

Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’ Surely, he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.” . . . “If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Psalm 91:1-6; 9-12

“Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? Only the Shadow knows.” Perhaps you recall hearing those familiar words in days of yesteryear. The Shadow is a fictional character created to entertain via radio and television. However, we Christians do know “beyond the shadow of a doubt” who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men. God Almighty knows the thoughts of every person on earth all the time.

The word “shadow” is an interesting word. It can be used as a noun, a verb, and even an adjective. As a noun, it can be a very innocent word as a child observes that his shadow moves with him. A shadow can have the very positive meaning of representing a person who helps a child or a dependent adult. A negative meaning is that of a person who is stalking someone with the intent of doing harm to that person.

As a verb, “shadow” can mean “to overspread with shade” or “to cast gloom over; cloud.” When shadow is used as an adjective, it might be “a shadow cabinet” or, in a negative way, “a shadow government.”

In Scripture, “shadow” has various meanings. Besides the text listed above, here are other Bible references that use “shadow” in very positive ways.

Psalm 17:8 *“Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.”*

Psalm 23:4 *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, (That reference is scary!) I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*

Psalm 36:7 *“How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.”*

Hebrews 8:5 *“They [High priests] serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.”*

Sometimes our worries about our health, our finances, our family members (children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, and other relatives), our neighbors, our dwelling, our vehicle, our job, and possibly other concerns weigh heavily upon us. When we feel overwhelmed by anxiety and stress, we need to remember what the hymn writer said—“Take it to the Lord in prayer.” God is with us and for us every step of the way, no matter how difficult the path we are *walking*. “He (and She) who believes and is baptized will be saved.” God wants us to know that **beyond the shadow of a doubt!**

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, please instill in me the confidence that You are with me always, no matter what I face in life. Please replace my doubt with unshakable faith. In Your name I pray. Amen.*

~ Jim Essig | Assistant to the Pastors

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