to His will.
And when I pray according to His will I
know that I have what I am asking for!

18. Live long!

“I will satisfy him with a full life
and give him my salvation.”

Psalm 91:16 TLB

When should you die? Most of us have this belief that there's some kind of clock, or *ticker* inside of us and when your number is up, your number is up – then it's time for you to go home and be with the Lord. When it's your time, it's your time. No! God isn't the one deciding whether or not you deserve another day, month or year - or not.

We tend to look at death as though God is sparing us another year – if you see it like that, then you see death as something negative, whereas for the believer death is simply a passing on into eternity with the Father because you've received eternal life (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Scripture doesn't teach that God has decided the exact amount of days you should live. If that were the case we wouldn't need God to protect us

because if it were truly your time you would die and if it were not your time, you would continue to live – isn't that so? This kind of thinking makes much of the Bible irrelevant because why bother *resisting the devil* (James 4:7) if ultimately he cannot destroy you, unless God wants you destroyed? Why bother calling for the elders of the church to pray for you when you are sick (James 5:14-15)? If you believe that God is in complete control of when you die then you could live as recklessly as you want and nothing would happen, unless God

wants it to happen – but this kind of thinking is completely wrong!

Yes, there is *a time to die* (Ecclesiastes 3:2) but there is not an appointed time to die. It is appointed for man to die (Hebrews 9:27) but Scripture doesn't say that there is an appointed time for man to die. Some people believe that you die once you have completed your purpose, but that's wrong, too. Many people died having not fulfilled their purpose.

Through a number of factors (wisdom,

safety, health, diet and faith to name some) that affect the length of your life.

“Since his days are determined,
and the number of his months is
with you, and you have appointed
his limits that he cannot pass”

Job 14:5 ESV

Everything in the Bible is recorded for our benefit, but not everything recorded is to be taken as instructions for living our lives today. When reading and studying the Bible we need to read it in context – who is speaking to whom and

why? These are important questions to consider.

Not everything that Job said was correct. Towards the end of the Book of Job, God corrects Job for not speaking correctly about Him and in response Job admits that he hadn't spoken with knowledge and wisdom (Job 42:3). We are not limited to a specific number of days on earth.

“The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years...”

Psalm 90:10 NKJV

Moses said that we have seventy years on earth and if we're strong enough to continue on, then we can even go to eighty. I believe that *by reason of strength* refers to strength of faith (because we live by faith – Romans 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38) but this also includes health (diet and exercise).

“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not

discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep."

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 NKJV

Scripture shows us that one of the reasons that believers are weak, sick and die is because they take Holy Communion in an unworthy manner; they partake not discerning the Lord's body. Believers are not weak or sick, and they do not die because God wills it, but because believers are not *discerning the Lord's body*.

Religion incorrectly accredits weakness, sickness and death to God, but Bible does not. The Bible says that one of the reasons why many believers are not enjoying strength, health and long life is because they aren't discerning (seeing and understanding) the Lord's body.

In communion, the bread represents Jesus' body which was broken for us (1 Corinthians 11:24) and it's to remind us that *by His stripes we were healed* (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24). We need to know this truth (Hosea 4:6) and boldly declare

it (Psalm 91:2). When we discern the Lord's body we are seeing and understanding that in Him we have perfect health. We are focusing our attention on Jesus (the Healer) and receiving health and strength from Him. Through what Jesus did for us we can live long and live strong!

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

Psalm, 91:16 NKJV

Throughout Psalm 91 we see God declaring that He will protect those who

are dwelling and abiding in Him. At the end of the passage of Scripture God says that *with long life I will satisfy him*. In God's mind *your time* is up when you're satisfied. If you aren't yet satisfied yet, you should just keep on living!

We can be satisfied with a long life! It should be that eventually we look back on our lives and we're satisfied with it – we're ready to go home and be with the Lord. God said that He would satisfy us with a long life and *show us His salvation*. The Hebrew word

for *salvation* can be translated as victory, deliverance, prosperity and health. We can have a long life because God makes us victorious; He is our victory, health and prosperity. We have everything we need to live this life (2 Peter 1:3). This is a promise for those dwelling in the secret place and abiding under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1) and for those who confidently speak out their faith and trust that God will deliver them from danger (Psalm 91:2).

Say it out aloud:

God makes me victorious! He is my victory, health and prosperity. I have everything I need to live this life.

Because God is my Helper, my deliverer and my strength, I will live long and I will live strong! I will not suffer any defeat because I am in Christ and therefore am in victory!

19. Unshakeable.

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken...”

Hebrews 12:28 ESV

We live in a world in which anything can happen and everything is subject to change, at any moment. If you base your security on your circumstances (politics, the economy, how much money is in your bank account, weather, how many holidays you can take a year, etc.) then your emotions are

going to change whenever your circumstances do. Pretty much everything in this world is shakeable and it seems that things are only getting more and more unstable. Our security cannot be in our jobs, wealth or even in our political freedom. If a massive persecution broke out against Christians worldwide and we were thrown into prison, saw friends killed for their faith in Christ and had all our possessions and wealth repossessed by the government, we should still be able to rejoice in the Lord. We may not have

reason to rejoice in our circumstances - but we can always rejoice in the Lord and His promises! This world is shakeable, but God's kingdom cannot be shaken. If you want to be unshakeable, then you need to make sure that your trust is in God and not in the things of the world. We need to value what God values and find our security in Him.

If you focus on God's Kingdom and value the things of His kingdom (more than the things of this world) then you

will not easily be shaken. Money (for example) comes and money goes. A few years back in Zimbabwe, hyperinflation caused the value of the Zimbabwean Dollar to decrease making it one of the weakest currencies in the world.

Eventually they had to print banknotes in denominations up to a \$100 trillion.

There was a lot of suffering – but even in troubled times like that, you don't have to be depressed. God is still with you no matter what!

The promise in Hebrews 13:5 that He will never leave us nor forsake us is in context of finances and lack. Put things into perspective! No matter what you are facing (whether financial challenges or even health problems) God is with you. His Word gives you hope for a positive outcome and even if things are challenging through to the day you die, one day you will be with Jesus in Heaven for eternity, in perfection, where there is no lack, no pain, no suffering and everything will be awesome.

There are promises in the Word for you today. Jesus wants you healed and provided for, and He wants us to enjoy this life. Sometimes things go wrong because we live in a fallen world. In times like that, dig into the Word, trust in and believe God. But don't allow your happiness to be dependent on your circumstances. Choose to have joy even if you don't see the fulfilment of what you're trusting for in this life. Choose to rejoice in the Lord and His eternal promises and not in this shakeable

kingdom which we are only temporarily
living in.

Appendix: Some healing verses and a prayer.

It is possible to live in health, and receive healing from any sickness - even incurable ones! Nothing is impossible with God!

God's will for us is that we would be healthy and not ever get sick. Jesus paid for our healing through His suffering at the cross and so we do not have to get sick! But *if* we do get sick, we do not have to *stay* sick.

Sickness is never from God and He is never withholding healing from us. He has already provided for your healing in the same way that He has already provided for your salvation. The grace has been provided, but faith needs to access it in order to experience it.

As you read through these verses on healing, I pray that faith will rise in your heart to believe God at His Word and receive the healing you need.

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Mark 9:23 NKJV

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

Luke 8:50 NKJV

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our

iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5 NKJV

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Matthew 8:16-17 NKJV

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 2:24 NKJV

Pray this prayer with me:

Father, I thank You for your healing power available to me through Jesus. In Jesus' Name, I command all sickness and disease to leave my body now. I command healing into my body. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

About the Author

Shayne B. Holesgrove

In 2008, Shayne received a revelation of grace and could not keep it to himself.

As graduates of Charis Bible College, Shayne and his wife, Marna, started GraceLife Ministries, a church in Stellenbosch, South Africa in July 2010. Today, GraceLife Ministries is a disciple-making, church-planting ministry focused on reaching out with the message of God's unconditional love and grace through the finished work of Jesus.

Shayne is the apostolic leader of GraceLife Ministries. He disciples leaders and plants and strengthens churches around the world.

Shayne and Marna have two children (William and Elliott). As a family, they enjoy living for Jesus, interacting with believers all over the world, going to museums, learning about God's creation and visiting wildlife centres.



SAFETY IN THE STORM.

We live in troubled times but we do not have to be troubled! When we're established in the unshakable fortress of God's love and goodness we can live unshaken in world that's shaken.

In this book you will discover what God's Word says concerning Divine protection. Build and activate your faith so that you can experience supernatural peace no matter how bad circumstances may be.