

GOD OUR REFUGE & STRENGTH - SERMON 3



RUNNING INTO GOD OUR REFUGE

God's Sure Promise - Ps.46: 1-3; Prov.18: 10.

We Need Faith to Realize This Promise - Hab.2: 4; Rom.1: 17; Gal.3: 11; Heb.10: 38; 11: 6.

A sheep is a defenseless animal. So, the safety of the sheep lies in its closeness to the shepherd. Every animal learns by instinct to either run to the high mountain or into a hole for cover and be safe in times of danger. Chickens also run for cover under the wings of the mother hen in times of danger. God has given every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ an instinct of faith to run to Him whenever there is danger. It is only a fool who will not run for cover in God in times of danger - **Prov.22: 3 & 27: 12.**

The righteous runs into the name of the LORD in times of danger or trouble because he believes there is refuge and safety there for him there - **Prov.18: 10.**

The typical unbeliever doesn't have the means to sense danger in the first place. He also has a false sense of security, and eventually, falls headlong into disaster or destruction. A believer runs to the Lord whenever he senses danger! Where do you run to when in need or trouble? - **Ps.91: 1-4; Prov.3: 5-6.**

Examples of Those Who Ran to God in Faith in Times of Trouble or Distress in Scripture:

1. Jacob in Peniel - **Gen.32.**
2. David at Ziglaga - **1Sam.30.**
3. King Hezekiah and the King of Assyria - **2Kg.19.**
4. Jehoshaphat in facing the 3 kings of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir - **2Chron.20.**
5. Daniel's prayer and the decree of King Darius - **Dan.6.**
6. Paul in the Shipwreck - **Acts 27.**
7. Paul and Silas in Prison - **Acts 16.**

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself withdrew into the Garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James and John before facing the cross - **Matt.26.**

God is our Refuge and Defense in times of danger, trouble and fear! Don't just stay or stand to worry in times of danger or trouble, run to God in prayer! His ears are open to our cry! Bring God as a Mighty Rock, Refuge or Fortress between you and your trouble so you will look at your trouble through God and not look at God through your trouble. Looking at God through trouble brings fear but looking at your trouble through God in faith brings boldness and courage!

It takes faith to run to the Lord when we are in trouble but once we do, we receive that sense of safety, security, peace and courage beyond what human words can describe - **Phil.4: 6-7.**

This is what it means to pray through! From that moment, nothing troubles us again. The troubles without will no longer trouble us because there is no trouble within us. No trouble is trouble enough until it starts to trouble us. So, the real trouble is not trouble in itself but that we're troubled by our troubles.

Conclusion:

Anyone who does not feel safe in God's presence cannot be safe anywhere else. Courage is not the absence of fear or danger but our ability to conquer fear. Courage is also described as, faith that has said its last prayer. Let us therefore run to the Lord, our Rock, our Refuge, our Strong Tower and Mighty Fortress as we pray in faith. Let us face life courageously and not fear!