



# The Voice of Evangelism International Ministries Inc.

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## IN THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

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We want to take our Scripture text today from ***Psalms 63:6 -8, "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand up- holdeth me."*** One of David's most favorite symbolic expressions was word-pictures of setting under the wings of the most high God. The wings of our Lord are often times literal and symbolic of protection, defense, and for a place of refuge. For example, when faced with a forest or range fire, a mother or prairie chicken will gather her chicks together under her wings, settle down and let the flames sweep over her. This alone demonstrates the true nature and love of God for His people in being desirous to keep us from trouble and harm. Even if it became necessary: the mother chicken will die in order to save her chicks from the fiery flames of death. Jesus Christ the son of the living God died so that man would not be subjected to the fiery flames of hell. After the forest fire is no more, the baby chicks can then crawl out from under their mother's burnt body. These baby chicks now enjoy the life and safety because of the sacrificial devotion their mother's wings displayed toward her baby chicks. Too often as children of God we too are quick to magnify the pain, sorrow, and sufferings in our pilgrimage. When in retrospect we should be thankful, because we have no idea how many times God

has spared us from fiery darts from the hordes of hell that sought to kill, steal, and to destroy our very lives. For that very reason the psalmist declared in ***Psalms 34:3, "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."*** Admittedly, I too at certain times in my walk with God have magnified the trials and the suffering and I too have failed to remember that the Lord God of Abraham is my refuge, my shield, my covering, and my pavilion. One of Israel's greatest sins was the perpetuity of their murmuring, in spite of God's daily provision and hand of protection concerning their lives. If we too are not careful as Christians we will habitually magnify the pain, suffering, and daily trials as we bear our cross. I would be remiss and derelict if I told you being a Christian was simple and easy; the truth is it is very difficult and arduous to walk the walk and talk the talk. Jesus himself said in ***Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*** I have said many times, cross bearing is the most difficult thing you will ever do in serving Christ our Lord. No, we may not bear a wooden cross but the cross we bear is truly inundated with trials, pain, and daily sufferings. Jesus made it very clear to bear your cross you must completely deny yourself. In denying one's self we must refuse our own hearts desires and commit our will to Christ entirely. In daily bearing your cross you are literally denying yourself and allowing the perfect will of God to be fully wrought within your life without exception. Make no

mistake about it, many times the psalmist David was shielded from numerous attempts on his life, especially those by King Saul and later own by his own son Absalom. Those of you reading this newsletter have no idea how many times the Lord has divinely intervened in your life to protect you from harm or some sinister plot that Satan was trying to exact upon your life. Each night when we go to bed never underestimate the enemy and his desire to plot something evil against your life, your home, your marriage, and even your children: but God Almighty stood faithfully and watched over your life and preformed His Word to destroy the plots and plans of the enemy against your soul. This is what it means to live a life free of fear and of anxiety. I never awaken from my sleep fearful of the enemy and what he desires and what he has willed against my life. The psalmist declared in ***Psalms 118:24, "This the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."*** The Lord has given us every day, and thus we should rejoice as the psalmist rejoiced because he was under the shadow of the wings of the Almighty God. Some Jewish scholars believe that Jesus quoted Psalms 118:24 as He went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and pour out His heart before He was led to a heinous trial and then nailed to that old rugged cross. David knew by experience what it meant to have nothing standing between him and death but the gracious love and protection of Jehovah. It was the very hand of protection of Jehovah when the psalmist David stood before that great giant Goliath. David was

quick to admonish Goliath: you come to me with a sword and with a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord. Once again, David was resting under the shadow of the wings of the Most High God. My friend, it takes great faith in God to trust in the covering of His most holy wings when our lives are in danger. The Lord still offers that same refuge and protection today for those who will trust in him and believe in Him. The psalmist declared in ***Psalms 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"***. As children of the living God we understand God is our refuge, He is our safe haven, and He is still the cleft in the rock in the day of trouble. Needless to say, I have many favorite Bible verses, but one that is becoming more magnified in my life daily is found in ***Psalms 41:11, "By this I know that thou favorest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me."*** David is sharing that he too was faced with many trials and times of arduous suffering; however, Satan was never able to triumph over him because the Lord had favored him. My friend, when God has favored you, hell itself can never triumph over your life in any way. You must understand daily, the Lord watches over you to perform His Word and make sure that you are sustained so that you might finish your course with joy. Paul the apostle declared in ***Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*** The work Christ has begun in your life He will completely finish before His second advent. Paul again admonishes the child of God here in ***Hebrews 13:5-6, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear***

**what man shall do unto me."**

Paul admonishes us in this particular passage that our conversation or life style should be without covetousness; but we must be content with what we presently have or possess. Secondly, he says the Lord has promised to never leave us nor forsake us because He is our helper; thus we will never fear man neither what man can do unto us. Regretfully, too many of God's children have forgotten the promises of Christ our Lord concerning His most Holy Word. Daily you are to live under the shadow of His most holy wings. If you are truly abiding under the wings of the Most High God what can Satan do to you? Each day we are to rely upon God as He acts on our behalf when we are unable to help ourselves. Remember we are children of the Most High God, and as His children we need His help, guidance, and strength every day. In closing, I want to share one of the most powerful passages Christ gave Israel as He wept over their coming demise and destruction: we read in ***Matthew 23:37-39, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."*** How often would the Lord gather you under His wings to protect you, but you refused Him to be the Lord of your life? When one refuses to allow Jesus Christ to be the Lord of their lives they lose the protection and refuge that He offers to each of us if we will simply submit to His perfect will. I

learned a long time ago the will of God is absolutely perfect. Never doubt the perfection of God's will; thus, Jesus Christ prayed in the garden of Gethsemane: thy will be done and not mine! Admittedly the will of God can be difficult at times but in His will comes the shadow of His wings of divine protection. To think each and every day the Lord would take time to stretch out His most holy wings to protect us from the wiles of the enemy is a humbling thought. I encourage you today to trust in the Lord with all of your heart and never lean upon your own understanding. Sometimes God's way may appear to be difficult but once we have passed through the storm, it then makes complete sense when we see the victory He has delivered into our hands. Until next month may you dwell in the shadow of the Most High God and I pray His most holy wings will brood over you and protect you from the impending storms and judgment handed towards this nation. Again, we humbly thank you for your generous love and support for this ministry. Almost every week we now get a letter or an e-mail from a homosexual that has turned from a life of debauchery to a life of righteousness. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts in helping us to reach those who are so terribly bound by the clutches of sin.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford