

# Standing in the Fire

## Introduction

Good morning and welcome to our first online service, in desperate times we called to take desperate measures and we have been asked by our government to keep group attendance, contact with others and unnecessary travel down to a minimum, and so we as a church are abiding by their requests.

I have also cancelled my planned trip to Malawi at the end of April 2020.

At this moment we pray for every person that has symptoms and those that have died all across the world and we look towards God for His help and protection as David did in **Psalm 121:1-2** *"<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip— He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The Lord watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm— He will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."*

My question to you today is where have you put your trust/ you hope? Is it in God or are you like the rest of the world in fear and without any hope?

I just want to say this morning that *"<sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."* **2 Timothy 1:7**, and that fear is always the opposite of FAITH.

## Never Forget that We operate in Faith

We know that faith from my previous teachings on FAITH, as I said FAITH, Biblical FAITH consists of two elements HOPE and THINGS NOT SEEN and thing less is NOT Biblical Faith.

Here is what **Hebrews 11:1** says, *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

We know that God operates in FAITH and He rewards us when we come to Him in FAITH. **Hebrews 11:6** *"<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."*

Whenever we get any form of news or people say anything we have always have two choices, to believe them or to believe the Word of God, in other words to act in fear or to act in FAITH.

In these times of uncertainty and at other times we must choose for ourselves, whether we will believe the fear what the world and the news media are causing, or will we put our faith in the Word of God. Will you believe God's Word, will you choose to put your complete trust in Him?

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## We are not ignorant or deny the facts

We are NOT denying that there is a virus called the Corona Virus CONVID-19, the facts are it is a very deadly virus and has already caused thousands of deaths and it is spread through human to human transmission.

We do not make light of these warnings our government has issued, and we will comply with their requests because they make good sense but never forget that the Lord always has the FINAL SAY in our life.

We do not deny these facts about CONVID-19, but what I am saying is that we as Christians have the Word of God and the Word of God says He will protect us, so stand on the Word of God in these times on uncertainty.

So, I want to encourage every person that is hearing this message to turn to God and put your Faith in Him, He can heal you, He can cure this virus and He promises us protection.

## Let's turn to the Word of God

I have already referred to some of the scriptures that talk about God's protection and provision through all our trials and tribulations, and this message is not intended to scare anyone to make anyone fearful but I want to remind everyone that we serve an AWESOME God, who is far above any virus, sickness or disease or any other thing, God is supreme in everything!

Many households have a Bible open on **Psalm 91** but sadly not many of us do not read this Psalm and receive the blessing of these words written by Moses.

Yes, this is the same Moses who parted the Red Sea and who had the whole of Israel against him multiple times and just think of his time in Egypt while God was showing His awesome power through the 10 commandments.

There are so many truths found in this Psalm and which is so true in today's world with us facing the CONVID-19 virus, so I will go through this Psalm 91, remember there are MANY other verses that also speak of God's provision and protection.

## God's Promises in Psalm 91

So, please open your Bible at Psalm 91:

*<sup>1</sup> Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

This Psalm starts with identifying the person(s) for who this Psalm is applicable, it is applicable to Whoever dwells in the shelter of the most High, in God's presence – I want to encourage you today that if you are far from God or maybe your relationship is not where it should or can be, to please take the time to press into Him. Maybe you have not been as close as you used to be with Him.

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Switch off the TV, get off social media for a few minutes and open the Word of God and make a connection with God and speak to Him and tell Him all about your day, your fears, your worries and concerns and read what his Word says.

It is only when we submit our lives to God and give Him control, move closer to Him that we come under His shadow, you have to be real close to be under someone's shadow and that is where Moses says we should be – close to God so close we are under His shadow.

When you get into this place, you will naturally experience God as your refuge and fortress, in other words, God fighting on your behalf so that you will see and declare that He, God is your refuge, a place where you can run to in times of calamity and trouble, and then He, God is someone who you can put your complete trust in.

This is the relationship that God wants us to have with Him and when we seek Him with ALL OUR HEART – put that TV off, stop watching movies, series, YouTube videos, and focus on Him, He promises we will find Him – see **Jeremiah 29:11-14**

***“<sup>3</sup> Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”***

Here is a promise we have from God, He WILL SAVE you from any trap of the devil, He will save you from any deadly pestilence or in our case any Virus, including the CONVID-19 virus, We must never forget NOTHING is greater than God, He made everything we can see or not see and He knows everything there is to know about the CONVID-19 virus and even how to cure it.

But not only does He know how things work, He knows how to protect you! And that is to draw so close to Him that He can cover you with His feathers, this is a picture of a hen that covers her chicks when there is danger, they run to her and hid under her wings.

When we have times of trouble, or we might fear something, we need to RUN TO GOD and come under His wings for protection, because only under His wings will you find the refuge and the Faith you need, not because you are such a great Christian but because we serve such a great God!

And He will cover us with His shield – what is the Shied according to **Ephesians 6:16**? Faith, in other words, when we run to Him and find refuge in God and His Word, Faith rises up!

And **Ephesians 6:18** gives us a special clue to what we must do when we have run to God, come under His protection and received our comfort we need to pray, it not just any old prayer but a pray of Faith which God always hears and acts upon – ***“<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”***

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*"<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. <sup>8</sup> You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked."*

So, what does God do for us when we come under His protection and we rise up in Faith in Him and his Word? We will NOT fear!

**One** - We will not fear the terror of the night – we will not fear crooks breaking into our homes and stealing from us or hurting us, we will not fear anything that could happen at night.

**Two** - We do not have to fear any weapon, because my Bible says in **Isaiah 54:17** *"<sup>17</sup> no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.*"

**Three** – We do not have to pestilences, in other words, any virus or disease, God says He is the God that heals **Exodus 15:26** *"<sup>26</sup> He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."*

**Four** – We do not have to fear the plague, no matter what it is called, like Corona or CONVID-19, we do not have to fear any virus or disease because God had got our backs covered.

And no matter how large the death toll will be and we pray that God will be merciful and limit the death's, but God promises that a 1,000 will fall on our side and 10,000 and our right – Although we see this death and destruction – IT WILL NOT COME NEAR YOU!

Now I am not saying we should be stupid and live like there is no virus, we must take every precaution but our trust and hope – our FAITH must be in God. This is a time to draw near to God not distance yourself from Him!

God says we will witness the destruction, but it will not harm us, I do not know about you but that gives me huge comfort to know that God is in control and I am safe in times of diseases and viruses.

*"<sup>9</sup> If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, <sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.*

If you will turn to God and make Him you refuge, run to Him and trust Him to save and protect you and you do this every day not just sometimes – It says to make the Most High (God) your dwelling, in other words, you spend time with Him and in His presence then God, no man but God promises that NO HARM will overtake you, in other words, you will not be

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harmed but the plagues, the sickness, the wars or anything – there may be an effect but it will not harm or kill you and listen to this it WILL NOT COME NEAR you tent or your home!

Family, let us take this promise to heart and stand on Gods Word that no Corona Virus, no nothing will come near you home and harm your family or yourself!

### Why can we be so confident?

*“<sup>11</sup> For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; <sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.”*

Why can we be so confident, because our confidence is not in our selves! I can fail or even forget to do something, but God not miss anything, and He will personally give His angels the command to guard you in ALL your ways -in whatever you do!

And these angels that are under God’s command will go to extraordinary lengths to protect you, even lifting you up so that you do not fall over a stone, in fact, your protection is so great that you can step on a lion or a snake and it will not harm you and you will even have authority and power of Satan not because you are so great but because you serve an AWESOME God who is protecting you!

### What is the secret to this supernatural protection?

So what is the secret to this provision from God? Because He Loves us – **John 3:15-17** says it like this *“<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. “*

The last part of Psalm 91 ends with the reason why God will do all this!

*“<sup>14</sup> “Because He loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for He acknowledges my name. <sup>15</sup> He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him. <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”*

The first part of our response to God is to love Him back. God loves us so much and I showed you in **John 3:16** – how much God loves the World, but we need to love Him back and because when we love Him back we receive His promises.

What does it mean to love God? There are many ways but let me so it like this, when we choose to put our hope and trust or FAITH in God and His Word, when we come to Him through His Only Son (**John 14:6**) and when we do what His Word says and obey his commands – all of them!

Make God number one in your life, your decisions, your plans, you dreams, do what His Word says and seek Him and draw near to God and spend time with Him and FLEE all kinds

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of sin or wickedness – it is ALL about a relationship and that relationship is based always out of Love and purity.

When God knows that you love Him, and God knows those who are His! **2 Timothy 2:19**  
*“<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who confesses the Name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”*

When you chose to do things His way, confess Jesus as Lord, believe in Him to save you and flee all kinds of sin and wickedness.

When He knows you are truly His, He will go the extra mile and rescue you, protect you and when you call on Him, He will answer you. He will both protect and be with you in times of trouble and hardship and God will deliver you from everything that hinders your path and give you a long good life and at the end of your life, He will show you His Salvation and accept you into Heaven!

What a wonderful promise! We need to forget what the Newspapers and media says! Yes, what they are saying is true, we do not deny the fact that the Corona Virus is a huge threat to our country and the world and that this is a very serious situation.

However if your focus is on God and His protection, He will always be faithful and keep you from any harm! Stand on your God-given right as a child of God!

I encourage you to get rid of the things that are dragging you down, stop listening to the things that cause fear, Put your trust in God and His ability to both save/rescue you and draw closer to Him than ever!

It is okay to keep up to date with the news, but always remember to acknowledge that God is in control of your life and that Psalm 91, God promises to protect you and deliver you from all evil, every disease or virus.

Put your faith in God, Today!

**Let us pray**

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### Scriptures

**Exodus 15:23-26** *“<sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) <sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?” <sup>25</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. <sup>26</sup> He said, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”*

**Psalms 91** *“<sup>1</sup> Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. <sup>3</sup> Surely He will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. <sup>8</sup> You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. <sup>9</sup> If you say, “The LORD is my refuge, and you make the Most High your dwelling, <sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. <sup>11</sup> For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; <sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. <sup>14</sup> “Because he<sup>bl</sup> loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for He acknowledges my name. <sup>15</sup> He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him. <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”*

**Psalms 121:1-2** *“<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip— He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The Lord watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm— He will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”*

**Isaiah 54:13-17** *“<sup>13</sup> All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace. <sup>14</sup> In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you. <sup>15</sup> If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you. <sup>16</sup> “See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a Weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to wreak havoc; <sup>17</sup> no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.”*

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**Jeremiah 29:11-14** *“<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.” “*

**John 3:15-21** *“<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”*

**John 14:1-7** *“<sup>1</sup> Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

**Ephesians 6: 10-18** *“<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

**2 Timothy 1:7** *“<sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*

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**2 Timothy 2:19** *“<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who confesses the Name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”*

**Hebrews 11:1 & 6** *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*