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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Living in the Will of God

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Bob Bradley

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

*That is part of the temptation of Jesus. We are going to talk about that here in a minute.*

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

Psalms 91:2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psalms 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

Psalms 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Psalms 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

Psalms 91:6 *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.

Psalms 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.

Psalms 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Psalms 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;

Psalms 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

Psalms 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psalms 91:12 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalm 91:13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Psalm 91:14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Psalm 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalm 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Do you think it is important—and I know you know this? It is very important, as Christian people that we live in the will of God. That is the most important thing in life, in my life and in your life is to live in the will of God. You might say preacher what does that mean? It simply means this.

It means living in a way that when God speaks and God directs us and God gives us direction, then we hear, understand and obey what He says. That is what living in the will of God is all about. Doing what God says.

The Bible says that Jesus came here not to do His own will but the will of His Father. Amen! Do you know what that means? He came here to do simply what God the Father instructed Him to do; Jesus came here to do that.

The same thing is for you and me. It is very important, the most important thing in life for us is to live in the will of God. There is nothing any greater than that. Not having money, homes, jobs, cars; there is nothing more important than living in the will of God. Because when we live there then it brings a lot of things to our life. When we live in the will of God—get what I am going to say—when I am living in the will of God then—and when a Christian is living in the will of God—they are immortal until the time that their work on earth here is done. Does everybody get that? What that means is that a Christian living in the will of God is not going to die prematurely. Does everybody get that?

When I live in the will of God, and God knows when that day is. God knows when our work is done. When we live in the will of God, when our work comes to an end then do you know what is going to happen? We are going to leave here. When our work—Moses even though he was old as we look at old; but listen, he was not worn out. His work here was done. God called him home. It is the same thing with you and I when we will live in the will of God. When we listen to His voice and are obedient to Him then we do not have to worry about anything taking us out of this life prematurely. Does everybody get that?

The reason that I am saying that is this. Living in the will of God does so much for you and me. Again, I know very little actually. However, the Bible says there is a sin unto death. There are things that a Christian can commit and sin and God will move us out of the way. That is in the book. That is in the Bible. However, when we live in the will

of God—and we are going to talk about a whole bunch of things here; pestilence, and all kinds of issues, sicknesses, sorrows and traps; there is nothing that will take us out of this life prematurely when I live and when you live in the will of God. Does everybody get that? Get this. Some people die young and some people die old. I do not understand all of that. I am going to tell you here that nobody else does. God has a plan for our lives. God has a will for our lives. Some people die young. Some people die old. Thank God, some people are never going to die. Amen! God has a plan and He knows what He is doing. He knows what His plan for your life and my life is. He knows why people die young. He knows why people die old. God knows that.

Here is what I want you to get at. He makes this statement in verse 11, of chapter 91 of Psalms.

Psalm 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Do you see that? “...to keep thee in all thy ways.” Do you know what God will do? when we live in the will of God, when we are living in the will of God, and when we are following Him and walking in all His ways then do you know what we have? We have protection. We have security. Does everybody get that? Here is the thing that we do not want to grab hold of in life. We think that we can just do or say or go or do whatever we want to in life then when we get there, we are going to ask God to bless us and it is all going to be fine. It does not work that way.

In the temptation of Jesus, that I read to you; the enemy, satan, takes Jesus into the temple that was in Jerusalem. He takes Him to one of the very highest places that is in the temple. What I have read and if I understand things right, probably where Jesus was at looking down towards the Kidron valley—it could have been 400 or 500 feet to the ground. Does everybody get that? The devil said, “Hey, since you are the Son of God, just jump off. Go ahead and jump off. Do you know what He does? He quotes him a little scripture. Do you know what he does? The devil leaves out a few words of it. he leaves out a few words. Do you know what he left out? “to keep thee in all they ways” that is what satan left out of it. It was not God’s will for His Son to jump off of the temple. It was not God’s will for Him to make a big show of himself here. It was not God’s will. That was not in God’s ways. You see?

Me and you sometimes in life; we forget that. We forget that there is a way that God wants us to live. There is a will for our lives that God has given us and God has laid out for us and God wants us to walk in all of His ways. When we will do that then God will bless our lives. Is not that great to know. It really is.

Moses probably wrote this Psalm. I do not know that for sure. However, Moses probably wrote this Psalm and he had a lot of things to say here. If you read Psalms 90; do you know what it does? It focuses here upon the difficulties of life. When you get to Psalms 91; it focuses upon the dangers that we have here in life. As I said earlier, it mentions when we read Psalm 91, it mentions about hidden traps. It mentions about

deadly plagues, about terror in the night and arrows by day, stumbling over rocks, facing lions, and facing snakes. When Moses was writing this, he knew and he understood that God's people was going to face all kinds of difficulties, and dangers in life. Truth!

As we live today, Christian people today, we face all kinds of danger today. They are all around us. All you have to do is go down the road and look over by the side, the car beside of you and you are running 80 mph and he is reading the newspaper and he is supposed to be driving. That is a dangerous time. Isn't it? All the things we have going on, all the diseases that we have going on in our world today, all the things that are going on—we live in very dangerous times.

Here is the thing I want you to get tonight. The thing that I want you to remember is this. We are going to face dangerous times. We are going to face times of all kinds of different things. Do you know what we can do? There are all kinds of unknown perils out there. There are all kinds of dangers that we may not necessarily see. The thing is when I live in His ways, when I live in His will then do you know what I will not do? I will not suffer all the consequences here. I will not suffer all the consequences of the evil that is all around me. You will not either. That is the great thing about living in His ways, living in His will. There is danger all around us folks. It is at your job. You go to work and you hear it on the radio where somebody goes to work and shoots a bunch of people. Or runs their car through a crowd of people and runs over somebody or robs and steals. There is danger all around. However, when we live in God's will, when we live in His ways; we do not have to suffer and we will not suffer the consequences of sin.

It does not mean that we are not going to have issues. It does not mean that we are not going to have problems. No, it does not. I promise you one thing. If we live in sin, there is going to be evil consequences. If I live my life in sin, in rebellion against God and I am not living in His ways; then you count on it, there are going to be consequences that are going to come in my life for the sin I commit.

Moses, or the writer here, in the first verse says this.

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I was thinking today, somewhere a long time ago, a smart fellow said the safest place to live on earth is in a shadow. About a minute or two later he clarified that. Well, he did not clarify it, he added some more to that—if you are living in the shadow of the Almighty. That is a safe place to be. Do you know what that means? If we are living in His shadow, then that means we are close to Him and He is close to us.

I think Moses has a different thought here. If you remember when you looked and read and studied about any about the tabernacle; they had the mercy seat in there. They had the shewbread. They had the incense. They had the brazen altar and all kinds of

things. However, when you went behind this very thick veil, some things I have read; this veil might have been 6 to 8 inches thick. They went back behind this veil, and only the high priest could back in there. He only went back there once a year. When he went back there he would take the blood of others and he would go back there and he had a basin of blood and some weed or hyssop the Bible says. He would take the hyssop and dip it in this basin that he had and he would sprinkle the mercy seat and everything that was in there with blood. Does everybody get that? However, on either end of this box that is probably 3 or 4 feet long, on either end of this mercy seat that was overlaid in gold, there were cherubim's, or angels. One on this end, with their arms stretched over the mercy seat, and one on the other end. They were looking at each other. Their arms were—do you know what they were doing? They were shadowing the mercy seat. Do you know why?

This is where God would come and meet. When they would pray, this is where God the spirit of God would come, and do you know what would happen? The blood would all be licked up, it would be burned up, it would be gone; he would accept the blood offering. However, this is where God came to. This where the presence of God, the shekinah glory of Almighty God would come and meet with the priest inside the most holy place at the altar.

Get this.

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Get this. A Christian, and not only that but Moses or whoever was writing here, he has two places he lives. One of them he says here...

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is my refuge, even* the most High, thy habitation;

The thought is this. It is going to make a difference in this whole lesson here. When we dwell. *Dwell* means that pretty much the same thing as the word abide does. It means that we spend time there. We feel at home there. When we spend time alone and dwell under the shadow of the Almighty, when we spend with communion, time of reading, time of study, time of praying, and spending time with God; His glory comes down and blesses our lives.

Listen. That is a good place to live. That is a good place to dwell. Because it is going to make a difference in my life and in your life. The more time that we spend with God the more fellowship that we have with God, the more communion that we have with God, the better off we are going to be. When all the disasters come, and they are going to come, thank God, we will have help when they come.

Get this.

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Do you have a place? Do you have a place that you go to and spend time with God, commune with God, and talk with God? Do you have a place?

Psalm 91:2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Do you know what he is saying here? He is telling us many many things. He is telling us so many things about what God is to him. When you look down through here—we have a life folks. We have a life and we live a life—a Christian does—that nobody else sees. We live in a way, if we spend time alone with God, then there is a life that nobody else sees. There are things that if you spend time with God alone in your secret place, and you meet with God where God meets at; nobody else sees that. Nobody else knows that. However, God sees and God knows. That is the most important part of my life is spending time with Almighty God. Nobody sees it. nobody else knows anything about it.

Listen. We need to spend time alone with Almighty God.

He mentions his names here. I wish we had time to go through all these different names. It speaks about the most high. It speaks about Almighty. It speaks about the Lord. It speaks about God. These names all mean something different. However, I do not have time to go through all of that tonight. I would encourage you sometime, to look at the different words in Hebrew here. It gives you a totally, and completely different aspect about God and who God is and what God is going to do.

The word *refuge* means shelter. The writer understood that when he met in the secret place he was under the shadow of His wings. He was his refuge. He was his shelter. He was his protection. He safe from all the distress, from all the problems. The word *fortress* means a fortified place and he understood that.

Psalm 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

Do you know what that is? That is a bird catcher. Do you know what they would do? They would take traps and catch birds. They had different things they would do with birds here. However, the thing I want you to think about is this. The enemy sets traps for you and me. Do you know what he does? He plots. He sets traps. He digs holes. If we are not very careful, do you know what happens? We get caught.

Get this. When I am living in His will, when I am living in His will; do you know what He will help us see? He will help us see the pitfalls. He will help us see the holes that the enemy has dug. He will help us see what is hiding behind the trees. He will help us see

what is hanging from the limbs. He will help us see those things when we are living in His will. When we are living and doing what He asks us to do.

Listen. We are not immune from all these things. They are going to come. They are going to come in our path. Do you know what we do not have to do? We do not have to succumb and we will not succumb to these things when we are living in the will of God. Does everybody get that? Do not forget that.

This salvation that we have is not weak. The God we are serving is not dead. Amen! He knows where we are at. He knows where He is taking us to. He also knows that if we will just simply listen to Him and follow Him; He will warn us, He will show us when the enemy is trying to catch us and trap us. God speaks folks.

I say things like that and I get calls and letters that surely you do not think that the God of heaven speaks? Let me tell you something. If I did not believe He does speak and if I did not know He spoke; then do you know what I would do? You would not see me at church anymore. I would be wasting my time. We serve a God that speaks. We have 792,000 words here that He spoke. Also, probably ten billion more that we do not have written down. I do not know how much He spoke but I do know one thing. God speaks. He spoke in every generation. He spoke to Moses. He spoke to David. He spoke to Noah. He spoke to Joshua. Thank God, He is speaking today. When I live and listen, He will warn me of the pitfalls.

Do you know what else He will do? He will speak to us and tell us things that we need to do. amen! He will speak to us and tell us some things that we might dismiss, things that we may not want to do.

I remember somebody coming to me one time, many years ago and said we were having a revival here. Understand what I am going to say; I hope you do. He asked me a question. Why did you get this guy to come and preach...? That person is not here any longer. Because that is who God told me to get. He said something else. I said, well, this guy was not my first pick. I really do not like to hear this guy preach. But, that is not my responsibility. That is God's responsibility.

Do you know what I need to do? When I listen to what God says and I do what God says; do you know what God will do? God will add His blessing on it. We had a great time. This guy did an outstanding job. Sometimes, you have to eat crow. I had it all over me. I had my foot in mouth that far. That is good for us sometimes.

Listen.

Psalm 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

“Noisome pestilence...” I do not know what all of that means. But in the land where they lived at there were all kinds of epidemics. Also, there were all kinds of issues and

problems that they were having. Do you know what we do not have to worry about today?

Get this. Even though there are all kinds of epidemics going on everywhere, even though there are all kinds of disease going on everywhere today; if I am living in the will of God, I do not have to worry about one of these diseases I may be in contact or contract or get to take me out of this life prematurely. Does everybody understand what I am saying? I am not going to say I am not going to get it. amen! If you will live in the will of God, you will be here until your work is done. You will be here that long. You will be here until your work is done.

I am going to tell you this too. Do you think a Christian...can hasten their time on earth? I do. Do you know why? Because I have known people, good people that got to the place in life that they did not want to do anything. They absolutely did not want to do anything. It was not that they could not. It was not that they did not have the help. It was not that they did not have the ability. They just did not want to do anything.

Let me ask you a question. If you get that way, and you are a child of God, and you get to the place that you do not want to do anything; then what is our purpose? I have seen that many times over the years. Again, there is so much I do not know but I do know this. Listen. We had better live in the will of God. Living in the will of God is a very important part of our life. These things that the writer was saying...

Psalm 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:  
his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Do you know what that means? If you read in the book, do you know what Jesus talked about? He talked about how a hen would gather her chicks under her wings. Do you remember reading that story? Do you know what that meant? That meant protecting. She would protect her chicks.

Do you know what God will do for us? He will protect us. It does not matter what comes our way, He will cover us. We will be under His wings.

Psalm 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:  
his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Do you know what that means? The Word of God will be my protector and a place where I can dwell. I can be there safely. I can be there safely. These things are not going to kill us. We may get them, but we are not going to leave this earth prematurely if we will live in the will of God.

Listen. I know sometimes we do not want to hear that but it is true. It is true. Living in the will of God is an important thing.

Psalm 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

Do you know what? There are all kinds of evil that goes on of the night. Wickedness goes on of the night, immorality runs rampant of the night, in the darkness. Amen! It really does. Aren't you glad we do not have to be afraid of that? Truth! Aren't you glad we do not have to be afraid of that? A child of God, living in the will of God, is not going to be loafing in some of these places where the immoral stuff goes on. amen! It is not going to happen, if you are living in the will of God. A lot of church people loaf in some of these places and does some of that stuff—I am not talking about people living in the will of God.

Psalm 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

Psalm 91:6 *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.

Basically, what it says is that we do not have to be afraid of anything, when we are walking in the will of God, when we are walking in His ways, when we are walking...when we know that we are living in the will of God.

When we go to our secret place and we know that He meets us there... When the high priest would go in there and the glory of God would come down; do you know what you could never convince him when he went out? You could not have convinced him that God had not shown up. When you and I have a secret place that we go to and we pray, seek the face of God, spend time in fellowship with Almighty God—do you know what we know? You could not convince a Christian when we have a prayer life, a dedicated, consecrated prayer life that when we get to that place that God does not show up. Amen! That is the great thing about living in the will of God. That is the great thing about living right, doing right, and being right is that we have so many benefits, as Christian people, when we live in the will of God.

We do not have to be afraid of pestilence. We do not have to be afraid of the night. We do not have to be afraid of all the traps that the enemy lays for us. We do not have to be afraid of none of those things when we are living in the will of God.

Psalm 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.

Psalm 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Do you know what I thought of today, when I read that? He said a thousand is going to fall, then thousand is going to fall but not any of them will be killed close to you. He says...

Psalm 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Do you know what that means? Did you ever think about what went on in Egypt? The death of the firstborn. That went on throughout the whole land but it did not touch the children of Israel. When they got to the Red Sea and God gave them victory across the

Red Sea; Israel got on the other side and do you know what they saw? The waters came together and it destroyed the Egyptian army. It did not touch them. However, they saw the reward of the wicked. With their eyes they saw the reward of the wicked. Are you glad that we serve a God that will take care of us? Are you glad that we serve a God that loves us and cares about us and He will keep us safe if we just live in His will, walk in His ways, and do what He asks us to do? That is all we have to do.

It is not something that is hard. It is not something that you cannot do. Not at all. Simply walking in His ways. When we do that God will take care of us. God will protect us.

Again, I do not know when we are going to die. I do not know why young people die and old people do not. I do not understand all of that. However, I do know this. If we will live in the will of God, we will not die prematurely. We will be here until our work is over. When our work is over, it does not matter whether I am sick or not; do you know what is going to happen? I am out of here and you are too. Amen!

Are you glad that God has a plan and He knows exactly what He is doing?

Come and pray—