

Anyone who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. As a citizen of that Kingdom, our way of life is in "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). As short as this statement is, it encompasses every blessing that God can pour upon His children as citizens of His kingdom.

Righteousness – citizens are blameless in His sight through the blood of Jesus.

Peace – does not simply mean peace of mind, it also means there is nothing missing or broken in our lives.

Joy in the Holy Spirit comes as the result of receiving the Holy Spirit when we were born again. This gives us that "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

Happiness is a transient thing. Joy is a permanent, unshakable state that exists because of our faith in God. We can be joyful when everything around us is falling apart. We are a part of the kingdom of God and the Body of Christ – anything that God builds does not fall apart!

Psalm 91 is a series of powerful promises of God for the believer, but like everything else that is a part of a Biblical Covenant, man has obligations to meet as well.

- 1) Verse 1 tells us (AMP) "*HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].*" Dwelling in the secret place is the same thing as remaining in the Vine. We must live in constant union with God, allowing His presence to envelop us and His word to wash and sustain us. The only thing constant in the entire universe is God and His Word. When we received Jesus as Lord and Savior, we heard the word of God, believed it and acted on it by faith. The same hold true for everything else we need in our lives. We see it in the Word of God, we confess the Word of God and we act on it in faith.

We must put God's word in our heart (John 15:7) and that word becomes living and real to us as we meditate on it and make it applicable to our lives. This way, when a situation arises in our lives, we automatically apply the word of God to that situation and not the words of the devil. For instance, if you go to the doctor and he gives you a bad diagnosis, your immediate response would be to reject that diagnosis and say "I am healed by the stripes of Jesus" or "I shall live and not die and declare the works of the Lord" or "God has satisfied me with long life", He has healed me of all my diseases", etc. Fill your heart with God's word then speak it forth in faith Verse 2 of Psalm 91 states "I will say of the Lord". God tells us of Himself through His Word., He says "I am your healer, I am your provider, I am your deliverer, I am your hope.etc. Everything we need is in Him, so we can take the Word and speak it forth confident that it will come to pass as He says. Just as it happens in close relationships, when people spend lots of time together, certain habits and mannerisms tend to rub off and sometimes in marriages they may even begin to look like each other; even so, as we abide in God's presence we will unconsciously think and speak and act like Him,.

People will be able to look at us and know to whom we belong!

Abiding in God also means that we obey His word. 1 John 3: 6 (AMP) *No one who abides in Him [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him--deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experiential acquaintance with Him].* If we are disobedient to the Word of God we automatically disqualify ourselves from receiving His benefits and open the door for the devil to attack. This is why we cannot blame God for the evil that befalls Christians – it is simply that they have not been abiding!

Do not wait for a crisis, start abiding in God and His word now and be obedient. Proverbs 1:29-33 (The Message) says:

*"Because you hated Knowledge
and had nothing to do with the Fear-of-God,
Because you wouldn't take my advice
and brushed aside all my offers to train you,
Well, you've made your bed—now lie in it;
you wanted your own way—now, how do you like it?
Don't you see what happens, you simpletons, you idiots?
Carelessness kills; complacency is murder.
First pay attention to me, and then relax.
Now you can take it easy—you're in good hands."*

- 2) We must “set our love upon Him” (Psalm 91:14a). This verse expresses total commitment. True love, even in the human relationship context is fully expressed through commitment and we often assess how someone else feels about us by the ways they express their commitment to us. Similarly, our love for God is expressed by our level of commitment to Him. Is He first in our lives? How do we express our commitment to Him? Many Christians love God, may people desire Him but how many are committed to Him? We must be committed and allow that commitment to find expression. That is like Tom, who will tell Sally that he loves her, but after five years still cannot make the commitment of marriage! Something is wrong there! In reality, it boils down to one thing – selfishness! Tom is placing his own desires above what is demanded of the relationship. Like marriage, a relationship with God demands total commitment in order to derive the full benefits. However, many Christians want God to “hand out the goodies” when they ask, but do not want to commit all to Him. These are times when every Christian needs to commit to God fully. There are two questions each individual must ask: a) Am I committed to God and b) What is my level of commitment to Him? There is only one acceptable answer to both questions – a) Yes and b) Fully. God promises that when we put Him first, then no recession, no danger, no sickness can overcome us. We will prosper in tough economic times because

in God's kingdom there is no recession! We will be whole in the midst of plague because in His kingdom there is no sickness!

Right now, examine your relationship with God and if you have not fully surrendered all to Him, if you are still holding on to certain things, release them to Him, release everything to Him. Be obedient to Him and put Him first in relationships, career, finances etc. As you do so, you will give Him the right to step into any area of your life that needs rectifying.

Dwell in the secret place! As you remain there, tuned into His voice He will tell you where and when to go. He will guide your every decision and step. In this life we will be opposed, but you and God will become an unbeatable, unstoppable team!

