

# God Is Our Refuge

*by Bryan Gibson*

Here's a sampling of the many passages that offer this assurance. "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." (Deut. 33:27). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalms 46:1). "...for my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by" (Psalms 57:1). "...and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler" (Psa. 91:4). "In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge" (Prov. 14:26).

Specifically, this "place of refuge" is found in our relationship to God through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:17-20), a relationship formed and maintained by faithful obedience (Matthew 7:24-27; 1 John 2:3-6).

This relationship offers a refuge from many harmful things, but especially from sin and its consequences—both in this life and in the life to come. What follows is just a partial list.

God is our refuge...

**From substance abuse**—by teaching us not to be brought under the control of anything (1 Corinthians 6:12), and by offering us far better ways to cope with the problems of this life.

**From sexual immorality** and all its consequences—by teaching us the sanctity of marriage (Hebrews 13:4); and by showing us that sexual relations outside this bond of marriage are sinful (1 Corinthians 6:13-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

**From the perils of greed**—by warning us about the love of money, by revealing its many temptations and snares, and by giving us a better set of priorities (see 1 Timothy 6:9-11).

**From the fear of failure**—by completely redefining prosperity and success (Matthew 20:26; 3 John 1:2).

**From the rebellious spirit that clashes with authority**—by replacing it with an attitude of submission to authority (1 Peter 2:13-3:12).

**From the despair that comes from being unloved**—by assuring us of His great love for us (Romans 8:35-39), and by surrounding us with brethren who would lay down their lives for us (1 John 3:16-18).

**From the crippling effects of anxiety**—by giving us the perfect prescription for the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:6-9).

**From the self-serving attitude that destroys so many relationships**—by teaching us to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23), to esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:1-8).

**From other poisonous attitudes like wrath, bitterness and envy**—by replacing them with attitudes like self-control, gratitude, kindness, and tenderheartedness (Ephesians 4:31-32; James 3:13-18).

**From the heartaches of this life**—not by removing them, but by giving us sufficient grace to cope with them (2 Corinthians 12:9), and by promising something far better in the life to come (Revelation 21:4).

**From the shackles of denominationalism**—by teaching us a way that we can simply be Christians, serving Christ and Him alone, free from associations, conventions, or any other organization of churches beyond the local church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

**From the condemnation of sin**—by assuring His children that if we repent and confess our wrongs, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all righteousness” (1 John 1:9).

**From the fear of death** (Hebrews 2:14-15)—by promising us that if we live and believe in Him, we will live again, that we will in fact live forever with Him (John 11:23-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

*“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust’”*  
(Psalms 91:2).