



Some time ago I was waiting on the Lord for a verse for this New Year, and He took me to Psalm 84.11

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly”

As we meditate on this verse we see three things:

- He is a sun and shield
- He will give grace and glory
- He won't withhold any good thing from the righteous

He is a sun and shield – the sun is our source of life. Without the sun we can't sustain life on planet Earth and, without the Son we can't sustain any form of Life. Jesus Himself said: “I am.. the Life” (John 14.6). We're going to need a relationship with the Son in 2025 if we want to sustain life in the days that are ahead. Times are getting darker as we approach the coming of the Lord, but the light from the Son is getting brighter.

He's our shield too; in the natural we use a sunscreen, either creams and lotions or some object like a parasol, to shield us from the effects of the ultraviolet rays. He not only sustains life in us but protects and shields us from the effects of the devil's strategies and schemes against us. This protection comes from having that covenant relationship with Him. If we don't have that then the devil will just ride roughshod over us.

This first part of the verse talks about **relationship** – one that sustains life and gives protection.

He will give grace and glory – this is the theme of the year! Out of that relationship with Him we find that He is the giver of grace. Grace is God's agape love and favour shown to us, even when we don't deserve it. Everything we enjoy in our salvation is because of His great grace; forgiveness, healing, prosperity, peace. We have done nothing of ourselves to warrant any of those; we are saved by grace through our faith in Him, and not by any works (Ephesians 2.8). In 2025 we will have an overflowing measure of grace – His love and favour in every aspect of our daily life with Him.

This verse also says that He will give glory, this is vast and all encompassing. When the glory is manifest, we can't do anything but worship. It is His greatness made tangible, His power displayed, the full weight of His might and presence made known.

In the middle of tough times the early church went to prayer, not to be delivered from the situation but rather that God would continue to work through them, and then this happened..

“and when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness... and with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4.31-33)

So, this next part of the verse talks about His **power and greatness** that stem from our relationship with Him.

Then finally, He will not withhold any good thing – not one good thing will be kept from the upright. God is a giver, it's His nature, we have just come through Christmas where we celebrated this – God gave us Jesus. Everything good thing that we have, or need, comes from Him; spiritual, physical, emotional or material, it all comes from Him. The bottom line of our faith is that God is good and He gives out of His abundant resources. This promise is made to those who walk uprightly and in relationship with Him.

“without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” Hebrews 11.6

He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. The Greek word used here, and translated as rewarder, literally means *‘a bestower of remuneration; one who pays wages; someone who gives and renders over and over again’*

So, the last part of this verse shows us that God is our **provision**. He provides everything we need to sustain our life in 2025.

In 2025 we will have Days of Grace and Glory, where out of our relationship with Him we will see His greatness and power at work, and know His provision. What a day to be alive – alive in 2025!