



*Pastor David Koch*

## PSALM 91

*July 19, 2009*

### **Introduction:**

Last Sunday we talked about **Psalm 91:14** - where God says that he will deliver or rescue those who love him and protect those who love Him. Today we are looking at **Psalm 91:15** - the part that promises God will answer us when we call on Him. **Psalm 91:15 - When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them.**

### **I. When they call, I will answer .**

The word 'call' here actually means to accost. It means to address by name. When you call for someone, you believe that they have something that will be helpful to you, something you need, something they offer. If you ever had the experience of calling the name of your mom or dad, your spouse, your neighbor, your friend and they responded to your call, you know what God is saying here.

In our church office we get all kinds of calls. Some come from sales people, some are calls for information like the phone number for a certain family, calls for prayer, calls for

financial help, calls for people to come and speak, calls for counseling, calls for help to solve hot water problems. Mary will occasionally get recorded calls like, "We can help you so you don't have to pay your Visa card annual fee." "You've won a free trip to an island." "Your home mortgage can be adjusted."

When I say call, probably many of you think of the call that goes out to 911 when one is in need. There are different kinds of calls that people make. There is the call because the caller is lonely and just needs to talk; just needs the comfort and companionship of someone who cares. There is the call of trouble and distress.

The caller is in trouble and needs help to get through this trouble.

There is the call of love. When Julie and I were dating, we lived about 25 miles apart and we would not see each other often, but we talked a lot on the phone. Many times I called just to hear her voice. I wanted to connect and since it was not possible to be with her in person, it was possible to talk to her on the phone.

Humanly, we don't always respond to every call. I would bet that there are some who sit here this morning who have caller ID and if you see the call is from someone you don't recognize, you don't take the call. One of the rudest things that any human being can do to anyone else is to ignore them and not respond to them when they call out. There are folks who do that to others, but God will never do that to those who call on Him. From our scripture text, I get the idea that God is responsive to answer every call that comes to Him. He may not answer the way we hoped, or the way we think He should, or in the time frame we think He ought to, but He will answer you in the way that is best for you and will be in line with His will.

I am reminded of the dire situation when the disciples were out on the lake at night and Jesus came walking to them on the water. Somehow, Peter gets the courage to say, "If it truly is you Lord Jesus, then call me to you." Jesus responded, "COME." Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water and started to walk toward Jesus. Suddenly he realized where he was and that the winds and water were all around him and he took his eyes off the Lord and started to sink. **Matthew 14:30-31- But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed him. "You don't have much faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"** All Peter had to do was to call out to the Lord and Jesus reached out his hand and saved

Peter. Jesus' response to Peter's cry was immediate and Jesus did what was necessary to save Peter. They got into the boat and immediately the wind stopped and they safely arrived at the other side of the lake.

Once you have your eyes on Jesus, stay focused. Don't start looking around you, don't lose your focus and don't let your attention drift. No matter what happens around you, keep your eyes on Christ. Wherever you are, whatever the circumstances, when you call out to the Lord, He will respond and answer you.

Don't tell me that God doesn't respond when His people cry out to Him. There is another account where God's people were in a really difficult situation. This is the account of the Exodus and the Pharaoh and the Egyptians had decided they were going to chase the Children of Israel into the sea and that would be the end of them. **Exodus 14:10 - As Pharaoh and his army approached, the people of Israel could see them in the distance, marching toward them. The people began to panic, and they cried out to the LORD for help.** If you read on the next several verses, you see how God responded to their prayer or cry for help. He came and put a pillar of fire between His people and the Egyptians. To the Egyptians it was darkness; to the people of Israel, it was light. At the same time He caused the waters to part and a wind to dry up the river bed so his people had a place to walk across safely.

God responded to their cry. There is nothing that God will not do when His people cry out to Him. When God says, "I will", He will do what it takes to accomplish whatever it is He says He will do. It will happen. Our faith should be strengthened by this truth. Don't doubt; believe and trust Him. "I will answer"—the word 'answer' means to give attention to or respond to. There should not be any doubt that the answer begins when the call goes out to the Lord. We initiate God's response when we call

on His Name. He responds not because of our holiness or our righteousness, but because He recognizes who belongs to Him and He is ready to respond to our call.

How do we call out to God? We should do so with faith – that He will hear us. We should do so with confidence – that He will respond. We should do so with assurance – that our call will be answered.

Calling out to God involves prayer. I am not talking about some mysterious spiritual experience. Praying is simply talking to God, seeking for His closeness, His favor, His intervention and His comfort or provision. On God's end, prayer is talking with and to us and having fellowship. Think of it as a conversation between friends. Since God created Adam and Eve, He has sought to have fellowship and talk with His creation.

Here are a few scriptures where God makes clear His response to those who call on Him. "I will listen when you call, I will hear you when you pray, and I will answer you when you call to me". These words are powerful assurance, definite unmovable truth that we get through to God when we call on Him.

- **Jeremiah 29:12-13** In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me.
- **Jeremiah 29:12** Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

### Conclusion:

It is impossible to read our text in **Psalm 91** and not grasp the thought that God will respond to the calls of His people. This week I challenge you to call on His Name. Remember that when you do so, you initiate a response from Almighty God and He promises He will answer.

- **Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me and I will answer you. I will tell you great and mysterious things that you do not know.

Not only do we have the joy of praying and calling on His name, but we have the ability to tell other people this same truth. There are people around us who wonder if there is a God. If God exists, does He hear me when I talk to Him? If He does, then will He answer or respond to the questions I have, or the confusion I'm facing, or the direction I need, or the provision I seek for?

We can assure them that if they call on the Name of the Lord, they will find salvation. These verses in Romans indicate that we initiate the response of God when we call out to Him. If people don't call on Him God does not save them automatically. Either people don't think they need salvation or people don't have faith to believe in Him.

Some people still have never heard the gospel. Hearing the gospel brings people to a point of dealing with truth. They must accept or reject the claims of Christ on their life. We must tell them so they have the knowledge to make a decision. We must encourage them with our experience of calling on the Name of the Lord and finding His salvation. **Romans 10:13-14** - For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

We are going to have an anointing time this morning. Let this time be a time when you call on the Name of Jesus. **James 5:14-16** - **Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15**And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. **16**Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.