



On the occasion of InWord’s challenge for Father’s Day 2017, and in honor of my dad, this is a devotional built around one of his favorite Bible passages, a passage he calls his “911 Scripture.” You can use this as your own personal devotional or lead a group through it (you have permission to reproduce for that purpose).

Intro

- You could think of the Book of Psalms as a bible within the Bible. Its timespan covers the entire history of Israel in the Old Testament, from Moses to the post-exile era under Ezra and Nehemiah. For this reason, the psalms speak to the human condition, perhaps more than any other book of the Bible. We see lament, praise, comfort, and in the case of the subject of this devotional, assurance.

Digging In (God, Show Me!)

- Read Psalm 91:1-8 from your Bible or Bible app and read it from the perspective of you being the “whoever” at the opening of the passage. Then keep track of how “you” are described as you go through the passage and note below what God shows you about “you.”

Psalm 91:1-8

How are you described?

What’s your general impression of this passage? What kinds of feelings or emotions does it stir in you?

Taking It Inward (God, Teach Me!)

- Did you notice the 1-2 combination at the opening of this psalm? “Whoever *dwells*...will *rest*...” Those actions sound similar to each other, but they are very different. One is a state of doing (dwell) and the other is a state of being (rest). When we take a step to dwell in the shelter of the Most High, the next step is to then trust the shelter and rest in the shade that it provides.

The same is true in our relationship with Christ. When we accept the salvation He gives us (dwell), we need to trust in the cleansing and the peace (rest). The passages below represent this two-step process. Take a moment to read these from your Bible or Bible app. You’ll notice these references are not in Bible order. That is so that you can see the “dwell” and “rest” steps in Romans 3:22-23 when you read verses 22 and 23 back-to-back.

Dwell

John 3:16

Romans 10:9

Romans 3:22

Rest

Romans 3:23

John 14:27

Colossians 3:15

Putting Into Practice (God, Change Me!)

- Which of these two steps do you need to take?
 - Dwell:** taking a step to accept what Jesus has done for you.
 - Rest:** taking a step to trust the cleansing and the peace (the shadow) of what Jesus has done for you.

What can you do to put action behind the step you just noted?

My dad, in whose honor this devotional was created, calls Psalm 91:1 his “911 psalm.” And you can see what he’s doing there. It’s obviously a play on the verse’s address, but it’s also an analogy for the truth of this passage. No matter what kind of chaos is going on around us—physical, emotional, spiritual—we are able to dwell in the shelter and rest in the shadow of God. And I might add, that my dad has modelled that for me in every step and phase of life.