

Fear May Be Real, But Victory is Near

BY RITA BENNETT



I don't know about you, but the three columns we've studied together have helped me to understand and memorize the first four verses of the healing Psalm 91. How about you? Want to go for two more?

My memory code words are:

Verse 1 – Dwells in the secret place of the Most High, the inner Holy of Holies.

Verse 2 – The Lord is my refuge and fortress, Him will I trust.

Verse 3 – He will deliver you from the trap of the Hunter.

Verse 4 – He will cover you as a chick under feathers, and truth of His Word is an armshield.

FEAR OF EVIL

Our next verses help with unreasonable fear.

"You shall not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day; nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor for the destruction that wastes at noonday" (Psalm 91:5 KJV MOD.).

I remember when my late husband and I went to North Pole, Alaska a few decades ago. You might feel that since the small town wanted it to be Christmas all the time that there was no fear there. But that was not how it was.

Dennis and I were speaking at a small country church

in North Pole (near Fairbanks). Dennis shared his message in a homey style that was more like talking to a friend. In this way, he often taught the truths of the Scriptures and the power of the Holy Spirit.

My part was to explain "Inner Healing Prayer" and how we can practice the loving presence of Jesus to heal the hurts in our lives. As I explained this, I was aware of only one young boy in the congregation of adults.

The next day as the pastor asked for testimonies of how people had been helped, the lad stood up and said, "I have been afraid of the dark since I was a child of two. I remember how I ran to my parents' room and said something dark and scary was in my room. Would they come and help me?"

"Several times they said, 'Go back to bed. There is nothing to be afraid of.'

"I got in bed and pulled the covers over my head, and fell asleep in tears. I have slept with covers over my head for 10 years. When the Bennetts had us pray about a fearful memory, I went back to that scene this time with Jesus and He took the fear away. Last night I no longer needed to sleep with my head under the covers!"

I was full of joy over the emotional healing of this 12-year-old. His childlike faith was contagious. He was "not afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrows (of doubt) that fly by day" (Psalm 91:5).

When you and I are made aware of God's omnipresent love with us and realize we can appropriate His timeless presence in our past – as well as in our present – great things can happen. To learn more, read my book ***You Can Be Emotionally Free***.

NO PESTILENCE

Verse six says not to be afraid of the dark, "Nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor for the destruction that wastes at noon time" (Psalm 91:6).

Pestilence is an archaic noun meaning "a fatal epidemic disease, especially bubonic plague" (*Oxford American Dictionary and Thesaurus online*).

Previously in verse three, we talked about this word "pestilence" and saw Psalm 91 as a good spiritual antidote against undue fear of pandemics.

An additional connection we can make with this beloved Psalm is that if you add another number one to its title, you have 911 – the number to call in emergencies. Call up, or re-call, Psalm 91 when you need it.

I'll close with this adage:

"Fear knocked at the door.

"Faith answered it.

"There was no one there."

If fear is knocking at your door, try sending faith to answer it.

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