

Bible-
based



Ministry

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

“Behold, I have told you in advance.”

Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 24:25)

A BIBLE-BASED PERSPECTIVE ON

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

PREPARING SPIRITUALLY TO MEET EMERGENCIES

A Study for Church Leaders

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Spiritual Preparation

A STUDY ON GOD AS REFUGE

**But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;
I have made the LORD God my refuge...** (Psalm 73:28).

REFLECTION

♠ What does it mean to “make God my refuge”? Let’s do a word comparison.

He who DWELLS [sits down] in the SHELTER [protection] of the Most High will ABIDE [stay permanently] in the SHADOW [(protective) covering] of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My REFUGE [protection] and my FORTRESS [castle]; my God in whom I TRUST [to whom I hasten for protection (refuge)]” (Psalm 91:1-2).

The LORD also will be a STRONGHOLD [refuge: a place providing protection from danger] for the oppressed, a STRONGHOLD [refuge] in times of trouble, and those who know Thy name [who have come to know God in a personal way] will put their TRUST [hasten for refuge, and thus protection] in Thee; for Thou, O LORD, has not forsaken those who seek Thee (Psalm 9:9-10).

In Thee, O LORD, I have taken REFUGE [gone to a place providing protection from danger] ... In Thy righteousness deliver me... Be Thou a ROCK [fortress] of strength, a STRONGHOLD [castle] to save me. For Thou art my rock and my fortress... For though art my strength. Into Thy hand I COMMIT [deposit (as putting into a bank for safe-keeping)] my spirit (Psalm 31:1-5).

The eternal God is a REFUGE [a place to dwell] and underneath are the everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27, KJV, NIV).

•REFUGE Hebrew: *me'onah* – a dwelling place (see the NASB).

IMPORTANT WORDS LIST

ABIDE Hebrew: *luwn* – to stop; implying, to stay permanently;
WEBSTER: to live as a resident; to reside.

COMMIT Hebrew: *paqad* – to deposit.

DWELL Hebrew: *yashab* – to sit down; implying, to dwell, to remain.

FORTRESS Hebrew: *matsuwd* – a net;
from Hebrew: *metsad* – a fastness: castle, fort.

•REFUGE Hebrew: *machceh* – shelter;
from Hebrew: *chacah* – to flee for protection: have hope, put trust;
WEBSTER: a place that provides shelter or protection from danger or distress.
Greek: *katapheugo* – lit., to flee down: “hit the dirt”

ROCK Hebrew: *cela* – lofty; a rugged rock; fig., fortress: stronghold.

SHADOW Heb: *tsel* – shade; from Hebrew: *tsalal* – hovering over: to shade.

SHELTER Hebrew: *cether* – a cover: protection.

STRONGHOLD Hebrew: *misgab* – a cliff (or other lofty or inaccessible place); implying, a refuge: high fort or tower.

TRUST Hebrew: *batach* – to hasten for refuge; implying, to trust

[Jesus said], “I am the true vine... ABIDE in [stay with] me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you ABIDE in me... for apart from Me you can do nothing John 15:1, 4-5).

ABIDE Greek: *meno* – to stay (in a given place): abide, dwell, remain.

APPLICATION

♣ How *do* we “abide,” “dwell,” “remain” in Jesus?

Make God your fortress. With a fortress:

- (1) *You* go to *it* (it doesn’t come to you) [relationship]
- (2) You have to enter into it (it does little good to stand outside) [relationship]
- (3) You have to trust – believe – that it is stronger than you are alone outside of it; (you must believe it **can** protect you) [faith]
- (4) You have to trust – believe – it **will** protect you [faith]
- (5) You have to be wise enough to not go far from it in times of peace and calm

♣ Many people only turn to God in times of distress. Often it appears to them God doesn’t answer their prayers because things don’t turn out as they want. Can you see why, without a previous relationship with God, which leads to a “built up” trust, those persons can be frustrated by how God *does* respond to their prayers?

Here is how our attitude should be:

... if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s (Romans 14:8).

(Then Job responded), “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.” (Job 13:15).

How do we develop—over a period of time—such trust?

...by abiding in – staying with – Him:

And (the believers) were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching [Bible study] and to fellowship [meeting together (i.e. “going to church”), to the breaking of bread [the Lord’s Supper] and to prayer [talking to God] (Acts 2:42).

♣ We “abide,” “dwell,” “remain” in – stay with – Jesus through:

- 1) Bible study – to learn about God
- 2) Meeting together – to share with other Christians
- 3) Lord’s Supper – to remember Jesus (see Luke 22:19)
- 4) Prayer – talking with God

This will help prepare you spiritually for whatever trials you may face.