

"In the Shadow"

57 W  
11/21/53  
P.M.

Scripture Lesson:- Psalm 91: 1-12.

Text:- Psalm 91: 1.

Introduction:- This is one of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible. It is poetic; it holds up before us one of the greatest privileges that can come to the children of God.

This is not a Psalm of David, but the author of this, and of nine preceding ones, is Moses. This Psalm was the one the devil quoted when he was tempting Christ.

This first verse of this Psalm is especially attractive. It speaks of a "secret" place. A secret place for the Christian. Did you ever feel like dwelling in the secret place. When you are in the "secret place" you are away from the world. It is the place that the poet discovered when she wrote that beautiful hymn,

"I love in solitude to shed  
The penitential tear;  
And all His promises to plead  
When none but God can hear."

Then there is something about the word "shadow". There has never been a shadow without light. The secret place must be a place of brightness. It is a place where God is, for the nearest thing to me as I travel in the sunlight is my shadow. So, the shadow of the Almighty is an indication ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~shadow~~, He is very near.

It would be impossible to read the verses following the text without being impressed with the fact that most remarkable results will follow our abiding and dwelling in the "secret place".

I.

In the secret place there is peace.  
"In the world ye shall have tribulation", our

Master said, "but in Me ye shall have peace. The believer may be surrounded by the atmosphere of God, and while he is in the ~~atmosphere of God~~ midst of the turmoils of the world he may be filled to overflowing with the peace of God, because God is with him.

So that we may have peace when trials come. David found this true for he says in the 27th Psalm, "in the time of trouble He will hide me in His pavillion; in the secret of his tabernacle will He hide me". The pavillion was a great tent in the very center of the camp, and when he was there nothing could harm him; he could be at peace even if he could hear the sounds of his enemies. He is our secret place. Why should we be disturbed if troubles are all about us and our enemies rise up to do us harm.

## II.

In the secret place there is purity. If our surrounding were only better in this world, our lives would be purer. It is very easy to be in the company of good people we know; they seem to draw out all the good in us. To be surrounded by certain kinds of scenery is to be lifted near Heaven; to touch a little innocent child, as pure as the angels in heaven, is to receive a benediction.

When Jacob saw the heavens opened and beheld angels coming down and going up and when he heard the voice of God, he was amazed at the beauty of it all. There was one thing that was present, and that was purity. The very beauty of a place will make it pure. Remember, it is only the pure in heart that shall see God.

## III.

In the secret place there is power. Power. Oh, that we might all have it. Power, real power. But "ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you". In the old days the Holy Ghost filled the Holy of Holies, so that it was impossible to enter it. If we shall dwell in the secret place

of the Most High we shall be filled with his spirit. Oh, yes we can be so near to him, that we shall be filled with a spiritual force that the world can not resist.

#### IV.

How shall we enter the secret place? The answer is plain and simple. It is impossible for any one to enter into the secret place of the Most High except through Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way. I am the door, by me, if any man will, he shall enter in". This secret place the garden where he walks; this is the place where he dwells; if you stand knocking at the door, he Himself will lead you into the secret place.

Did you ever cultivate the habit of talking to God aloud? Praying, if you wish to call it that. As you sit down you can tell your most secret thoughts to Him. After a time the room will seem filled only with God, for one could not talk to God without feeling him to be near. After talking to God in this way, some one wrote, "Suddenly there there came upon my soul a something I had never known. It was as if some Infinite and Almighty power had made itself known to me, had made me to feel that He loved me." My eye saw no one, but I had never know that God and I could meet in such a personal way.

A little girl in India had come to Christ. She was so transformed by his presence that out of the fulness of her love to him she put on paper a few verses which expressed her nearness to him.

"In the secret of his presence how my soul  
delights to hide;  
Oh! how precious are the lessons which I  
learn at Jesus' side!  
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither  
trials lay me low,  
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the  
secret place I go.

Would you like to know the sweetness of the  
secret of the Lord?  
Go and hide beneath his shadow; this then shall  
be your reward;  
And whera'er you leave the silence of that happy  
meeting place  
You must mind and bear the image of the Master  
is your face.