

LIVING A PRESERVED

SESSION 04
WITH MARK & AUDRA WARREN

*Jesus will keep us, He will
preserve us, we just need to ask
for the equipping to overcome.*

D LIFE

SOMETIMES IT IS JUST PLAIN HARD GETTING THROUGH THE DAY, LET ALONE SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING LIFE. BUT JESUS, WHO HAS GREAT THINGS FOR YOU, IS ABLE TO PRESERVE YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE. THIS SESSION WILL HELP YOU BUILD CONFIDENCE THAT “IT IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT” AND JESUS IS WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

“Audra is going to be sharing with us about preserving, how to make raspberry preserves and how it applies to living preserved. Audra and I live on a homestead property with a farmhouse that has fruit trees, berry bushes and such, and so

we thought, what better way to explain how to live a preserved life, than to share about preserving fruit.”

- Mark Warren

“I love canning because there’s a short period of time in which you can gather the fruit but when you can it, you’re preserving it for as long as you want. It’s such an easy thing to make because you only need the fruit you want to preserve, sugar and lemon juice. The best part about preserving is that you get to share your end product with others.”

- Audra Warren

To try the raspberry preserve recipe, visit:
livingsozo.org/resources_

As we've been going through this series, we've been discovering that the word **saved** has many facets and different dimensions. This session we'll be learning about salvation in the context of being preserved.

"And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved (sozo)." Mark 13:13 ESV

It may not be the most encouraging scripture, knowing that we will be hated for Jesus' name, but we can be confident that He will help us endure to the end.

Jesus wants to **preserve** us so we can **finish** strong, all the way to the end of our life. It's not just making a decision to be saved, but it's about living saved. God does not just save us one time, but continually saves us throughout our lives. He wants to preserve us.

We need to understand that we have an **enemy**, Satan, who wants to **destroy** us and separate us from God. When we are separated from God we are vulnerable, so we need to get back to Him and remain under His covering so that He can preserve us. We were made to be **conquerors** in this life, where **victory**, not defeat,

is ours. God has made us to be not just conquerors, but to be more than conquerors. When Jesus rose from the grave, He gave us the **power** to **overcome**.

We don't have the power in ourselves, but Jesus, who is in us, gave us the power to overcome.

We are preserved when we remain connected to **Jesus** and His **Word**. But we have to make an effort to stay connected. We can stay connected to Jesus through prayer and spending time in His Word.

The other key to staying connected is allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. He's the one who empowers us and can be our guide. We need to ask the **Holy Spirit** to **fill us**.

Our relationship with Jesus grows when we pray and read our Bibles, because when we do we'll find that He wants to keep us, save us, and preserve us to the end.



FILL IN THE BLANK

Jesus wants to _____ us so we can _____ strong, all the way to the end of our life.

(2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Corinthians 9:23-25)

We need to understand that we have an _____, Satan, who wants to _____ us and separate us from God. *(1 Peter 5:8)*

We were made to be _____ in this life, where _____, not defeat, is ours. *(Romans 8:37)*

When Jesus rose from the grave, He gave us the _____ to _____.

(Revelation 12:11)

We are preserved when we remain connected to _____ and to His _____. *(John 15:6)*

We need to ask the _____ to _____ us. *(John 16:13)*



ROBBERS

The statements below are designed to help you identify the areas of your life the enemy is robbing from you. Take a few moments to reflect on the statements. Circle or highlight the statements that apply to you. If you are doing this study with a group, discuss these false statements or questions.

I can't make it.

It's too hard.

I've already messed up, it's too late for me.

I can't do it.

My flesh is too weak.

*I've messed up too many times,
Jesus should give up on me.*

I don't understand the Bible.

How do I know what is true?

LIVING SOZO

JESUS WILL KEEP YOU, HE WILL PRESERVE YOU. OUR PART IS TO ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EQUIP US TO OVERCOME. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO FILL YOU REGULARLY, READ THE BIBLE DAILY AND BUILD A CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE. THESE PRACTICES HELP US STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS WHO HAS THE POWER TO PRESERVE US.





DAILY DEVOS

On the following devotional pages, we provide scriptures to read and reflect on between sessions—five days worth of reflections to keep God’s Word (the Bible) near your heart. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read a small portion of scripture each day, and reflect and pray through it. You’ll then have a chance to journal your response to what you’ve read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time should begin and end with prayer. Don’t be in a hurry; take enough time to hear God’s direction.

DAY 1: GOD IS MIGHTY TO SAVE

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

Psalms 91:1 ESV

The chorus of the worship song "Mighty to Save" by Hillsong says, "Savior, He can move the mountains, our God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save." The anthem sings of God's greatness and His ability to overcome any obstacle.

In scripture there are many different names for God. Each name reveals a different aspect of His nature. One of the lesser known names is *El Elyon*, meaning "God most high". The name reveals that God is sovereign and above all things, able to overcome any problem we may face. Storms and trials in our lives can make it feel as though time is standing still. The challenges we face can seem like impassable mountains. The fear that accompanies those challenges can be crippling. If you have placed your hope and trust in Jesus, *El Elyon*, God's abiding presence, dwells within you and you in Him.

By faith, believers are able to enter into the secret place of the most High God. It's there that He reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us.

We are never alone. *El Shaddai*, meaning God Almighty, has made His home within us and His presence overshadows us. *Shaddad*, the root word of *Shaddai* means, to destroy. God's very presence is able to defeat and destroy that which seeks to destroy us. "Savior, He can move the mountains! Our God is mighty to save!"

Take the next 15 minutes and allow God to remind you of who He is and confirm that He is where you are. He is God of your circumstances. He will never leave you or forsake you. He is able to save you.

DAY 2: OUR GOD IS A FORTRESS

"I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

Psalm 91:2 ESV

Trials and storms not only make us feel overwhelmed, but can also make us feel isolated.

There may be seasons in your life where you have felt alone and discouraged. Times when you felt like no one understood the pain or emotions that you were feeling. Remember that it is in those seasons that you have the ability to experience the most intimate times with the Lord and the greatest victories.

God, our God is never far! Psalm 91 reminds us that we can have a direct conversation with Him. We can literally, "say to the Lord." Our Lord, Yahweh, the I Am, is ever present and always eager to listen. He is our refuge. The word *refuge* in Hebrew means, "a place of hope and shelter." He is the one to whom we can flee and the one in whom we can confide. He is a stronghold that can never be conquered.

No matter how fierce the attack or strong the enemy, no one and no army can overtake our God. God has never fallen to assault and He is able to shelter us from the battles that we face. By faith we enter into the shelter of the Lord, of *El Shaddai*. In our battle, victory has already been obtained. The enemy was defeated when Jesus died on the cross. We live in victory—the outcome of every battle we face is already decided, and we live in freedom.

Retreat to the Lord. Allow our mighty God to surround you and shelter you from the battle you are facing. Allow Him to remind you that He has saved you from harm.

DAY 3: DELIVERED FROM SNARES

“For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”

Psalm 91:3-4 ESV

The Hebrew word for delivered is *natsal*, meaning “to be saved, delivered, spared, rescued, snatched”. The essence of this word is that one who is mighty snatches away one who is about to suffer harm. For example, imagine that a child was about to unknowingly step out into a busy street to their demise and you lunged forward to pull the child to safety. In the same way that a parent or adult delivers a child, our God delivers us from the deadly snares of the fowler (a professional bird catcher). In the ancient near east, fowler’s would take birds out of their nests to raise them, tame them, and exploit them. They would take the tame birds, seal their eyes shut, and place them in cages in the forest. The trapped birds would cry out for help, attracting other birds of their kind who would be captured or killed with arrows for meat.

Satan knows that he cannot defeat God directly, so he tries to deceive and destroy God’s

people. He locates areas of weakness in our character and accuses us before God. Satan believes he is a master fowler, but really he is a desperate coward. By our own strength and wisdom we would fall prey to his snares. But God delivers us from the snares of Satan through His abiding presence and the truth of His word. His presence is like an eagle that snatches up and surrounds its young with its pinions, shielding them from the arrows of the fowler. His Word is a double-edged sword that is able to dig out the arrows that position lies within our heart and mind. His Word reminds us that it is the faithfulness of Christ, not our own works, and His righteousness, not ours, that keeps us under the wings of our loving God.

Take a moment and praise God for His protection and deliverance. Allow Him to remind you of who you are and who He is. Come up with a few practical ways that you can spend more time renewing your mind with His Word.

DAY 4: FEAR NOT

"You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday."

Psalm 91:5-6 ESV

Fear, apart from the fear of the Lord, can take us captive and leave us incapacitated. It can paralyze or lead us to run out ahead of God. Proverbs 29:25 states that, *"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."*

No matter what is happening in the world around us, whether terrorism, war, disease or destruction, we shall not fear. For our God, El Shaddai, El Elyon, Yahweh, is with us, and no evil will befall us. No plague will come near our tents. He is our Savior, now and for eternity.

Stop and pray; Ask God to remove the spirit of fear from your life. Ask Him to increase your faith—faith in His ability to destroy the works of the enemy. Whatever you are facing, whether disease, trial, or affliction, God is greater and is able to deliver us from the fire without being singed or smelling like smoke (Daniel 3:27).

Ask Him to use the circumstances that have paralyzed you, to shape you into a vessel that can be used by Him for helping others find the God of deliverance.

DAY 5: ON THE OFFENSE

"Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place – the Most High, who is my refuge – no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot."

Psalms 91:9-13 ESV

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As believers, our battle isn't against flesh and blood, but against forces of evil in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 6:12). The fowler is not a person, but Satan and his demons. The arrows are not bullets, but lies of Satan that entice the lost to follow his way of death, destruction, and eternal separation from God.

The life of a Christian is not defense, it is offense. Jesus came *"to destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8), and He has given us the keys to the kingdom to push back the gates of Hell. He is calling us to trample the serpent under our feet. The cross has already defeated Satan, but in his pride he is attempting to defeat God by defeating God's people. Satan's easiest targets are Christians who don't understand their identity and authority in Christ. Many Christians do not understand

that the lowest part of them is over the highest part of the devil, and that they already possess weapons to defeat the enemy of their soul. We have God's word, which is a double-edged sword, a dagger of truth, which is able to remove the arrows of lies from the enemy. God's presence surrounds us on all sides as we engage in spiritual warfare, demolishing the works of the enemy and destroying strongholds. God will save us from harm, His hands will bear us up and prevent us from even stubbing our toe as we tread on serpents.

Take a look at Ephesians 6:10-18. Think about how each of these elements of the armor of God will better prepare you to be on the offense against the enemy when he tries to target you. To keep the elements of the armor of God fresh in your mind, view resources at: livingsozo.org/resources.

