

## Our Hiding Place

---

### It Is A Safe Place

#### **Psalm 46:1**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Refuge / a **hiding** place

1. We learned that **God** is our hiding place; we receive **strength** only from Him. We also learned we go to the hiding place **first**.
  - The hiding place is our **first** resort, not our last resort.
  - We also learned we were created to have a hiding place and we have a hiding place; He is **God**.
  - Last week, we read about the cities of refuge / or hiding place – meaning: if you mess up or accused, you can go to **God**.

Remember: two rules to those cities:

- The first rule: the hiding place is for the **righteous**.
  - The second rule: the hiding place is not for the **rebellious**.
- If you don't do the right thing, confess it, and run to God (**hiding place**).

Remember: **admit** it and **quit** it.

Today:

- The hiding place is a **safe** place.

My question for today is since those cities do not exist anymore, how do you get to the hiding place?

**There are 3 places that are a refuge in our life, a place we can hide or enjoy the hiding place.**

**A. Staying under God's authority is your hiding place.**

### **Numbers 35:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> So the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall return him to the city of refuge where he had fled, and he shall remain there until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil. <sup>26</sup> But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, <sup>27</sup> and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, <sup>28</sup> because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

Question: Who is our high priest?

Answer: **Jesus Christ**

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we *are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Jesus Christ died so we could be **released** from our sentence.
3. God **owned** the cities of refuge / the hiding place.
4. It is the same today, is where God is in authority, you are **safe**.
  - Satan is waiting outside to take revenge on us if we **leave** the city.

Can you imagine conversations in the cities of refuge?

- Hey, did you hear the high priest was sick?
- Reaction: Really? (with great enthusiasm)
- They could leave if he **died** because they were **freed** of their sin.

Church: Jesus Christ, the High Priest died and we have been released from our sin – but – we still need to live under the **authority** and **rule** of God to be protected.

### **James 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

5. The way to have authority is to live under God's authority. So always remember, the enemy of submission is **pride** and the friend of submission is **humility**.

Definition of pride:

- Pride says: I don't **need** God.
- Humility says: I have to **submit** to God.

Are you seeing the conclusion: you should never, ever, want to be anywhere else other than the hiding place.

### **John 10:10**

<sup>10</sup>The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Life – absolute spiritual **joy** and **fulfillment** - that's "the hiding place"

A. Under God's **authority** is a safe place.

**Here is the second:**

**B. Prayer is a safe place.**

### **Psalm 91:1**

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**Matthew 6:6-8**: <sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Jesus is not moved by many words (**vain** words), He is moved by what comes out of **His** mouth.

### **Matthew 6:8**

<sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Some people think verse 8 says God already knows, so don't ask.

### **Matthew 7:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

6. God is more willing to **listen** than He is to talk and when you pray, you **transfer** the burden to God.
  - When you go into the hiding place worried, you leave with **peace**.

Why – because in prayer, you lay it all before Him.

Listen very closely: if you went into your prayer closet and entered the hiding place, you then come out still with the burden, you didn't pray, you **griped**.

Prayer is laying it and then leaving it at **Jesus'** feet.

Question: Have you ever heard anyone say, “Well, I prayed and it didn't work”?

When people say prayer didn't work, this is what they are saying:

- I got myself in a mess.
- God, I need You to fix this.
- I need You to do this – and this – and this.
- By the way God – I need it done by Friday.

Why this doesn't work → that is **telling**, not **asking**.

The only prayer God answers is this prayer:

- Not my will but **Yours** be done.

Jesus, in His greatest hour of need, He poured His heart out and is not phony at all.

Jesus said: Father, please take this from Me, and if there is any other way to redeem sinful man to you → never the less – not My will, but **Yours** be done.

Folks – are you following me? That's prayer – you trust God.

7. God will bless you **more** than you will ever be able to bless yourself.

Some of us can't let go – we must **control** it.

\* Prayer is a safe place.

**Here is the third thing:**

**C. God's Word is a safe place.**

## **Matthew 7:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Notice: Both of these people hear the word.

2 houses: rock or sand

Sand is more **comfortable** – God's Word is **uncomfortable**

\* God – I don't want to do that!

God says – doesn't matter if you want to or not, **do it.**

God's Word is **uncomfortable.** You do the right thing even if they don't.

Second reason people build on sand:

Sand is **comfortable** – it will change with you and your situation.

But – all it takes is one wave to knock it down.

Building on the rock – you have to **conform** to it.

But, when the wave comes, it will **stand.**

- When you go to the hiding place, bring the **Word** with you.

In Psalm 77, David said, I cried out to God all night long and then complained too. My soul was not comforted; How long should I do this? Why – he **complained**.

In Psalm 77, David said – the reason this took place was I had **forgotten** all the wonderful things You have done for me.

I will quit complaining and begin to **praise** You.

This will keep you in the **blessing** of the hiding place.