

You Asked For It...GPS God's Presence System!

Psalms 91:1-16

July 21, 2019

G.P.S.

What does this acronym stand for?

Global Positioning System!

GPS is a satellite navigation system used to determine the ground position of an object. GPS technology was first used by the United States military in the 1960's and expanded into civilian use over the next few decades. Today, GPS receivers are included in many commercial products such as automobiles, smartphones, watches and other similar devices.

There is a GPS location device that I have been introduced since I've begun my backpacking adventures. It is called the G-Spot 3! My backpacking buddy, who provided the coyote experience fear, introduced me to the G-Spot 3. This G-Spot 3 has four functions. It can track the location of the person who is hiking, biking, boating or traveling with it. You can program it to track your location every 2 1/2 minutes up to every 10 minutes.

My wife and I recently met up with a hiker on the AT who was wearing a G-Spot 3 device on the strap of her backpack. I asked her about it. She told me that it helps her sister to keep track where she is on the trail. She mentioned how this brings relief to her sister knowing where she is each day along the trail. She also mentioned the assurance it brought to her hiking alone if she needed help or medical assistance.

Another function of the G-Spot 3 is that you can send a pre-programmed message to up to 10 family and friends. My buddy uses his to send a message to his wife when he has arrived at his destination camp for the night to simply let her know he arrived and is ok.

On our shared wilderness backpacking adventure he added my wife, Loreen, to the contacts. This gave her some assurance that if something went wrong, besides coyotes and bears, that at least the rescue people would know where to find us.

Then we get into the last two functions of the G-Spot 3. These both have to do with needing help. The first function button, when pressed, will send a preprogrammed message to family that you are hurt and need some medical attention. The injury is not life-threatening but will require some professional assistance.

The final function is the SOS function. When you push this button it will send an immediate signal to the closest rescue unit. This function is telling the response team that you are hurt real bad and it is a life-threatening injury.

With the G-Spot 3 there is a peace of mind, for the most part, with your family and friends, to know where you are and that you are okay. However, if an injury occurs you can be found because of the GPS.

The slogan of G-Spot 3 is, *"Stay connected wherever your adventure takes you."*

As I prepare to head out on some overnight backpacking adventures and hikes, my wife and family encouraged me to get connected with my own GPS G-Spot 3! I did.

I am wanting to encourage us to get connected today with a GPS. You asked for it! You asked about God's presence in our lives when it feels more like He is absent.

This GPS acronym does not stand for Global Positioning System. Rather, it stands for **God's PRESENCE System**.

With the God's Presence System the device we will use will be the "God Spot Me" heart!

Like the G-Spot 3, the "God Spot Me" has various functions that enable us to stay connected with Him wherever our adventure takes us.

Today we look at Psalm 91. This is only one of many psalms and verses in the bible that guide us to the God's Presence System or surety.

The slogan or promise that the psalmist reminded us of in the beginning of this psalm is the main slogan of God's Presence System:

"God, you're my refuge. I trust in you and I'm safe!" (Ps. 91:2)

There is a Hebrew word that speaks so concise to this reality of God being our refuge. The word is 'chasah.' It means that God is a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) This refuge speaks of a place where a believer can run to for shelter or protection. It is putting one's trust in God as the stronghold, the Rock of your life. (Ps. 27:1) He is the One we trust to lead us through the struggles and hurts of the valleys in life. (Ps. 23:4) He will lead us through, not around or above to avoid the valleys. His presence will guide us through.

He is a hope of refuge.

"We who have run for our lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual, reaching past all appearances right to the very PRESENCE of God..." (Hebrews 6:18 MSG)

God's Presence System provides us with a connection that is unbreakable. He is with us. We trade our worries and fears for faith and trust in God's 3 P...God's power, presence and purpose.

This is an ASSURANCE of His presence. This is NOT an INSURANCE policy against struggles, hurts or even life threatening scenarios.

Assurance is not the same as insurance!

When you purchase an insurance policy does it come with the assurance that you will not face the issues you are insuring yourself from?

When you purchase auto insurance does it assure you that you will never have a fender bender or a serious car accident?
What about life insurance? Are you assured you will live a long carefree life?
Liability insurance? Assurance you or anyone else will not fall and get hurt on your property?
Home insurance? Did you get the assurance that you will not have hurricane damage?
Health or medical insurance? Was there the fine print that assured you that as long as you pay your premiums that you will not get sick?
Of course not!

God's Presence System is not an insurance policy against the hurts and struggles of life. We live in an imperfect world where bad things happen. It is an assurance of God's Presence that enables us to know we are not alone. We can see **the next step of faith** and have the ability to take it and to keep going forward in our adventure with Jesus in our daily lives.

In fact, in our bible reading from Psalm 91, the psalmist was honest that there would be struggles faced. But the assurance we are given is that God's presence will be with us and will get us through it.

The God Spot Me heart trusts that God's presence is with us no matter what we face in our adventure in life. God is always present. He is our refuge, our hope, our Rock, our Strength, a very present help in our times of trouble.

Faith is the function we lock our hearts on to. Faith is that ASSURANCE of the things we hope for, it is our handle on the things we don't understand. (Hebrews 11:1)

Two words can describe this faith function of God's presence no matter where we are and no matter what we are going through. The two words are: *sure* and *certain*.

These two words give us a beginning point and ending point in our journey. The beginning point of this faith function is believing God's character...He is who He says He is.

The end point of this faith function is believing God's promises... He will do what He says He will do.

Faith assures us that God is always present...with us.

Faith assures us that God's presence is always available to those who connect with Him.

Did you catch that last part...our part in God's Presence System?

Going back to the G-Spot 3 system. If I were to attach my G-Spot 3 device to my backpack would that suffice? No! I have to connect it to the GPS tracking service. Once connected I need to make sure the power is on and to communicate with my family with the functions as needed. I would also need to make sure that the batteries are charged.

God's Presence System...the God Spot Me heart is the same.

We have a part in this connection.

The psalmist mentioned it in the opening verse:

"You who SIT DOWN in the High God's presence; spend the night in the Shaddai's shadow..."

Did you pick up on the connection function of the God Spot Me heart?

Those who sit down with God. Those who stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

To dwell. To take time, to make time, to spend time in the presence of God. In order to be in the shadow of someone you need to be close to them. To be in the shadow of someone you need to be next to them, in their presence.

The God Presence System, the God Spot Me heart is not for 911 calls only. He desires to stay connected with us on our adventures of life...physically, emotionally and spiritually. He desires us to **stay continuously connected** with Him in our heart, soul and mind.

There is a desire for this daily connection. We take the time to connect...to let Him know where our heart is and how we are doing in life. It is a time of recharging our heart for Jesus.

How are you connecting your God Spot Me heart with God's Presence System?

Is there a daily connection or only a sporadic 911 fear function in your life? Is the only time you try to connect with God is when you find yourself hurt and needing His help?

Each of us can find ourselves in fear at one time or another along our adventure. Fear of rejection, misunderstanding, uncertainty, sickness and even death. However, the psalmist reminds us of the crucial connection we are to have with God's Presence System in our God Spot Me heart with these words:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation---whom shall I fear?

The Lord is my stronghold of my life---of whom shall I be afraid?"(Ps. 27:1 NIV)

God's Presence System, when connected to our God Spot Me heart, can help us overcome any fears, struggles, hurts or uncertainties of life. The function of faith is always connected as we stay connected with Him...as we stay close to His Presence... wherever our adventure of life may take us.