



Winter

RESTING IN GOD'S CHARACTER

Running behind and running on empty—sometimes we find our sense of hope trampled on the hardened earth of a winter season in our lives. God calls us to lay down our frantic striving and fears to discover what might be in store for us as we wait, trust, weep, and rest.

Jesus' character—as our refuge, as trustworthy, as sufficient, as ever-present, as wise, as merciful, as in control, and as sovereign Lord—breaks through the harsh cold of the season as He steps in to carry our burdens, reminding us that true rest comes when we rest in Him.

Rock of
Ages
Cleft me ^{FOR}
LET ME hide
myself ^{IN}
Thee.





DWELL

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*

PSALM 91:1-2

Not one corner of my home feels picked up or organized lately. With six young boys at home, we are currently blessed with more mess-makers than housekeepers, and the daily struggle is real.

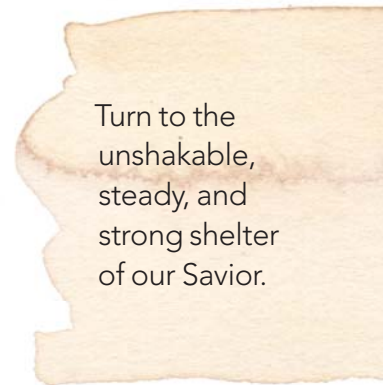
Those of us who spend our days caring for our homes and our people understand the perpetualness of it all. Sure, I'm doing the next thing, learning to be more efficient, training my kids, and setting my mind on the fact that I get to serve my family. But as I press on with the things I know to do, the mundane routine of the everyday continues much like a one-year-old learning to feed himself: Some spoonfuls make it into the mouth; some just make a mess. Any notion I have of finding comfort and satisfaction in the perfection of my surroundings has simply shown itself for what it is: an idol of the heart that can neither sustain nor deliver.

A tidy home (and sometimes a calm and quiet environment) has often been my comfort—my shelter in the midst of crazy-messy seasons. It was never meant to be.

So now I find myself meditating on Psalm 91:1-2:



REST IN
GOD OUR
REFUGE



Turn to the
unshakable,
steady, and
strong shelter
of our Savior.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

OUR TRUE HOME

The shelter the psalmist speaks of isn't made of wood or stone, yet it covers and rescues us from the prevailing winds and storms of life. When the psalmist took refuge in God the Father, he gave words to what had not yet been revealed through Jesus the Son. Hundreds of years later on a cross of wood, Christ fulfilled the covenant God made with His people—to redeem them from the crushing penalty of sin and offer Himself as the Rock and Refuge we can dwell with *and dwell in*.

Are you putting your trust and your worth in your surroundings? Do you struggle to be happy when your environment is not the way you want it to be? Have you found yourself sheltered under the wrong source of refuge? Friend, I know I have.

Brick and mortar, pillows and throws, swept floors and quiet children...our physical environment was never intended to be our true refuge. Turn instead to the unshakable, steady, and strong shelter of our Savior: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). *There we abide; there we dwell; there we find rest.*

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock
(Isaiah 26:4).

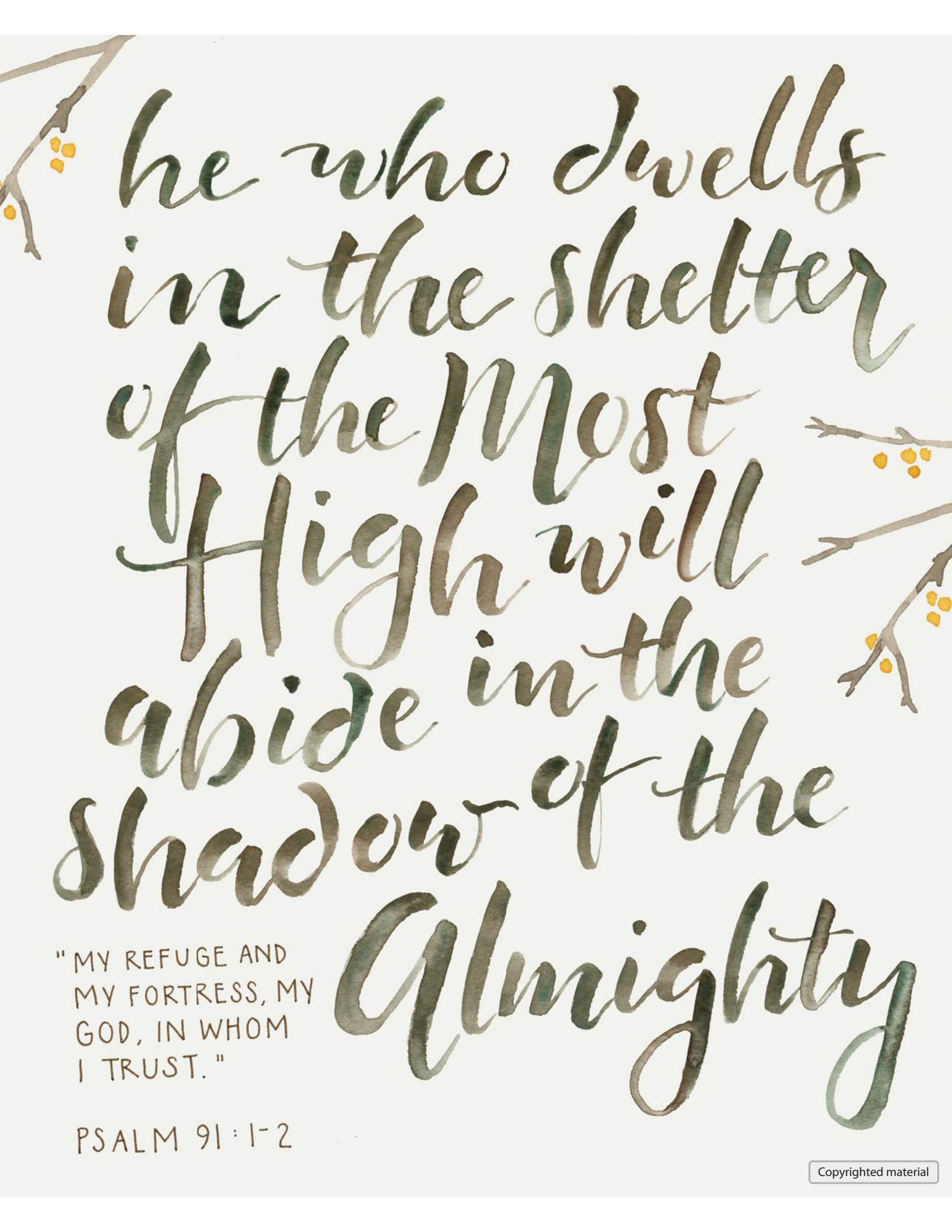
DELVE DEEPER

Exodus 33:14
Psalm 27:5
Psalm 62:7-8

RESPOND

What are the
false shelters in
your life?

_____ is not my shelter.
_____ is not my shelter.
_____ is not my shelter.



He who dwells
in the shelter
of the Most
High will
abide in the
shadow of the
Almighty

"MY REFUGE AND
MY FORTRESS, MY
GOD, IN WHOM
I TRUST."

PSALM 91:1-2





