
GOD IS OUR REFUGE

A Scripture Based Devotional Meditation

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- It is the presence of the Most High, the Lord of Hosts, the One who is our stronghold and our fortress that qualifies a physical location to be designated as a “place of refuge.”
 - We must say like Moses, “If your presence does not go with me, do not bring us up from here.” (Ex 33:14)
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- There is a distinct difference between God providing a place of refuge for us and us finding a place of refuge *in* God.
 - It would be better to take refuge in God and *not* have a physical place of refuge, than to have a place of refuge and not take refuge in God.
 - It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. (Ps 118:8)
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Now when we speak of God being our refuge in times of trouble we do not mean that we will escape suffering and persecution.

There are many who took refuge in the Lord and suffered persecution and death for Jesus' sake. If they hated and persecuted Jesus, they will hate us as well (John 15:18-19).

Yet there is, as one author describes, “a *place of immunity*, where nothing we encounter in this life can truly defeat us. God Himself preserves us in all things and ... we emerge as ‘more than conquerors.’ (Rom 8:37)

In God’s shelter, the redemptive power of Christ reverses the plans of Satan, annulling both the assault of the enemy and its aftereffects.”

(The Shelter of the Most High, Francis Frangipane; p. 2)

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- The “shelter of the Most High” is a stronghold in times of trouble. (Ps 9:10)
 - It is a place where hope is alive and where we wait in silence before Him (Ps 62:5-6)
 - It is the secret place of the Most High, where we abide in the shadow of the Almighty (Ps 91:1)
 - It is this place of abiding that allows us to walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil, for He is with me. (Ps 23:4)
 - It is where God, the Most High, is a very present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)
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- It is where the river of delights (Ps 36:8) flows from the presence of the Most High calming our hearts with quiet joy and gladness (Ps 46:4-5)
 - It is the place where we cease from our striving and in reverent stillness, know that He is God (Ps 46:10)
 - The shelter of the Most High is found in the trust that develops through knowing the Lord (Ps 9:10)
 - It is the place where we experience the abundant goodness that God has stored up for those who fear Him and take refuge in Him. (Ps 31:19)
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- It is where the Lord covers us with His presence and hides us from the plots of men and the strife of tongues. (Ps 31:20)
 - It is where the Lord becomes our hiding place, preserving us from trouble and surrounding us with shouts of deliverance. (Ps 32:7)
 - It is where the Lord gives His angels charge concerning us to guard us and bear us up in trouble. (Ps 91:11-12)
 - It is where the eternal God is our dwelling place and where His everlasting arms are underneath us bearing us up. (Deut 33:27)
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- It is the place where we taste and see that the Lord is good and are blessed. (Ps 34:8)
 - Where we take refuge in the Lord and will not be condemned. (Ps 34:22)
 - As we take refuge in the shadow of His wings, we experience the preciousness of the Lord's loving-kindness. (Ps 36:7)
 - It is the place where He delivers us from the wicked and saves us. (Ps 37:40)
 - It is the place where I joyfully sing of the Lord's loving-kindness as I take refuge in the Lord in the day of my distress. (Ps 59:16)
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- It is the place where I abide in Him and He abides in me and where I bear much fruit. (John 15:5)
 - It is the place where, as I abide in Him and His word abides in me, I can ask whatever I wish with confidence that He will answer me. (John 15:7)
 - It is the place where I can pour out my heart to God and put my trust in Him. (Ps 62:8)
 - It is the place where God becomes my all-satisfying treasure (Ps 142:5) and where I am delivered from my enemies. (Ps 143:9)
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No matter what circumstance we may face, we say with confident expectation, with the apostle Paul:

“It is my eager expectation and hope...that Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Phil 1:20-21)

Amen, and amen!

Author: Chuck Reber. [All scripture in quotations are exact quotes from the text. All others are the author's paraphrase.]
