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Teaching from the desk of Kenneth Etta

Intimacy with our ABBA Father

Part 5: 1 of 2: One who knew the secret place of the Most High

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the **secret place** of the Most High shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 91 has been aptly termed the psalm of protection and so it is because in it we are given assurances of protection. In the context of our study, I will be focusing on what I believe is the motivating force to the assurance and promise contained in this Psalm. In Psalm 91 there are two voices. The first voice is that of the writer v1-13 and the second is that of the Lord Himself v14-16. In verse 14 the Lord Himself gives the fundamental reasons for every assurance contained in the Psalm in a twofold declaration notably **loving God** and the **knowledge of His name**. After protracted periods contemplation, the eyes of my understanding were finally illuminated to my daunting question as to what the secret place of the Lord is. **I firmly believe that the secret place of the Lord is love** (love flowing out of the Zoë life of God in the believer) The love of God rooted, grounded and settled in the believer that it becomes a covering, an enclosure of protection. In order words you can render the first part of this Psalms thus; “He that dwells or walks in the love (secret place) of the Most high shall remain (abide) under the protective covering (shadow) of the almighty”

The believer who walks in love, just as God is love inevitably knows his name. **You cannot walk in the love of God in exclusion to the knowledge of His names. Believers who have no revelation of the redemptive names of God** are left without the substance of faith to stand on in times of need. Knowing that God loves you is one thing. Do you believe that He is your healer, provider, defender, banner, and peace and has already made provision for all your needs? It is the experiential knowledge of Him by the Word and the Spirit that transforms our lives from within into the image of Christ as we submit in obedience to His grace. If you will recall in our third study in this series, God himself promulgated a twofold response to Moses’ request for God to reveal His glory. The first is a proclamation of His name “The Lord God” and the second a proclamation of “the nature of God’s love in mercy, forgiveness graciousness and longsuffering” **Exodus 33:5-7**. To put it in simple terms **if you are going to walk in intimacy with God you must walk in His love both towards God and your neighbor. This is the only law of the new covenant.** There is no way you can claim to love God whom you have not seen and not love your neighbor who you see.

The big question is “ who is the promise of protection within the context of Psalm 91 given to?” In verses 14-16, the Lord Himself said, “Because he hath **set his love on me, therefore** will I deliver him, I will set him on high because he hath known my name...show him my salvation.” It is the one who has set his/her love on the Lord. What does it mean to set one’s love on God? The word set (shiyth, prime root to place, appoint, lay up, let alone, put upon, be stayed. Strong 7896) It means you make up your mind and by the grace of God

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Now abides faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love. 1Corinthians 13:13

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enabling you (He always will) commit to and live a lifestyle of love. Please note that our focus here is not on the promises contained in this Psalm but defining what the secret place of the Lord is. Why was Jesus Christ so successful during his brief life on earth? He walked in the love of His Father, so the devil had nothing in Him. The devil has no hold and cannot work in or through a heart that is filled with and abounding in the love of God. The love of God deeply rooted and abounding in the life of a believer is an effective weapon against the enemy that can never be defeated by his onslaught.

The love of God is the one thing the enemy cannot emulate. It is a place of safety where communion with our Abba is so intimate that there is an increasing revelation of Himself to the seeker. The word calls on us to draw close to God and He will draw close to us. This is eternal and abundant life, to know (experiential and intimate knowledge) Him. In the **secret place of love**, fear (a major weapon of the enemy) is non-existent (**1 John 4:18**) because the perfect love of God cast away all forms of fear. I know you have heard of the shield of faith as described in Ephesians. However, **do you know that the love of God abiding and alive in your heart is a shield or covering to your faith? The antithesis of faith is not unbelief but fear. Love will protect your heart from fear and keep faith and hope (spelt trust) alive.** That is why love is the greatest (**1 Corinthians 13:13**) because God is love (**1 John 4:8**) If you are truly walking in the love of God and not just some form of human sentimentality, you will keep trusting God even when all natural circumstances seem to contradict the word and in so doing the enemy's attempt to destroy the substance of your hope(faith-spelt trust) in God your Father will be rendered null and void.

The word secret (cēther; a feminine adv, to hide by covering, protect, be absent, keep close, conceal, hide Strong 5643 cr 5641&5642). The image been invoked here is that of a mother hen whose **great love** for her chicks causes her to cover (in protection) them thus concealing them from the vision and attack of an approaching hawk. **Though the enemy will still attack when you are walking in the love of God your heart** (which is the sit of your faith) **is protected or may I say covered from the corroding effect of Satan's lies, which are aimed at an attempt to steal your shield of faith.** It is vitally important that as believers we stay in the love of our Father God. The word to dwell (yāshab; to sit down, remain, to settle, to marry, make to abide, continue, endure, established, remain. Strong 3467) gives the picture of someone who has **settled in and has no intention of going away.** God wants his love to be so settled in our heart and lives that we have no intention of letting go. The devil has no effective response to a heart abounding in love.

The secret place of The Lord is love and the love of God is a covering and shelter to all who walk therein both towards God and man. In Psalms 31:20 God promises to hide in His presence those who trust Him and you cannot walk trusting God except you are walking in His love. **Where there is genuine love there is genuine trust.** Dearly beloved are you walking in the love of God? Are you crying out to Him to establish your heart in His love? Some of Paul's most earnest prayers were centered on a request that the saints be rooted, grounded and established in the love of God and to comprehend the immensity of the length, breath, dept and height of God's amazing love (Ephesians 3:15-20) The books of John are centered on the theme of love. Jesus summed up the entire law in a four-letter word: love (**agape**). The love of God the bible says has been (past tense-not will be) shed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **He is the one who will not only continually reveal the Father and Christ to us but will also teach us how to walk in that God love already in our spirit.**

To walk in intimacy with The Father you must walk in love, even as He is love. And all believers have that anointing of love within them (Romans 5:5). **The Zoë life of almighty God In Christ is in you.** 1 Cor.15:5 says that if anyone is In Christ he/she is a new creation, the old has passed and the new is come. **What then**

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is this new man/creation created from? Clue: the Zoë life of God. We will explore this subject in a subsequent study. Our Father's question to us is are we developing His love within us? Are we allowing His love to be a living witness to those around us? Loving God (worship) is more than singing songs and lifting up our hands. Loving God is submitting to Christ In you and allowing Him to be all He wants to be in and then through you day by day. The bible says that it is the goodness (**goodness flows out of love**) of God that causes us to repent-turn from our sinful/evil ways to His righteous ways. If we truly know His love and stay in that place of intimacy with Him, then we will truly experience the abiding shadow of The Almighty God. **For In Him is life and to found In Him, walking in His ways is the greatest thrill, peace, joy, hope, liberty and love you will ever experience in your life.** Remember He loves you.

Shalom

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