

The Blessings of Dwelling with God
Sermon Key Points
Pastor Trevor D. Barnes Sr.
October 22, 2016

Psalm 91:1-16

- 1) I would like to speak to you today on the **topic**: "The Blessings to be received from Dwelling in the Presence of God." Let us pray---!
- 2) On most occasions, **at the beginning of each Psalm**, the author/writer is noted---, but this is one of the anonymous Psalms---. However, **many Bible scholars credit Moses** with the writing of this Psalm, which is one of the most comforting, the most encouraging and the most reassuring of all the Psalms.
- 3) It is also **interesting to note that, Satan, the Devil, quoted** this same Psalm, **Vs.11**, in his **dreadful temptation** of Jesus, in the wilderness, found in **Matt. 4:6**, when he told Jesus to Jump from off the pinnacle of the Temple, because it was written that, "God would give His Angels charge over Him, to keep Him in all His ways, lest He should dash His feet against a stone; although the Devil did not quote the text word for word, directly----. **My Friends, the Devil is a deceiver**, but he is **also a diligent** bible scholar; he knows the bible more than we do---.
- 4) That's why it is **very important** for us to **study the Bible diligently**, every day, that we may be able to resist the temptations of the devil, with the word of God", as Jesus did----. **Jesus told** us, in **Matt. 4:4** that, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth----." We ought to eat the word of God, greedily, every day-- -, as if our lives depended on it, and it does depend on it---. Man shall not live by the bread of **TV** alone; man shall not live by the bread of **sports** alone---, **politics** alone---, **science** alone, but by every word----
- 5) The Apostle, **James also told** us in **James 4:7** that we should resist the Devil, with the word of God, and he will flee from us. The **Devil is not as dominant and as powerful** as he would want us to think he is; the Devil is a fraud, a sham, and a fake---, so if we resist him with the word of God, he will eventually flee from us---. **David said** in **Psalm 119:11**: "Thy **word** have I hid in my heart that----." And in **Psalm**

119:105, he said again: "Thy **Word** is a lamp unto my feet and a light--
-." And the **writer of the Hebrews** tells us, in **Heb. 4:12**: "The **word of God** is quick and powerful----." **My Brothers and Sisters, we ought to eat** the Word of God morning, noon and night, more than our physical food---

- 6) **The First part of Ps.1, vs. 1, says;** "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High---." I would like to dwell in the secret place of the Most High---; what about you? The secret place of God is where He dwells or reside---. **One day we are going to dwell in heaven**, after the second coming of Christ---. **No evil** will exists there---, only righteousness--, **(L)** no sickness can survive there. **Someone said that Heaven is a place of "No More"**, so that in heaven there will be **no more pain**, there will be no more **crying**, there will be no more **death**, no more **wars**, no more **strife**, no more **injustices**, no more **kidnapping**, no more **robberies**, no more **child abuse**, no more **people trafficking**, etc.--- It will be truly, **a Land of No-More!** Don't you want to go to the "Land of, No More?"
- 7) **Rev. 21:3-4** says: "And I heard a **great voice** out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle** of God is with men, and He will **dwell** with them, and they shall be his people, and **God himself** shall be with them, and be their God. And **God shall wipe away all tears** from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death**, **no more sorrow**, **no more crying**, and **no more pain**: for the former things are passed away----."
- 8) Don't you want to go that **place, where Jesus** is gone to prepare for us? The **Bible tells** us, in **1 Cor. 2:9** that "Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither has it entered into the heart-----." Now, I don't know about you, but **I have an imagination** that is far reaching, I generally have amazing thoughts about what heaven will be like---: peace, joy, happiness, tranquility, flying from one place to another, drinking milk and honey, etc.---; but the **Bible says that:** "Eyes---, nor ears---, neither has it entered the heart of man the things---
- 9) **Note that the text also says** that there will be **no tears in heaven**, for **God is going to wipe** away all tears from our eyes; but **I don't believe that God will be going around heaven with a huge, over-size towel**, wiping tears from people's eyes---; oh no, Instead, I think that God is going to **remove the things** that produce tears; **for example, sicknesses and diseases** will be things of the past; There will be **no more pain**---? There will be **no more wars**----? And there will be **no more death**---, etc.

- 10) But I **don't think** this text is **talking about heaven alone**, when it talks about dwelling in the secret place of the Most High---"; I think it is also talking about **life here on earth**, right now, because the **text says**: "They that **"dwell"** in the secret place", which represents the **present tense---**.
- 11) **The secret place** of God should be **our homes**, for God's presence should dwell in our homes---, but today there are so many problems in some of our homes that the presence of God cannot dwell there; children being disobedient to their parents, husbands and wives not demonstrating love for each other, etc.----. The **secret place of God** should also be the **church**, for God's presence should dwell in our churches---; however, in some churches, maybe not the Hayward SDA Church, there is so much division and conflict that the Presence of God is not able to dwell there---. The secret place of God should be our **schools---**, for God's presence should dwell there, but today, students can't even mention the name of Jesus in their schools; **no wonder we have** so much gun violence and cruelty in our schools---. I am **glad that you have a Christian school** here at Hayward; I am an **ardent believer in Christian education**, and I am grateful to God for allowing me to have parents who sent me to Christian school from preschool, all the way until I graduated from Andrews University---. One of my first action at Union City Church, after becoming Pastor, was to ask the Board for us to be a constituent church of one of our schools----. The **Home**, the **Church** and the **School**, must work together for the proper training of our children---. **Sister (Maggie) Abbott**, recently called me about a fundraiser for your school and I was not sure of the goodies they were selling, **but I said yes**, just to support---
- 12) In fact, the **secret place(s) of God should be in the heart** of each and every-one of us---. **1 Cor. 6:19** says: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a great price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. **We should be in constant contact** with God, from we arise in the mornings, until we go to bed at nights---.
- 13) **Note that the text says**: "He that **dwelleth---**", not s/he that visiteth--, but s/he that dwelleth---; not he that passeth close by---; not he that heareth about---; not he that talketh about---; but he that dwelleth----. It is a **place of permanent residence**, so coming to church once a year, or twice a year, or even once a month is not sufficient---, we **must dwell constantly** in the presence of God---.
- 14) In the Old Testament Sanctuary system, **only the High Priest** could enter the secret place, where God's presence dwelt, especially as they

wandered in the Wilderness---. But **all of us** can now dwell in the secret place of God---. **We don't have to go through anyone**, except Jesus, in order to have access to the presence of God---. We don't have to go through **Holy Mary**, to get to the presence of God---. We don't have to go through **the Apostles**, in order to get in the presence of God---. We don't have to go through **the Pastor**, in order to get to the presence of God---. We don't have to go through the **Board of Elders**, to get to the Secret Place of the Most High---. We don't have to go through **the Church Board**, to get in the presence of God---. All of us can now, "**come, boldly**, to the throne of Grace--- all by ourselves---."

- 15) **Because of the shed blood of Jesus** and His **Sacrificial Death** on the Cruel Cross of Calvarey, All of us no have **unimpeded access** to God. When the **Vale of the temple** was mysteriously split, from **top to bottom**, and everyone could **see** in the **Most Holy Place**, we **no** longer needed to have an **earthly High Priest**, for we now have a **Heavenly High Priest**, Jesus Christ, The Righteous---.
- 16) I believe that **Job was dwelling in the secret place** of God, so that the **Devil could not** touch him, without God's approval---. **Satan had to ask** God for permission, before he could touch Job---; but after God gave Satan permission, he **fiercely attacked Job**, taking away all his possessions---; then he mercilessly killed all his children---; then on the **2nd round**, **Satan** inflicted "The Man OF God" with a terrible, shameful and unbearable disease of boils from the crown-----. **Job's, so-called, friends** accused him of wrong-doing and **his wife** suggested that Job should curse God and die; but **Job courageously responded**: "Naked came I out of my Mother's womb and naked-----." **We all need** to strive to dwell in the Secret Place of the Most High, by **constantly meditating** on His Holy Words---.
- 17) **The 2nd part of Psalm 91:1 says**; "Shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty." **Shadow**, here, suggest **protection, safety and security**. I would like to always be under the shadow of God---, what about you? **I visited Arizona last August** and every day the temperature was over 100 degrees---. I was roasting as if I was in an oven. **I thought that the pilot had mistakenly landed** in Satan's territory, Nevada---! Now, a **Shadow can protect us from the heat** of the day, the Sun can't burn you, too seriously, when you are under the shadow of a big tree, or under the shadow of a large object, like a building---; so likewise the **shadow of God** will protect us from **the fiery trials** and the vicious assaults of the Devil--
- 18) **Jesus said** in **John 15:4**---; "**Abide, or dwell, or reside** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it **abide** in the vine; no more can ye, except ye **abide** in me." **Jesus also said** in **John**

15:7; "If ye **abide** in me, and my "**words**" **abide** in you, ye shall **ask** what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."----. There is a **song**, the **refrain** of which says:

Constantly abiding, Jesus is mine;

Constantly abiding, rapture divine;

He never leaves me lonely, whispers, O so kind:

"I will never leave thee," Jesus is mine. **We need to abide** under the Shadow of God--- by feeding constantly on His Holy Words---

- 19) **Next, Psalm 91:2, reads**; "I will say of the Lord, He is my **refuge** and my **fortress**." The **word refuge** is related to refugee---. Do you know any refugee? There are a lot of refugees living in the US, people who were **given sanctuary** from wars, strife and conflicts, or political and religious persecution---. Many people are **presently fleeing from the conflicts** in the Middle East (Syria and Iraq, etc.) **God will be our refuge** from the ravages of the **Great Controversy** that we are engaged in, with Satanic forces----. **Eph. 6:12, Says**: "For we are not fighting against flesh and blood-----." God is also **our fortress**, or our **stronghold**, where Satan cannot dwell or even enter, for God will protect us from all the fiery assaults of the evil one---
- 20) **The 2nd part of Psalm 91:2, says**: "My God, in Him will I **trust**." **My Brothers and Sisters**, we ought to trust in God, with **all** our heart, with **all** our soul, body, mind and strength---. One of **my favorite passages**, in the bible is, **Prov. 3:5,6**, which says: "**Trust** in the LORD with **all** your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In **all** your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." **When problems arise** in our lives, and they will---, we need to learn how to **Trust** in God--- and not on others---. Now, nothing is wrong in relying on others, when we need help, but we must make God our first resort---, not 2nd----; or 3rd, etc.---
- 21) **Some of us incorrectly** put our trust in **(L)** our parents before God---; children---; siblings---; Uncles and Aunts---; Pastor---, elders, politicians---, etc. We **must not use God** as a last resort---. We need to learn how to "**let go and let God**". We need to put everything in **God's Omnipotent hands** and He will take care of us---. **Isaiah 43:2** says: "When thou passest through the waters, **I** will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame consume thee." **Some people think** that when they accept Christ as their Savior, all their problems will be over---; Other **People are able to trust** in God **(L)** **when** everything is going nice and easy, **when** we are healthy and strong---; **when** we get a job or get a pay increase, etc. **But we tend to lose trust** in God **(L)** **when** things are not going right--, loss of a job, or sickness, etc.--

- 22) **Note** that the **Bible says**: “**when** we pass through the waters of temptation, or the fiery trials of the enemy---, God will be with us”; the **text never** said, **if** you pass through the waters, or **should** we ever pass through----. **God is telling us** that **we “will”** experience trials and temptation, as we travel the spiritual journey to glory-land---, just **like Daniel** did; **God didn’t shield Daniel** from troubles and trials, **but** when his enemies succeeded in putting Daniel in the den of hungry lions, **God gave the lions** a sickness call “**lock-jaw”**, so that they could not even open their mouths---. **However, when the King** ordered the enemies of Daniel to be put in the lion’s den, before they even reach the bottom of the den, the lions ate them us like they were eating **vege-burgers** and Prime-steaks---. **God is able, mu friends**, to transform our darkest midnight into the brightest noondays, God is able----
- 23) **God will not always remove** the trials and difficulties, **but** when the temptation comes, God will be there with us to help us make it through--. **I like the text**, found in **1 Cor. 10:13**, which says: “There is no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man, but God will not allow us to be tempted more than we are able to endure, but He will, with the temptation, make a way of escape, so that we will be able to bear it---.” **God did not prevent the 3 Hebrews, SM&A**, from going into the fiery furnace---, but Jesus, Himself, came down---, to be with them and they all **walked in the overheated** fiery furnace, as if they were in a **commercial freezer**---; while the strong men who threw them into the fire, were **roasted like barbecue chicken**. My **Brothers and Sisters**, in order for us to overcome the wiles of the Devil, we need to have the **faith like (L) Job**, who said “Though----”, or like the **3 Hebrew Young Men**, who chose rather to go in the fire than to disobey God, saying: “Our God---”; or like Daniel, who, firmly refused to stop praying to.
- 24) **Psalm 91:3 says**: “**Surely**, He **shall** deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome Pestilence---. **First of all, notice** that the Bible says: “**surely**”, which means **(L)** definitely, unquestionably, or certainly. The **Bible didn’t say**: **(L) Maybe** He will deliver us, or that He **might** deliver us; or perhaps---, or possibly---; **Oh no**, it said “**surely**”---. There is **no room, whatsoever, for doubt**, or for second guessing---. **God will** be there for us and with us, always! **Now**, as I said before, **sometimes God may allow** us to have trying experiences, **like (L) Job**---, or **Daniel**---, or the **3 Hebrew stalwarts**---; or Joseph---, or Ruth--- or Esther--; **but He has a reason**, which may be beyond our present knowledge; However, **if God allows it** to happen to us, then He has a reason for allowing it, but **He will always be there** with us and when He is finished with us, **we will come forth** as pure as

refined and purified gold---. **So we need** to always trust in Him, **for** "All things will work out for good, when God is leading our lives---."

- 25) **Do you Remember the poem** that says: God has
 not promised skies always blue,
 Nor Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;
 God has not promised Sun without rain,
 Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for the day,
 Rest for the labor, light for the way,
 Grace for the trials, help from above,
 Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

- 26) **"Surely,** He will deliver us from the snare of the fowler". Now, a **snare is a trap**, or an ambush that fowlers normally set for birds or wild animals, to catch them, when they least expect it----. **I used to** set traps for birds when I was younger---. **Satan is busy setting traps** and snares for us, and he is **much smarter** than we are; for the **Bible tells** us that we are **not fighting against flesh** and blood, but against Principalities----. Therefore, we are **no match for the Devil**, by ourselves, **but God says** that He will deliver us out of the snare of the dangerous prowler, the Devil, who is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Have you ever seen lions**, set a trap for their prey---? **They are sneaky** and tricky and devious---, just like the Devil---. **No wonder God refers to the Devil** as a roaring lion, he has lion-like qualities---. But **when our weakness is combined** with God's omnipotence, the Devil is no match for us---.
- 27) Have you **ever wondered how in the world you** are alive today and are up and about, after all the fiery darts and the blistering trials and the intense troubles and difficulties that the Devil has thrown at you, and you are still standing tall and strong---; when **(most of) your childhood friends** and classmates are not around, or they are having trouble that they can't manage; **but God has blessed** you and has taken you through all of your troubles and trials-----? **It's only by the Grace of God**, why you and I are here today---.
- 28) **"Surely,** the text says, He will deliver us from the noisome pestilence." **Noisome** means disgusting, offensive, revolting, repulsive, sickening, horrible and dreadful---; and **Pestilence** means epidemic, plague, like Bubonic plague, virulent diseases, endemic or pandemic, widespread sickness. **The writer of our text**, later mentions that God will also deliver us from all plagues---. **Do you remember some of the plagues** that God sent upon the Egyptians, when King Pharaoh and his advisors refused to obey God's command for them to let His people go--

-? Can you **imagine frogs jumping** up, all over your table and into your pot, when you are trying to cook and eat---; or for them to be **running all over your bed**, when you are trying to go to sleep---. What about **flies in abundance** that you can't get rid of, because they are everywhere; and if that is not bad enough, what about **Murrain**, that plagued only the Egyptian animals, because God had put a difference between His people and the Egyptians people; then the **unbearable, Job-like, boils** on, especially the men of Egypt, which **no doctor could heal or cure**---; in fact, the doctors, themselves were also afflicted by the dreadful disease---; but God shielded His people----. Then the **intense darkness**---. **Finally the death** of the first-born, of those who did not have the Blood on the doorpost---

- 29) **Moses was acquainted** with all of these horrible plagues and pestilences---, that's **why I believe that Moses** is the one who wrote this Psalm---. **So likewise**, today, **God has promised us** that He will "**Surely**", deliver us from the noisome pestilences and any plague that might affect others around us, by the Devil----. **Vs.7 says**: "A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come close by thee." God will deliver us from ALL the fiery assaults of the enemy---
- 30) **My Brothers and Sisters**, we serve a Mighty God---; an **All-Powerful God, Who** is able to protect us, and **Who** will fight to shield us from all the wiles and the snares of the Devil---. **We serve a God**, Who loves sinners, but he hates the sin.

Conclusion/Appeal

- 31) **My Brothers and Sisters, we serve a Powerful God**, Who is able to do far more for us, than we can ever ask or think. **God is able, my friends** to lift us up from the quagmire of hopelessness to the solid rock of hopefulness---. **Don't you want** to be in the Secret Place of the Most High?

Let's sing #569, Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior---