

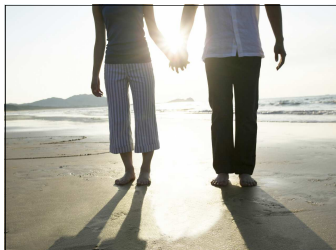
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## Shelter: My Hiding Place

One of the wonderful attributes about God is that His presence is able to be seen and experienced in many places. God's presence is easily visible throughout His creation. We see the fingerprints of God in starry nights, flowers' blooming in the springtime; a snow covered landscape in the winter season, and in the birth of an infant as it takes its first breath. Speaking of infants, I'm reminded of a particular infant who many years ago were born into an expectant world to bring life to all who would believe. His name is Jesus and through Him we have the right to a reconciled relationship with God.

Although we easily see the presence of God in the glory of His craftsmanship, we can also see and experience God in places of our pain and suffering. God is not a God who is just present when times are good but also very present when they are not so good. "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the

love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39, NIV)



*"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close." (Psalm 27:10 NLT)*

This week I read a wonderful book which you may or may not have read yet. It is called **"The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity"** by Wm. Paul Young. Not only was it a wonderful story of one man's relationship with God through his time of pain and loss, but it also indelibly left a huge impression on my own relationship with God. How wonderful a God we serve who loves us so much that He desires a relationship with us no matter the cost....even the death of His only begotten Son.

Often in our haste to busy ourselves with our days, we unconsciously forget to take time to commune with God. I know we pray, read our Word, and spend time

singing songs of worship, but how much time do we spend quietly listening for God to speak to our hearts? Do you listen for God to share with you what is on His mind? Can you recognize Gods voice when He calls your name?

For years, even as a preacher, I lived my life talking to God without much regards for what He had to say in return. I would spend long hours uttering prayers of need and concern for my life and others as if I was sending God on some assignment to handle tasks for me. Chop, chop, God....your children need you! However, with any relationship there takes a commitment to give and to receive, to love and be loved, to speak and to listen....even when it comes to God!

As we seek to expand our territory this new year and grow personally and financially, let us not forget to put growing spiritually at the top of our lists. I believe we would be amazed at how much more we could offer to our clients/friends by developing a relationship with God and allowing Him to minister through us. Is that not our goal to begin with? Are we not called to a life of service through realty? This is an exceptional profession and we

who are awoken in God have a unique and special opportunity to work with people who may need much more than just shelter from the storms of weather....but also shelter from the storms of life. We can hardly be of assistance if we ourselves are only serving with our own personal gain in mind.

May God Richly Bless You,  
Adrian Lewis, MBA, MDIV  
NC REALTOR®

Solid Source Family First Realty  
[www.SolidSourceNC.com](http://www.SolidSourceNC.com)

For Questions or Comments, please send to:

[AdrianLewis@ssrnc.com](mailto:AdrianLewis@ssrnc.com)

*"You are my Hiding Place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory."  
Psalm 32:7 NLT*



7005 Shannon Willow Road  
Suite 100  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
Office: 704-535-4243  
[Info@ssrNC.com](mailto:Info@ssrNC.com)