



Dr. Jan McNutt, D. Min.

Shadow

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Recently, I've been thinking about that place in the Lord where I can run to for protection and rest. Many times in my life I have been in that awesome place abiding under His shadow. It was in this safe haven I was able to rest and recover from the effects of life. I don't know why I don't remain there all the time other than I get my attention off Him and onto the circumstance around me. It's these distractions in life that lead me down a path I shouldn't go and I begin to slip slowly away from abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.

What is it like to be in the shadow of the Almighty? I can't put into adequate words what it means to be in such a secure and safe place. It's similar to living in a place of unending peace. It's like a cloak of comfort that covers you like a warm blanket on a cold winter night. His shadow swallows you up like a vacuum into a realm of sheer contentment. Fear, worry and distress can't dwell there. His shadow is not anything like the shadow that darkness can cast.

Have you ever been in a dark shadow....that place where you experienced those times of walking in the valley of despair, disappointment, debt, and death? That place where there seems to be a darkness that is looming over your shoulder casting shadows of doubt, fear and discouragement. In the natural you think it is the circumstances in your life that lead you to this path and in some instances that is true, but there is another explanation. Satan dwells in the dark places, ever ready to deceive and use his trickery of lies against us. He likes the dark places because there is no light or life in him. Even his job description identifies him as the Prince of Darkness.

What do we do when that looming darkness comes? More times than not, we begin to look at the shadow without checking out the source that is producing the obstruction. It could be a ploy of the devil throwing up every road block and detour possible to keep us from the Lord. Sometimes it isn't even our shadow. For example, we can be walking down a street and all of a sudden someone will walk past and cast their shadow our way and for a brief moment it startles us. We take one look and if the light is hitting it just right; it may appear bigger than it truly is and our imagination begins to take over. That is the tactic of the enemy of our soul. He likes to make himself look bigger than he is.... he is a giant in his own eyes, and that very pride is what got him kicked out of heaven.



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When that kind of darkness comes; we should do what the Word instructs us to do which is to take “captive all vain imagination and bring them to the obedience to Christ”. (2 Corinthian 5:10). It means that when darkness comes and cast its shadow over us; we must run to the secret place of the Lord.

Psalm 91:1 says, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”.

Psalm 17:8 “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings”.

These scriptures reveal to us the secret place of protection, covering, and safety. It is here in His shadow we must abide. We cannot be wandering around looking for just any ole’ place to hang out and think we can stumble upon His secret place. To find this place we must make a choice to seek ©Him with our whole heart. In Psalm 91:1 it says, “He who dwells...” implying it is up to us to make the decision to dwell in His presence.

There is only one way to get into “the shadow of the Almighty” and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus has made it possible for us to enter into the Holy of Holies. Because of Him, we can pursue the Father without hesitation. His invitation is always open for the “whosoever” to come. Psalm 91:1 calls Him “the Almighty”. “ Almighty” in the Hebrew means the all-sufficient God, mighty, unconquerable, “eternally capable” of being all that His people need.

We have the comfort of knowing that no one can enter into that safe haven, but those who are His. Neither the devil nor his followers can enter that divine shadow that covers God’s children. I encourage each of you to run as fast as you can to that secret place and abide there day and night. It is the only safe place to be in on this side of heaven!

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