



UPPER ROOM  
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

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URFM is a **Spiritual Teaching** and **Christian Counseling** ministry

Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2

## In Case of Emergency Call 911

*(The Spiritual Discipline of Praying Scriptures)*

Motto:

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”*

— Psalm 91:1

### Introduction

In the United States of America, we have a number to call in case of emergency, and that number is— **911**. As beloved children of God, we have a “number” to call in case of spiritual crises. That number, spiritually speaking, is **Psalm 91:1** “*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*”

The beauty of this is more profound than our physical eyes can see. Think about it. When you call any customer service number, your bank, your insurance company, your doctor’s office, the person who answers is not the CEO of the bank, or the president of the company, or the general director, or the doctor, but a receptionist. Even when you call 911 because you need immediate assistance from the police, fire department, or need to go to the emergency room, the individual who answers is not the Surgeon General, the Police Chief Officer, or the Director of the Hospital, but an operator. The operator takes your information, then directs your request to the proper channels. Then you wait and wait until someone gets back to you.

In Psalm 91:15, the Word of God states that when we call God, Himself answers our call. Wow! The Creator of the universe does not send an Archangel, like Michael or Gabriel; He does not send any ordinary angel; instead, He comes in Person to the *phone*, and answers the *call* of His beloved children. Let’s never forget this amazing spiritual truth.

### Background

A few years back, I was on a mission trip to India. During the first *Gospel and Healing Meeting*, the coordinating pastor read Psalm 91. When it was my turn to preach, I felt in my spirit that I should stay with this psalm. It was a good idea! Almost instantly, the Holy Spirit made several connections I never seen before. Please allow me share the message the Spirit inspired me that evening.

<<Brothers and sisters, you all have heard Psalm 91, right? I want to tell you that while I was sitting in my chair, I got a few things stirring up in my heart from that particular Scripture. Please allow me to stick with this text. I am sure that most of you know this psalm very well. It is a powerful psalm! I personally like it a lot. As with many psalms, our tendency is to go directly to the *benefits* most psalms contain for us. But in doing so, we miss the real *meat* that God would like us to get. Psalm 91 is rich in assurances and promises. However, it contains more than assurances and promises. First, let me share

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with you some of the *promises* contained in this psalm, and secondly, let me offer you three *keys* to *unlock* these promises for your own life.

### 1. God is our place of refuge (Ps. 91:2)

There is no other strong tower of protection than God Himself. He alone is our fortress. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, a *fortress* is a place that is protected against attack: a *fortified place*<sup>1</sup>. This is a powerful promise, isn't it? When you are in danger, and the enemy is after you it is nice to have a fortress in which to run and find refuge, isn't it? Well... God is that place of safety for each of us. Isn't this good news? Praise the Lord! Of course, it is.

### 2. God is our deliverer (Ps. 91:3)

He delivers us "*from the snare of the trapper*". As Christians, many times, we are walking in the *minefield* of the enemy. Many times we are in danger of falling into one of the enemy's traps. In Psalm 91:3, we have a compelling promise that God can deliver us from the snare of the trapper. In a time of crisis (like the one the world is facing this time) it is nice to have God's promissory note in your *back pocket* to prayerfully *withdraw assurances* from your *heavenly bank*. Now that you know this, I am sure it would come handy sooner than you may think.

### 3. God is our shield of protection and cover (Ps. 91:4)

When we are under attack from evil people, it is comforting to know that God covers us up with His wings. The image that the psalmist wants to convey here is of a hen protecting the chicks under her wings. These days it is almost impossible not to get opposition and not to be attacked from one side or another. Having a promise like this in a critical situation (like coronavirus) is extremely helpful. When we are in danger or under attack from the enemy, why not running fast under God's proved shield—His steadfast love and faithfulness.

### 4. God is our protection in the war zone (Ps. 91:5-8)

We are, so to speak, in an invisible *war* "terror by night," or "pestilence that stalks in darkness." When I say *war*, I mean *spiritual warfare*. In any war, there are casualties. It feels encouraging to know that in dangerous situations (like pandemic we are facing today) when many could fall as victims at our side or at our right hand, by thousand, even by ten thousands, we have the promise that nothing is touching us. Of course, God does not enjoy to see humans suffering, and neither are we, however, this is what verse eight is talking about.

### 5. God provides "plague free" insurance for us and our families (Ps. 91:10)

Not only we as individuals are in danger, but our loved ones, our families, our houses, and our churches are at stake too. However, the Word of God promises that NO *plague* will come near our tents (Ps. 91:10). Wow! This is excellent news! To know that such a provision is written down under our "*heavenly insurance policy*," it is very encouraging. As ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), we have God's promise of protection for ourselves and our entire family against any plague. To me, this is mind-boggling news. **I hope it is for you too?**

### 6. God gives us a "personal bodyguard" to protect us everywhere we go (Ps. 91:11–12)

How does it feel to walk in the enemy's camp with the most potent personal *bodyguard*? Knowing that God's army surrounds you feels very safe, isn't it? This is precisely what verses eleven and twelve tell us: "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone" (Ps. 91:11–12). Many times we fret out, but the Scripture assures us in 1 John 4:4 that the One who is **in us** is stronger than the one who is in

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fortress>. (Accessed on March 29, 2014).

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the world. Beloved, remember that as born-again believers (cf. 1 John 5:18), the evil one does not touch us. If we have made the Lord our dwelling place and refuge (v. 9), we are on the winning side all the time.

### **7. God has given us the authority over the domain of darkens (Ps. 91:13)**

Moreover, God has given us the authority to “*trample down*” the lion and the serpent. Both of these creatures, in the right context, symbolize the power of the devil. Well, according to this psalm, and many other places in Scripture, God has given us the authority to “*tread upon the lion and cobra*” (Ps. 91:13). Jesus re-affirms this promise to His church: “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over the entire power of the enemy, and **nothing will injure you**” (Luke 10:19). Last I checked, “*nothing*,” means, diddly, nix, nada, zero, zilch, not anything, zot.

I am sure that all of you agree that all of these are powerful promises to have. And, more importantly, they come very beneficial in the time of need like the pandemic the world is experiencing today. When we read this psalm we can be inclined to concentrate and zeroing in on these promises. However, if this is the only thing we do we are in danger of missing the provisions God has made to “*unlock*” these promises and become frustrated not benefitting from them. You see, they come as a “*package deal*” the **Promisor** and the **promises**. We should not expect to have the *promises* while rejecting the *Promisor*. Many times believers consider God’s promises like some “*blank checks*” handed over to them. I am sure that you agree with me that this is not the case with God’s promises. They don’t quite work like—name it and claim it, you may have heard it from some preachers.

Please permit me to show you from this psalm **three** “*keys*” God is offering us to unlock these powerful promises in our lives.

#### **Key number one—Have a love relationship with God**

This is the only basis for unlocking God’s promises. If in verses one to thirteen the psalmist, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was speaking from his point of view, in verses fourteen and fifteen God Himself is the One who speaks: “*Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him*” (Ps. 91:14). **God’s nature is LOVE**. Therefore, our Father desires a love-based relationship with Him, not a religion-based or a law-based relationship. Jesus says “If you love Me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). As a result of that love relationship, God’s promises are “*turned ON*” for us.

#### **Key number two—Pray without ceasing**

Actually, the Word of God conveys that believers are supposed to be in constant, continuous communication with the Father. In 1 Thess. 5:17, Paul tells us to pray without ceasing. Many times we don’t have because we don’t ask for. Jesus Himself told His disciples: “Ask—and keep on asking, and it will be given to you; seek—and keep on seeking, and you will find; knock—and keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matt. 7:7–8). It is evident from these Scriptures that prayer unlocks God’s promises in the believer’s life. Other times we don’t have because we pray with wrong and selfish motives. James hits the nail in the head with these words: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:3). It cannot be clearer than this. In Psalm 91 God tells us plainly: “**He will call upon Me, and I will answer him**” (Ps. 91:15).

#### **Key number three—Dwell with the Most High**

To dwell, according to Merriam Webster Dictionary, means “*to live as a resident*”<sup>2</sup>. In other words, you are not just visiting with God from time to time. We are not meeting with God only when we have church services, and the rest of the time we are on our own. No. **We are called to walk with God every day**. Even more than that, we are invited to dwell with God. Well... If we dwell with God, He also dwells

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dwell>. (Accessed on March 29, 2014).

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with us. I know, this is a mystery. Jesus explains it to us: "... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and **make Our abode with him**" (John 14:23). Do you see that? The Trinity will make Their *abode* with us. Wow! What a profound mystery we have here!

These powerful promises are for each and every one of you. Based on the Word of God, I guarantee you, that these keys, when used together, can unlock these beautiful promises. I am very sure of it. **If you are going to encounter any problems with these keys I am going to give you a number to call.** Call 911.

Well... In a nutshell, this is what I shared during that *Gospel and Healing Meeting* in India. Then we prayed with people and for the people gathered at that event. God was in our midst and answered our prayers. Praise the Lord for it!>>

### Praying Scriptures

(Based on Psalm 91)

Father God, every time I am in danger, I call upon You for protection (v.15). I declare and confess that You are my personal shelter and shield, and I fully trust in You (v.2, 9). Lord, my family and I, take refuge under Your wings every day and every night. Having my full confidence in You, I am not letting fear grip my heart or tamper with my emotions (v. 5). Instead, Lord, I stand firm in Your promises and in Your faithfulness (v. 4).

Lord, You are omnipotent, therefore You more reliable than anything going on in the world today. So, full of divine hope of protection (v.10), I come boldly in prayer for my spouse (... *insert his or her name...*), my children (... *list them by name...*), my grandchildren (...*list them by name...*), all of my relatives (... *list them by name...*), church friends (... *list them by name...*), and co-workers (... *list them by name...*).

God, based on Your Word, I declare that there is no plague, viruses, no sickness, no diseases, and nothing else that, without Your knowledge or without Your higher plan, would harm my family or me. Lord, in prayer, I place them, under Your protection and provision. Thank You, Lord, for sending your angelic bodyguard to protect us everywhere we go (v. 11, 12).

Father, I am so grateful that You had given me authority even over the domain of darkness. The evil one cannot touch any of us (v. 13, 1 John 4:4).

Finally, Lord, I am so thankful for the Lord Jesus Christ—my salvation (v. 16). Thank You in advance for long life under Your blessings, protection, and care.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

With Love in Christ's Service,

*Valy Vaduva*

Life Coach/Author/Spiritual Mentor

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### Epilogue:

Let end with a story. In 1854, England was hit by the Asiatic cholera. Charles Spurgeon, the famous English preacher, while returning home from another funeral, on Dover Road, saw a paper attached to a shoemaker's window. The preacher was intrigued by this because it was not a usual announcement or advertising, instead, it was Psalm 91:9–10: “*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.*” This made such a deep impression on Spurgeon's heart.

Subsequently, he wrote:

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. The providence which moved the tradesman to place those verses in his window I gratefully acknowledge, and in the remembrance of its marvelous power, I adore the Lord my God.<sup>1</sup>

This is a powerful testimony that we all can be encouraged by it. I hope that you will embrace a spirit of courage, wisdom, and personal discipline. I encourage you to take to heart the words of Paul to Timothy: “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7).

### Benediction

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!

May He send you help from the sanctuary and support you from Zion!

May He remember all your meal offerings and find your burnt offering acceptable! Selah.

May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel!

— Psalm 20:1–4

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted by David Guzik in *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary*. [www.enduringword.com](http://www.enduringword.com). Accessed on March 14, 2020. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/psalm-91/>.