

### **3-Steps To Divine Protection – by Capt. Dale Black...**

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The world is experiencing the greatest days of trouble our generation has ever known. Many mention that we are in the “last days” and the world as we know it is coming to a climax. There will be a rapture—that is for sure. But contrary to most of the current teaching in the Body of Christ the TIMING of the rapture is still a ways off. According to scripture, God’s children will escape the horrors of the “wrath of God” (I Thess. 5:9) but we will not escape the persecution of the church. (II Thess. 1:1-3) The purpose of this letter is not to teach about when the rapture occurs, but instead to warn all those reading ... that Christians will indeed go through a time of great persecution and most Christians are simply not ready. In due time, I’ll write more about the timing of the rapture, but for now, let me describe what you and I can do to settle under the protective wings of the Lord. God has made a way to keep us covered during troubled times... so read on (Psalm 91:1-12). If you have not spent time alone with God and His Word to developed your faith, there’s no better time to start than today. He is the only sure hiding place any of us will have. This will be more important than ever in the days that are coming. It is difficult to build a house in the middle of a storm. You must build your spiritual house in preparation while there is time. (Matthew 7:24-27)

Specifically, the Lord has led me recently to explore His ways and means of providing for His people and keeping us safe when we experience times like those the Bible describes as times of persecution, also referred to as the end times or the last days. And I have discovered one thing about our Father’s intent for His children at times like these. God has made a safe place for us! He has always made a safe place for those who will trust and obey Him. Even though our world may tear itself apart, not everyone will need to go through personal persecution. Let me explain why I can say that with confidence. In Matthew 24:6-7, Jesus told His disciples to watch for the signs that mark the end times, including wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines. We don’t have to look hard to know these things have increased throughout the world in our generation. And they are likely to get much worse before the very last days. But, we can have comfort in knowing we will not be around for that final portion of the great tribulation when God pours out His wrath on an unbelieving world. The Bible says Jesus will return right on time to rescue us. In the meantime, we know God has everything under control, and He will protect and provide for His children. But there are important things we must do in order to stay in that place of protection.

#### **#1 – Believe God’s promises for protection...**

You can know for sure that no matter how tough times get you can live out your last days in the safety of God’s protection! Scripture is filled with God’s promise of protection for His children. He will not fail to do His part to fulfill what He has promised. And He has made it clear that our part is to live and remain in His safe place. The big question for each of us is: Will we do our part? Psalm 91 is a scripture we can all take as our foundational promise of God’s sure protection. The whole chapter gives a great picture of the protection God provides His people. Take a minute to read this passage (below) out loud to see just how far-reaching our protection is. Psalm 91 READ THIS OUT LOUD...(New King James Version)...

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.” 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be

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your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. 14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

Look again at verses 1 and 2. This is basic instruction for staying in our place of protection. This is our responsibility—our part. “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.’” Throughout our days, our safe place of God’s protection is found in two words: abide and say.

### **#2 – Abide in God’s Word for protection...**

Dwelling in the secret place of our Most High God requires your decision to place your whole being—spirit, soul and body—under His protection. He is the secret place and perfect hiding place for His people. Nothing is higher than the Most High. Paul said in Colossians 3:3 that because we are in the Body of Christ, our life, “...is hid with Christ in God.” Abide means “to remain or stay put.” It also means “to live or lodge in the place.” It’s the place where we reside—where we build our whole life! I like to think of it this way, “Abiding is obeying.” We can receive everything God has for us as we abide in Him, hearing and obeying what He says to us through His written Word. We also want to hear and obey His Spirit within us. Spending time in His Word is the first step to your safety in His hiding place. When you spend time with Him—reading, studying and meditating on His Word—each moment you spend with God builds your faith and establishes you solidly in a place of divine safety.

### **#3 – Say God’s Word for protection...**

Speaking (or saying) the promises of the Bible over your situation, brings great power. When we add our words (or saying) to our abiding, we actually close and lock the door of the hiding place to any attack that Satan might launch against us. We say boldly of the Lord, “He is our refuge, our fortress, our God, and we trust in Him.” This abiding faith of words and action thwarts every work of any enemy. I’m telling you from the depths of my heart, these actions are pleasing to God ... and they work! Our speaking (saying) in faith, declares we are in agreement with God’s Word—about Himself and His relationship with us. We are saying, “I have received God as my protector just like I took Him as my Savior. He is my safety. He is my security. He is my provider. I shall live in His safe place!” So, what we do is: We talk about our deliverance. We talk our protection. We don’t talk fear or doubt. Any thought that comes to our minds that is based in fear or doubt, we cast down and rebuke and we don’t empower fear by speaking about it but instead strengthen our faith by speaking God’s word and will about the situation.

Regardless of which challenges come up; such as health issues, financial challenges, weather warnings, relationship trials ... none of them have the power to take you out of your place in God. You can choose to trust in God’s ability to bring peace and reconciliation to every situation

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in your life. This is what I mean by God's safety plan for His children. We don't have to let circumstances and situations overwhelm our lives. We are taught by the Lord to speak to circumstances with the truth of God's Word. And do so in the Name of Jesus. The moment you are faced with a bad situation, refuse fear. Rebuke the threat and immediately start saying, "I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. I abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I say of the Lord, He is my refuge. He is my God. I trust in Him!"

Build your very own list of safety and protection scriptures. The Bible is filled with them. Have them ready. Just get in there and dig out His Word on protection. You can find them easily with a Bible Concordance or online. There is so much comfort in scriptures like Psalm 27:5: "For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; in the secret place of His tent will He hide me; He will set me high upon a rock" (The Amplified Bible). God's Word is the arsenal of our weaponry against the attacks of the enemy. Jesus set the example for us by speaking only God's Word in response to the enemy's attempts to draw Him out of God's place of protection (Luke 4). It's the same with you and me. No matter the trial or trouble; when we speak only God's Word it's like building a wall of safety around us. The enemy is forced to get out of our way!

#### **Safe-At All Times!**

Put your relationship with God first. Abide in Him, and let Him teach you from His Word. Hear God clearly then obey His direction. Keep your faith 'spooled up' (that's an aviation term meaning to keep your engines ready. You too, keep your heart ready by daily spending time in God's Word. And continually speak His promises boldly over yourself and your family. I am convinced if you'll do this, you will find your true and sure place of safety.

So Dale, are these the end times—the last days? I don't believe the end will come in my children's life time. How long do we have? I don't know. But I do believe we need to be ready with our house built on the Rock so that if God's time arrives sooner, we will be prepared. You and I may not know the answer to God's timing for this world's end, but one thing we can know for sure: These are our last days, and we should plan on living them out securely and safely and with purpose beyond mere survival. We don't need to fear. We can live out His plan for our lives. When we stay in the hiding place God has for us—He keeps us covered. We're safe at all times!

Don't forget, "With God, nothing is impossible!"

Dale and Paula Black

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