

What are the vital aspects of being in a place of rest in Christ?

From Psalm 91 are 10 items that you find in that secret place in Christ:

Psalm 91 is a prayer and song of Moses, V1, abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. Also seen in Ps. 27:5, 31:20, 32:7, this prayer of Moses can also be for protection from the Lord.

- 1) **Cultivate a Habit of Trust:** V2 & 5-6, Moses recalls his trust in Yahweh, in **V3-4**, Moses tells the people of God's promises that God gave in Deut. 28. Trust and fearlessness go together, **V5-6**, you shall not be afraid...by night or by day. V6, Pestilence is a judgement by God on the unfaithful (Deut. 28: 21-22, 27, 59-61). **V7**, God is faithful to His people.
 - a. What does it mean? Humble submission to the Lord. Not being a rebel. Stopping thoughts, words, and actions done in panic.
- 2) **Consuming a Rich Diet of Truth:** V3-4, His truth is a shield and buckler. Yahweh is a refuge and fortress, a shade, and a shield, getting within and behind His covering is key.
 - a. Deut. 6:6-9: The Law of God is on our hearts and we are to continue in them and teach them diligently to our children.
- 3) **A Deep-Seated Belief in the Sovereignty of God:** V8-10, Moses tells them they will see the reward of the wicked, but as in Deut. 8, the faithful one to God has heaven awaiting them, the wicked have judgement. God brings to pass what He has determined, Lam. 3:37-38, Is. 46:10.
 - a. All that God has determined will come to pass.
 - b. Restoration is coming for Israel but in the consummation of that plan, certainly the small things of life will be completed, God's sovereignty is all encompassing.
- 4) **A Constant Expectation of Intervention:** V11-13, God is always working in our lives. His angels are ministering spirits to God's people, Heb. 1:14.
 - a. See the kindness of God throughout our day as He works in us in the small things.
- 5) **A Settled Assurance of Salvation:** V14-16, the faithful to God will inherit the promises of God: V15, they know His name. V15, He will deliver them. V15, He will honor or give glory to them. V16, satisfy in long life and eventually eternal life. John 10:27-30 declares Christ's eternal grip on the believer, no one can snatch them from His hands.
 - a. 1 John 5:13, we know His truth and believe His word and that we have eternal life.
 - b. Rom. 5:9-10, saved from the wrath of God. V10, saved by His life.
 - c. Rom. 8:31-39, nothing can separate us from the love of God.
 - d. 1 John 4:13, Rom. 8:9, 11, 1 Cor. 2:12, 14, 16, we have His Holy Spirit within us.
 - e. We must grow in the knowledge of God's word and practice and keep His commands and follow Christ's example.
- 6) **Determined Progression of Holiness:** 2 Pet. 1:4-11, we are to progress toward increasing holiness. V4, His divine nature is holiness, V10, being diligent in these things keeps us from stumbling.
 - a. This is being focused on the things that we know are sins in our lives and creating a plan and a response to those areas of pride, anxiety, and weakness in our lives.
- 7) **A Comprehensive Battle in Prayer:** Eph. 6:18-20, 1 Thess. 5:17, praying always with all supplication in spirit.
 - a. Learning to leave all my burdens with the Lord.
 - i. Christ's example of prayer in Luke 22:39-46, praying earnestly.

- 8) **A Useful Life to the Kingdom:** Phil. 1:29, a blessing to be granted the privilege of believing AND suffering for Christ. 1 Pet. 4:10, serving one another as stewards of the manifold grace of God. 2 Cor. 11:22-33, Paul's suffering for the work of Christ. The church in Smyrna told of coming suffering and to be faithful to endure, Rev. 2:8-11.
 - a. Epaphroditus, Phil. 2:25-28, demonstrates a life lived for the work of Christ in much suffering.
- 9) **A Natural Desire to Sing:** Eph. 5:19-20, Col. 3:16, the Psalms, the life of a believer is one that sings about God's goodness and rehearses the truths of God in song. Ps. 92:1-2.
- 10) **Submission to Unresolved Dilemma:** Job 19:25-26, as Job looked ahead to His coming Redeemer and His Savior standing as King over all the earth. Job knowing his eventual resurrection and sure footing in God.
 - a. David was confident he would see his son again who died but cried and wept over Absalom and the truth of God's justice in all things in life. David's theology was firm that God would be just to the son who died and also to Absalom who did not know Yahweh.

Further Discussion and Application

Growing in the truth of God and knowing His word makes one wise. Look at Psalm 19. What are the blessings of knowing the Law of the Lord and learning His Word?

What assurance do we have in God's Word that He will keep His promises? How has God been faithful to us? How is Christ the greatest demonstration of His love for us? Who stands or sits in a place higher than Yahweh? Why can we be so certain of His ability to keep all His promises to us?

2 Peter 1:4-11 provides a pattern for us to follow to grow in Christlikeness. Holiness is a divine attribute, possessed by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can the pursuit of holiness be the means to bring glory to God in all that we do? How can we commit our lives to living holy and growing in holiness? V10 gives us a promise of never stumbling if we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. What is the result of a life lived pursuing holiness and growth in knowledge of Christ (V11)? How precious is that?