

Living in the Promise of God as Our Refuge

- **Day One – Read Psalm 18:1-2, 4-6,16-19,28.** Would you use these phrases to describe your relationship with God? If so, how? If not, why not? If not, what phrases would you use? Do these phrases describe a degree of closeness, reliance and trust that you've yet to experience with God? If God is your refuge, how does that work in your everyday life?

Pray and thank God that He is our rock and refuge, even when we fail to run to Him. Ask Him to teach you how to respond to Him and trust Him in deeper ways.

- **Day Two – Read Isaiah 41:8-10; Proverbs 28:26a.** Think about “fear,” and the things in your life that cause you to be afraid. In what ways do our fears betray a lack of trust in God? Why is it sometimes easier to trust in ourselves than to trust in God? In what ways do you need to “trust more,” to “fear less?”

Pray and ask God to help you trust Him more, especially in those situations when you tend to become afraid.

- **Day Three – Read Habakkuk 3:17-18; Daniel 3:17-18; Psalm 16:11; Matthew 11:28-29 .** What does it take to make us happy? Does success always mean deliverance and/or healing? How might knowing God “in” the furnace actually be sweeter than being delivered by God “from” the furnace? Can we really turn to the Lord *before* the end of our rope? What are the blessings of not waiting?

Pray and thank God that we can make Him our refuge ... the One we run to when we get in trouble ... later, but we can make Him the One we run to now! God “longs to be gracious to us!” (Isaiah 30:18) He promises to show us compassion!

...Why not let Him? Why not *now*?

New Life Lessons
July 9th & 10th, 2011
Pastor Ron Salisbury

“When God Becomes Our Refuge”

The Power of God's Promises #2

Psalm 18:1-2, 4-6, 16-19, 28; Isaiah 41:8-10

Psalm 18:1-2, 4-6, 16-19, 28 (NIV) ¹ I love you, O Lord, my strength. ² The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

⁴ The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. ⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. ⁶ In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support.

¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. ²⁸ You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

“A Refuge is a Shelter , Safety ,
And Security .”

The Idols of Our Age

Wealth Fame Power Pride

Earth Worship (Gaia Theory) **Science/Technology**

Proverbs 28:26a (NIV) ^{26a} He who trusts in himself is a fool.
Romans 1:21-22, 25; Jeremiah 2:5b; 10:3-5, 8-10a; Revelation 3:20

When God Becomes Our Refuge

1. We Know Whom to Trust .

Psalm 18:1-2 (NIV) ¹ I love you, O Lord, my strength.
² The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 20:7

2 Timothy 1:12b (NIV) ^{12b} I know *whom* I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. Psalm 46:1-2; 23:1, 4a, 6

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 14:1 (NIV) ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. Psalm 107:19-22

2. We Know Why the Need .

Psalm 18:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. ⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. Psalm 90:10

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

3. We Know Where to Go .

Psalm 18:6 (NIV) ⁶ In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; 20:8-12; Psalm 42:1-2, 8, 11; 27:1-5; 119:32, 49-50

Isaiah 30:15b (NIV) ^{15b} "In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength." John 6:66-69

4. We Know What to Expect .

Psalm 18:16-19, 28 (NIV) ¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. ¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. ²⁸ You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Jeremiah 17:7-8; Daniel 3:18

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

"What does it take to make you happy?"

Psalm 16:11 (NIV) ¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Matthew 6:31-34

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV) (Jesus) ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

"We can learn to turn to the Lord before the end of our rope!"

So, What's Your Plan?

- **Confess** Revelation 3:16-17; 1 John 1:8-9
- **Commit** Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:24; Acts 26:20
- **Connect (with others)** Romans 12:10-11; 1 John 1:7; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Luke 10:1; Acts 2:42, 46-47