MIGHTY MOMENT

Series: Best of the Best
Episode #1
"Divine Protection and Guidance"
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INTRODUCTION (1:03)

"Divine Protection and Guidance."

In this episode of Mighty Moment we begin a 30-day journey looking at the best of the best the Bible has to offer, my favorite scripture passages that inspire, give hope and encourage a believer's heart. These are my personal favorite 88 passages, my top 101 verses of the Bible. We'll look at around three passages an episode. These are scriptures that you will want to mark down and try and memorize. The total list of verses is not in any particular order, but the pairings of the three we'll look at in each episode will try to follow a theme. Contact Mighty Moment if you'd like a copy of my best of the best list.

As believers, we often face situations that test our faith and courage. However, God has not left us alone to navigate life's challenges by ourself. He has provided us with powerful promises of His protection and guidance. In this episode we'll explore three key passages that remind us of God's unfailing presence and support in our lives. Today we will look at the first three verses of my top 101 favorite Bible verses in Scripture Psalm 91:11, Deuteronomy 31:8, and Joshua 1:9. The theme for today's episode is "Divine Protection and Guidance".

#1. PSALM 91:11 (2:32)

Our first verse in our top 101 Bible verses is <u>Psalm 91:11</u>. By the way, <u>Psalm 91</u> in its entirety is a great read, so take some time to look at the whole chapter when you can.

Reading from the <u>New King James Version</u>, <u>Psalm 91:11</u> says: " *"For He shall give his angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways"*

and in the Living Bible:

"for He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go."

And when we do a word study into the original language, Hebrew, it implies that God actively instructs His angels to watch over us. This carries a sense of protecting and watching over and preserving. That's intimate and personal. God personally knows you and me and all about us. He directs, in fact the Bible says, commands His angels to serve us and to be with us. How important must we be to God that we have a personal security detail?

God knows all and sees all. Now, to some people this might freak them out, but to me it's reassuring that God is so connected with me, so in tune with me, that He is there when I need Him... at the moment I need Him. In fact, before I need Him. He understands what I'm doing, what I'm going to do, where I am, at all times. I certainly have a protector that is connected with my life and He's the all-powerful, so who better to be our bodyguard?

How fun must the conversation be in heaven when we get there and talk to our angel about all the things that they've protected us from. I bet they've protected us from a lot of things we didn't even know we were in danger. I remember this picture that hung in a church as a kid, of two little children crossing a bridge and the water raging underneath, and the bridge is rickety and dangerous and the angel guides them across. That's the vision I'm getting here that God is protecting us by assigning us angels.

God is protecting us by assigning us angels. The Bible uses the illustration that God is like a mother hen protecting her brood. There are miracles that happen every day, some that we see and are unexplained, and others that we don't see, but there's a spiritual warfare that is raging behind the scenes and we have a personal protector, an angel assigned to us. To recognize that we're never alone... God's presence is with us, but also that we have angels always watching over us and as Christians, to trust in God's protection even when you can't see it, to live boldly, knowing that you have heavenly guardians. Thank God daily for His protective care through His angels.

<u>Psalm 91:11</u> is a keeper and a great way to start our list of the best of the best. It assures us of God's active protection through His angels. This divine guardianship covers all aspects of our lives, giving us confidence to face each day with faith and courage.

#2. DEUTERONOMY 31:8 (5:50)

Our second verse, <u>Deuteronomy 31, verse 8</u>, reading in the <u>New King James</u> Version:

"and the Lord, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Do not fear nor be dismayed."

And reading the same verse in the Message version:

"God is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry."

When we do a word study into the original language, Hebrew, for this verse, we find that "goes before" means to walk or to go, but it portrays God as actively leading the way. "To be with" signifies the existence and His presence. The phrase "not leave you nor forsake you" emphasizes God's commitment to never abandon his people.

God does not want us to be afraid or fearful or discouraged or dismayed in this life, because He Himself, the Lord, God Almighty, is with us. The All-Powerful is with us and He has promised to not leave us nor forsake us. Those are actually two different things. "To leave" is about physical proximity, and he has promised to remain with us. "To forsake" is about status, and God has claimed us as his sons and daughters, and He's not going to shun us or change that status.

When I was a younger man, I climbed an active volcano in Chile, in South America. It was advised to not do it on your own but to hire a skilled mountain climber guide. That's because there were obstacles and dangers that you could not see. Underneath the snow and the ice were deep crevices that if you fell into you would fall to your death. This is how I see God leading us through life... always ahead, always present, never abandoning us, knowing the dangers even when we don't see them.

God is like the unwavering <u>north star</u> constant and reliable for navigation. God's presence remains steadfast in our lives, guiding us through the darkest nights.

The application for the Christian for this verse is to trust that God is always one step ahead of us in our life situations, to find comfort in God's constant presence, especially during difficult and when we face challenges. We can do so with confidence, knowing God will never abandon us. Let go of fear and discouragement and rely on God's promise to be with you.

<u>Deuteronomy 31:8</u> offers a powerful assurance of God's leadership and constant presence in our lives. It encourages us to face life without fear, knowing that God goes before us and will never leave us.

#3. JOSHUA 1:9 (9:08)

Our last verse for this episode is one of my favorite verses of all time <u>Joshua 1:9</u>. Reading from the <u>New King James Version</u> it says:

"Have I not commanded you? It says have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go."

And in the Message Version, it says:

"Haven't I commanded you? Strength, courage, don't be timid, don't get discouraged. Courage, don't be timid, don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take."

When we do our word study into the original Hebrew for this verse, we see that the phrase "the Lord, your God, is with you" uses Jehovah Elohim, emphasizing God's covenant relationship with His people.

When I look at this verse, I see that God is reminding us. It starts "haven't I already told you this" like a dad reminding his child, and He wants us to understand that He is with us. We are strong, not in our own strength, but in God's strength. We are courageous, not in our own wisdom, but in God's strength. We are courageous, not in our own wisdom, but armed with God's Spirit. God is emphasizing that He is with us. He is the Almighty. He is on our side. What can we fear if God is for us? What can man do to me?

Consider the mighty <u>sequoia</u> tree standing tall and unshaken through centuries of storms and challenges. Our faith needs to be rooted in God's presence so it can give us a similar strength and resilience in the midst of storms.

When I think of the command in the verse to be strong and courageous, I think of the young girl Malala Yousafzai. You may have read her book: I Am Malala. She survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban, but she continued to advocate for education for women with remarkable courage. Her strength in the face of adversity reflects the kind of courage God calls us to have.

I see several Christian application points for this scripture. Firstly, embrace God's command to be strong and courageous in all situations. Replace fear and discouragement with trust in God's presence. Step out in faith, knowing that God is with you in every endeavor. Regularly remind yourself of God's promise to be with you always.

<u>Joshua 1.9</u> is a powerful call to courage and strength, rooted in the assurance of God's constant presence. It challenges us to live boldly free from fear and discouragement, because we are never alone.

CONCLUSION (12:00)

In conclusion, as we reflect on these three powerful scriptures, we see a beautiful tapestry of God's love, protection and guidance in our lives. From the angelic protection promised in Psalm 91:11 to the assurance of God's leading and presence in Deuteronomy 31:8 and the call to courage in Joshua 1:9. We are reminded of the comprehensive care God provides for His children. These verses intertwine to create a strong foundation for our faith. They assure us that we are never alone, never unprotected and never without divine guidance as we face the challenges of life. Let us hold fast to these promises, drawing strength and courage from the knowledge that the Creator of the universe is intimately involved in our lives, guiding our steps and surrounding us with His protection.

PREVIEW OF NEXT EPISODE (13:00)

Friends, in our next episode we will continue our look at the "Best of the Best" Bible Scripture passages by looking at numbers #4, #5 & #6 in my top 101 Bible verses. We'll look at 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:37, and Isaiah 54:17. The title of the next episode is Overcoming Adversity. I hope you've enjoyed our time together and I pray you have a mighty moment with God today. Be blessed.