Weekly Devotional 2-19-2012 ~~ Call 911

Do you know where calling 911 as the emergency number came from? It came from the Bible~! Yes that is right. Someone, back when phone systems were developed and an emergency number had to be assigned for people, suggested to make the emergency phone number 911 after Psalm 911. Documents from history have not proven that but speculation thinks that Robert E. Fitzgerald and his colleagues were the first in America to implement it. Being memorialized by his wife Reba she stated to one friend that he came up with the idea because of Psalm 91 and how it is a protection and help Psalm in times of need. What an amazing tribute to her husband. So let’s read Psalm 91 with that thought in mind:

*Psalm 91*

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
 Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
 2 I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; (Helper)  
         My God, in Him I will trust.”   (Trust)         
 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler (Being delivered)  
         And from the perilous pestilence.  
 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, (Being Covered)  
         And under His wings you shall take refuge; (Taking refuge)  
         His truth shall be your shield and buckler. (A shield)  
 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, (No fear)   
         Nor of the arrow that flies by day,  
 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,  
         Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.            
 7 A thousand may fall at your side,   
         And ten thousand at your right hand;   
         But it shall not come near you. (No harm)  
 8 Only with your eyes shall you look,  
         And see the reward of the wicked.            
 9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, (Refuge again)  
         Even the Most High, your dwelling place,  
 10 No evil shall befall you, (No evil)   
         Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; (No sickness)  
 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, (Protection)   
         To keep you in all your ways.  
 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, (Protected)  
         Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,  
         The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.            
 14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; (Deliverance)  
         I will set him on high, because he has known My name.(Trust)  
 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;(CALL 911)  
         I will be with him in trouble; (you are not alone)  
         I will deliver him and honor him. (Deliverance)  
 16 With long life I will satisfy him, (Promise)  
         And show him My salvation.”

C. H. Spurgeon suffered excruciating pain and confessed; “I owe more to the fire, hammer, and chisel than to anything else in the Lords workshop”. I think quietly on those words and relate to the song “I’m Gonna Be A Diamond Someday”. It is through the chiseling and hammering away that produces the beautiful, brilliant diamond that we all love. If we bear our trials and find understanding in God’s design of permitting them, and then keep in mind the promises of God, of His good and gracious intentions to bring us through, our troubles will not seem so overwhelmingly complex.

Prayer strengthens us in suffering, it lightens our load, turns our pain into a pulpit, and gives God the permission to use our suffering to console us. The Holy Spirit indwelling in us helps us overcome fear and causes us to triumph even in our adversity.

Don’t allow yourself to become stagnant, turn to God in prayer, CALL 911. When in our deepest times of despair, if we draw upon the living water of the Bible a sense of peace will surround us. It will overcome the shadow of darkness we feel. This is what I call the Presence of God that cast out the darkness and in it makes a way for us to see our way clearly.

It is sometimes very hard to discern the truth through Satan’s twisted version of the circumstances and what he tries to make us believe. We should strive not by tomorrow’s imagined foreseen affliction, but by the grappling of today’s task that is before us and the resource of the Living Word of the Bible. We can have the knowledge that we can conqueror what seems to be an undefeatable, shadowy mountain of circumstances. One of the difficulties that I have found in my walk which will face every one of us is finding the hope that a way will somehow be made clear from the beginning to the end; that dash in between our date of birth and date of leaving this world. But life does not always work that way, there are no positives, only death is a positive, not an end, but a positive. What is made clear is that if we draw upon the almighty God, even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He is there with us.

My prayer for you is: May the light of God surrounds you, may the love of God enfolds you, may the power of God protects you, may the presence of God watch over you. Wherever we are, God is, and where God is, all is well.

Like St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, like the prophet Jonas, as a type of Christ, who was guarded for three days and three nights in the belly of a whale, may our the Almighty God, As a Father, guard and protect you from you all from any evil that may try to stand against you whether in thought, deed, or from others. Amen, Selah.