

Near to the Heart of God: The Names of Our Almighty

SERMON SUMMARY

The sermon explores the significance of the names of God and how they reveal His character and nature. The speaker delves into the four names of God mentioned in Psalm 91:1-2 – El Elyon (The Most High), El Shaddai (The Almighty), Jehovah (The Lord), and Elohim (God) – and how understanding these names can bring us closer to the heart of God. The sermon emphasizes the position and privilege of being near to God, highlighting that through Jesus' sacrifice, we are invited to dwell in God's presence and find refuge and strength in Him.

KEY VERSES

Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV) : "Whoever 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.'"

Exodus 3:14 (NIV) : "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Genesis 17:1 (NIV) : "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.'"

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to dwell in the "secret place" of the Most High?
2. How do the names of God (El Elyon, El Shaddai, Jehovah, Elohim) impact your understanding of His character?
3. Can you share a time when you experienced God as your refuge and fortress?
4. How does knowing God as El Shaddai, The Almighty, affect your trust in Him during difficult times?
5. What does the name Jehovah tell us about God's relationship to time and existence?
6. How does Jesus' use of "I AM" in the New Testament connect to the name of God in the Old Testament?
7. In what ways can we practically "walk before" God Almighty, as He instructed Abraham?
8. How can we encourage each other to remain close to the heart of God throughout our daily lives?

LIFE APPLICATION

This week, take time each day to reflect on one of the names of God discussed in the sermon. Consider how that aspect of God's character can influence your daily decisions, interactions, and prayer life. Challenge yourself to trust God more deeply by recalling His names and promises when you face uncertainty or difficulty.