

My Dear Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 91:9 - "Because you have made the LORD, Who is my refuge, / Even the Most High, your dwelling place."

Have you ever been in a situation in which you know that you knew the facts of the matter, but when you actually experienced it, it took on a whole different meaning for you? Those who have experienced war have certainly learned something that no book of pictures or even film can depict accurately. Those who have gone through an extended life-threatening illness certainly have a knowledge of something that no story can ever replace. But have you ever experienced God on the spiritual level in a way that was beyond learning about Him in Sunday School? Perhaps it was an answer to prayer? Perhaps it was Him showing you something in His Word? Some people call this "head knowledge" versus "heart knowledge." But in actuality, it goes a little beyond mere affections; it goes to our actual experience that affects our thinking and affections. Job experienced God, and he said at the end of his ordeal that he had heard about God with the ears, but now Job had actually experienced God with his eyes seeing Him at work, and it made a difference in Job's life.

The psalmist here says that the LORD is his personal refuge. The psalmist could tell us all kinds of stories and write them down for us about his own personal experience of the LORD being a refuge for him. But he is excited now because the person listening has personally made the LORD his own personal refuge now. There has been a complete transfer from one life to another life.

Do you know the LORD as your own personal refuge? Do you instinctively run to Him in prayer? Do you instinctively turn to Him in His Word for strength for your particular journey? Do you instinctively talk about Him to others because He has done so much for you? He is "The Most High." He oversees all and is in charge of all. This "Most High refuge" is much like the phrase in the Lord's Model Prayer for His Disciples: "Our Father Who is in Heaven." He is above all and great, but He is also intimate with us like a Father, Who is our refuge.

But the question still remains: do you find a refuge in the LORD regularly? This is a question I must ask myself, too, and it's convicting. :-) We must be people who regularly find ourselves running to our refuge. God designed it that we would never be able to handle the problems of life on our own. He made us dependent by design, and dependent upon Him. He loves it when His children are dependent upon Him.

Old Testament Israel was constantly changing in the wilderness wandering; they were never long in one place, but they found a permanent place with God no matter what their situation in life. I may be rich today & poor tomorrow, sick today and well tomorrow, happy today and distressed tomorrow. But God loves me yesterday and will continue to love me today. We have a home with God. Keep running to Him.

Praying for you today, my loved ones.