

Our Hiding Place

Choose The Right One

- The season that we are in, we need a **hiding place**.

It is living a life receiving the **full** benefit of who God is, and walking in His **power**.

My goal now is to help you in full knowledge, to experience God in what you **do**, **say**, and **feel**. It's called the **hiding place**.

Psalm 46:1

¹ God is our refuge (**hiding place**) and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Verses 2 and 3 are the hiding place **action**, or life-living **response** to trouble.

Watch what it says:

Psalm 46:2a

² Therefore we will not fear (a faith proclamation fear won't control me)...

Psalm 46:2b

² ...Even though the earth be removed...

1. David is trying to say, if God is my hiding place / refuge and my strength, nothing **moves** me or you.

Psalm 46:2c

2..., and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

The word, refuge means “a **high safe** place” → the hiding place.

Synonyms: **rock**, **shield**, **fortress**, **tower**

Man did not create a “safe place”

God has always had this for you and me – a **high safe** place.

Question: When someone is attacking you, where do you go?

Answer: Whether it's trouble, anxiety, or stress, David makes a **proclamation**:

2. David says, I go to **God** and He, in that hiding place is my **refuge**.

End of verse 1 says: God is a very present help in trouble.

God is so present in your life He resides inside you through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Let's talk about this hiding place:

- First – we all **need** this hiding place
- Second – we all **have** this hiding place

Who is your hiding place? **God**

3. What I am trying to say is there is always something **competing** to become your hiding place.

Listen closely: God created us to **need** a hiding place.

The hiding place must be God and you must make continued **proclamations** of what God says – not complaining about your trouble.

What happens when we choose the wrong hiding place:

- A. When we choose the wrong hiding place, we create a **distance** between God and ourselves.

- The first commandment says: "You shall have no other gods before Me"

Say it other ways:

- You shall not turn to others **first**.
- You shall not have any other hiding places **before** Me.
- You shall not **trust** anyone other than Me.

4. Turning to someone else the Bible calls it **idolatry**.

Sports, food, relationships can be enjoyed but they cannot take the place of our **hiding place**.

5. The distance between God and me is not created by God, it's created by **me** and it's not a **space** difference; God is in you, but you are still distant.

Here is the second one:

- B. Disappointment – when you choose disappointment as a hiding place, you will be disappointed because it cannot **help** in time of trouble.

Satan is a **masquerader**.

During this second shutdown, I have seen many disappointed → spiritual ploy by Satan:

- To cover or mask our **faith** proclamations.
- Year of harvest and blessing – we have allowed him to shut our **mouth**.
- Telling us to do it another way or a **new** normal.

6. Many have become disappointed because their proclamations have **stopped**. Disappointment turns to discouragement, disillusionment, and **hopelessness**.

- A hopeless person is the person that goes to the **wrong** hiding place for years.
- A person who has been dealing with depression is a person who has been going to the **wrong** hiding place for years.

That's because it's only **God's** hiding place and refuge that can help.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

7. Satan **pretends** to be the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and Satan masquerades as an angel of **light** and gets you into unforgiveness, offense, and hate.

- God, the Holy Spirit, is the only one that can **comfort** you.

If a friend comforts you, remember it was God through the friend that comforted you.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Let me show you:

2 Corinthians 1:3

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

- God of all **comfort**

2 Corinthians 1:4

⁴who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

What does hopeless mean:

- Hopelessness is losing confidence in your hiding place or your belief in God's **presence**.

Here is the third result of choosing the wrong hiding place:

C. The third result of choosing the wrong hiding place is **destruction**.

- When I begin to go to something other than God – or make petty complaints of life → destruction.

Proverbs 14:12

¹²There is a way *that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

8. The more you get **relief** from the wrong hiding place, the more **bondage** you move into.

Question: If God's hiding place is His presence, why would you choose anything else?

Answer: It's the way you **think** or **talk** about it.

Let's get a little personal.

- Some of you feel powerless today because you are in **bondage**, not enjoying God's hiding place → you're in the **wrong** one.

Psalm 46:1 says "God is my refuge / hiding place and strength"

- * The nature of a wrong hiding place is that it cannot provide **strength**.
- Our **mind** cannot be our hiding place.

Our mind tries to figure it out and it cannot; we are supposed to go to God and leave it.

Today:

- Many believers are so **afraid** of COVID
- The Holy Spirit is not allowed to lead any more but the **news** does

Fear is all over you → it's possible you're not going to the hiding place God is.

So Pastor, what do I do?

- * Church, this is not a **weakness** going to the wrong hiding place / refuge

First thing you do is: It is called idolatry and you must renounce it → **you** renounce

- It is an **idol**. It will cause you to walk away from the presence of God.

Second thing you do: **declare** that God's presence / hiding place is where you go.

Declare **truth** – what **God** said.

David said in Psalm 46 – David declared the Lord is His hiding place and strength.

The enemy again is trying to **mask** your declaration → **renounce** what the enemy is doing and declare the lord is ever present and strength.