



**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

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The 90th Psalm has been one of my favorites ever since I first read its subtitle, "A prayer of Moses, the man of God." It's amazing to me that we get to eavesdrop on the prayer of the man who spoke to God "face to face, as one speaks to a friend." (Exodus 33:11)

Aside from that, though, it's just a beautiful piece of poetry.

I often advise people just to read the Bible and let the words wash over them – not even concentrating on the meaning but only on the sheer beauty of the language. Now, this technique is not a substitute for Bible study, but it is a critical tool for Bible appreciation; – walking and talking with the Bible and getting to know it, if you will, face to face, as one would get to know a friend. Think about it: The more time you spend with a friend, the better you know him, and, as you really become close, you start to know how your friend will respond in a given situation. Ultimately, you find that you even think alike. Wouldn't it be amazing to get so close to the God's Word that you start to think and act just like him?



But back to Psalm 90. Recently, when I read it, got stuck on the first sentence: *LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.*

Can you grasp the magnitude of what Moses is praying? Throughout all of Israel's history, God has been their sole, true home. When Abraham obeyed God and left the comfort of his father's house to settle in a land he did not know, *God was his home!* When Jacob fled Esau's murderous wrath and ended up sleeping in a desert, surrounded by wild animals, with a rock as his pillow, *God was his home!* When Joseph was sold into slavery, and, later, thrown into prison, *God was his home!* Across the centuries that Israel lived in Egypt, slaves of a foreign nation with its foreign gods, *God was their home!* And, when Moses, the author of this prayer, fled from Pharaoh and settled in Midian as a self-proclaimed foreigner in a foreign land, his true dwelling place was God.

As we go through trials in this life, we are not wrong to look take comfort in the Blessed Hope of eternal life with God's. Let us also remember, though, that, whatever our circumstances, *God is our dwelling place, right here and now.* In him are all the comforts and security of home.

Truly, my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. (...) My hope comes from him.
(Psalm 62:1,5)

Thanks for Praying!

You're praying and God's moving! Thank you so much! Please keep up the pressure and join us as we pray for:

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- our remaining summer outreach ministries, including the upcoming Performing Arts Camp, and
- our preparation for fall ministries, in both the church and the academy.



Please continue to pray with us for our upcoming Performing Arts Camp!

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

Is there anybody reading this? Drop us a note to let us know you're out there!

✉	PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
🌐	17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
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💻	Welcome@ResLife.AG

* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

Did you know?

Every weekday this summer, children from our community in Tioga/Nicetown have joined us for a free lunch, a Bible story, and fun Bible-focused activities during our Bible Power Hour! Our school staff, along with volunteers from the church, enjoy getting to know the children and their adult family members!

"Children are a heritage from the Lord!" (Psalm 127:3)



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