

MEETING GOD'S CONDITIONS FOR HIS PROTECTION

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

Meeting the conditions for protection from attack and oppressions of the devil, means being in the will of God, Who, wants us to always be victorious over Satan's power. As we learn how to live out God's plan for deliverance and protection, as He had written in Scripture for us to follow under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, we will then enjoy protection, peace, and many other gifts from Him.

Bible examples explain *the conditions* and *the merit* for receiving divine protection. God required just the blood of a lamb on the door in Egypt, which symbolized the Blood of the *true* Lamb of God. (Exodus 12:13) "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." All the merit is in the blood of the lamb. We do not need worthiness of our own to receive God's blessings (the merit price has been paid for us).

Conditions have no merit and do not cause God to do something. However, meeting *conditions* means to take an *attitude* that enables God's love, mercy, and power to do things for us. Everyone has the opportunity to choose an attitude that enables God's power to work; and everyone could also choose an attitude that hinders God's power.

No *ability* on our part is needed. The Spirit of God gives all the light, strength, and ability that we need. That divine power is not enabled, however, until we make a final decision to follow God's plan. His plan (or His conditions) for His power to work, would be our decision to trust Him only. (Dan.3:17) "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."

Those three Hebrews would not disobey God's Word to save their lives, because God does not allow us to worship anything, or anyone, but Him. It was a final decision on their part (18) "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

The merit is the broken body and shed *Blood* of the Lord Jesus. The Blood is all the merit required by God. The condition is met, when we make a final decision to do what God's Word says, which is to trust Him alone in faith (not on thing designed by the world). These principles of truth clearly show how to have a full manifestation of *God's power* in protecting and delivering us from *Satan's power*.

As we continue to meet God's conditions, and to trust only on the merit of the Blood, we will enjoy peace within and freedom from oppression, in our body, at home, financial matters, the workplace, or anywhere else. It is not God's will that the devil should bother us in the least way, but Satan takes advantage of our lack of knowledge and our unbelief when we first begin to trust God. If we did not know, then we could not claim what God has promised through Atonement.

As we keep trusting God and holding to our faith, we will learn more advanced lessons that God will give. God is a master Teacher, so if anyone is willing to repent, and to surrender their life to Him without compromise, He will do a perfect work in giving a complete knowledge of His Truth. (Phil.1:6) "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

When the blood was on their doors in Egypt, a dog was not allowed to bark against the Israelites. That perfect protection was not just a one-time event nor just recorded for history, but it is a revelation of God's present plan and everlasting will. It is as true today as the day it happened, and we have a greater claim, because we have a much greater provision (the shed Blood of the true Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ).

Israel was not only protected from the least noise and deadly plague, but they were also delivered from very oppressive working conditions, as well as from anything else the devil or his agents could do. If the blood of an animal offered that much protection for Israel, it stands to reason that the Blood of Jesus would do far more for us today. (Psalm 105:37) God "brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."

No penned writing could describe, and no tongue could express how much greater Jesus Christ is than a lamb; and how much more His shed Blood should mean today, than what an animal's blood meant to Israel then. The Blood of Jesus has placed God with us, and for the same purpose, as He was with them. God wants to do things for us that would make us happy and contented (His perfect love toward us is why).

The divine conditions for victory cannot be changed by God nor man and are the same as the human conditions to be met every day. It is (in reality) a free-will individual receiving help from another free-will individual. Since we have a free-will, we are the arbiters or negotiators of our own destiny. In reality, our present and eternal welfare is in our own hands. This power to choose belongs to us, and we are responsible for how it is used.

God's power cannot work for us until we make a final choice to trust Him in faith; and the devil cannot harm us until we make the choice to believe him. Jesus died for the entire world, and His Blood could be over the door of every home, however, only a very small

number on the entire earth are receiving any benefit from it. Jesus need not have died as far as most in the world are concerned, because they receive no more benefit than if He never died and rose to life.

This is because they use their free-will choice to listen to Satan instead of listening to God. They never made a final decision to accept God's Word, but instead they listen to Satan's lies. God cannot reveal what the Blood covering should mean to an average church member, because their minister is between them and God. (2 Cor.3:15) "To this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts."

Most Christian churches today have an appearance of "outward religion", but that does not save anyone from the Lake of Fire. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to a person, that, what God did for His people then, He would do for anyone today, because God cannot change (Malachi 3:7). It just takes a right choice (2 Cor. 3:14) "This veil can be removed only by believing in Christ." (3:16) "When one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."

Regardless of the risk or danger involved; or, regardless of what men or demons may do, we need to decide to trust only on the power of God and the Blood of Christ. We must decide to meet every battle and every circumstance of life as God's Word says. It is the only way for things to work together for our spiritual good (Romans 8:28).

As we hold to that position of trust, spiritual growth will be seen. Three Hebrews could have saved their lives by a very small effort (just bend their back); but doing that meant worshipping an image (something that God does not permit) Their decision to trust on the living God, enabled Him to quench the violence of fire. That no-compromise decision is the vital principle in all trust on God.

Scripture promises victory and protection from Satan. (1 Cor.11:31) "If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged," but when we will not judge our actions (our attitudes or our decisions), then God has to do it. He corrects us so that we can escape the Lake of Fire. (32) "When we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

When we discover anything un-Scriptural in our life; something outside the will of God; or an attitude toward someone that is not right, if we will admit it; confess it; and forsake that wrong way, the situation will be remedied, and we will be victorious over the attacks of the devil.

Jesus said to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation;" (Matt.26:41), and to pray for protection and the needs of each day, rather than waiting until after we are short of something, or we are attacked by the devil. Our prayer is (Matt.6:12) "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors", which means, keep pure in heart and be filled with God's Spirit, so He can help us to forgive.

(vs.13) "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," means protection from things designed by Satan to disturb our peace—at home, in work, with finances, or anything else. Prayer concludes "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen;" [which takes us back to (Daniel 3:27) when they saw that "the fire had no power" on the Hebrews.] It was fulfillment of (John 16:23) "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

We should resist the devil as soon as he appears; and the Holy Spirit is always present to reveal the devil, if we are willing to follow God's plan as stated in the Word. (James 4:7) "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." It is in our own hands and is our own power of choice, to take an attitude that will deliver and protect us from Satan's attacks, or not. Resist means refuse to accept what the devil tries to put upon us. We all have a Blood-purchased right to be protected from Satan. By our rejecting any suggestions the devil places in our mind, and our refusing to have the oppressions he wants to put on us, ... the devil must flee, and we will be protected.

It is similar in human situations, as governments are supposed to protect the lives and property of its citizens, so nothing can be taken from them without their consent. Via a person consenting to give something to another, the government is no longer able to protect them. When one does not consent, and something is taken from them by force, every power of the government is at one's service to restore what was taken from them.

The Blood of Christ gives us the right to have perfect peace, health, healing, to have every need provided, as well as perfect protection from anything that could disturb our peace. The devil is constantly trying to get our consent (consciously or unconsciously), for He wants us to accept his attacks or his oppressions. If we consent and accept, we give up our Blood-purchased rights, and Satan is then able to attack, oppress, and disturb our peace (as he could not do when we are under the protective covering of Jesus' Blood).

When we refuse to accept what the devil wants us to accept, our awesome God of Heaven; the Supreme Justice of the Universe; is able to deliver, protect, and grant us the victory, even if He had to send a legion of angels to do that. (Psalm 103:6) "The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed." When we meet God's conditions, His promised divine protection is ours to claim, have, and enjoy (for ourselves, our family, and others near to us).

We could make a human comparison to conditions for riding on public transportation vehicles, that is, when we meet the conditions of getting to the transit station on time and paying the fare (the cost) to ride, then the train, bus, or other vehicle is at our service to be used. In the case of God's divine provisions for believers, the fare (or cost) for the promised blessing, has already been paid for

us, via the Blood of Christ shed on the Cross at Calvary. [We just have to believe to receive that promised blessing.]

That responsibility for us to make a choice to meet God's conditions, (in other words) to choose and decide on whom we would trust, was given to mankind on the first day, and it can never be taken back. We all need to choose as Joshua did (Joshua 24:15) "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Every day we have choices to make, and those choices we make are the building blocks of who we are; who we believe; and who we serve. If we ask ourselves before every choice, Do I truly believe with all my heart in the Lord Jesus Christ, and if we are able to answer Yes to ourselves, then the choices we make will confirm our *faith* in God.

Jesus said that if we choose to follow Him, we are not permitted to place even our own life ahead of Him (Luke 14:26). It is our choice everyday, with every decision we have to make. If we are oppressed in body, it is our choice to repent of our sins, and then to trust on the atoning Blood of Jesus in faith for healing; or choose to take some medication and trust the system of the world in unbelief.

If we need additional money, it is our choice to place that request before God in prayer and in faith; or to take a loan from a bank in unbelief (or to depend on someone else or other worldly source of supply) instead of placing trust on God alone.

If we are being persecuted, insulted, or offended, it is our choice to place that matter before God in prayer and leave it there, (Romans 12:19; , (which would be meeting God's conditions for victory and making spiritual progress in the Truth), or, to complain about the injustice, file a claim in court, or use some other action of self-life to try to right a wrong.

The often-used term "It's all about money" is a reminder for us, that the Christian life is all about our serving God in spirit and in truth. Jesus told us (Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to [hold to ^{AV}] the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Every day it is our choice to serve and trust God; or to serve and follow the world. Many things are met each day and each one is an opportunity to prove whether we love the Lord, or we love the world. If a coworker demands a pay increase, it is our *choice* to follow their worldly example of self-effort or make our choice to follow Bible instructions given by Jesus (Luke 3:14), "Be content with your wages."

The choices we make give evidence that we are reading God's Word and that we want to do His will. If shopping for clothing, it is our *choice* to follow the appearance of the world (for conformity and

acceptance); or to search further for modest clothing (befitting of a believer in Christ), for our comfort and to cover.

Our choice in music is a reflection of our faith, as we choose lyrics and songs which glorify God (Ephes.5:19-20) "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and "making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Satan's wrong influence is very strong in the world and among most people, and he is determined to deceive, defeat, and destroy any person who allows him to do that, via of wrong choices, decisions, and actions. Satan always makes sin very popular and easy to accept, but it is deceitful and disastrous, and anyone can fall into his trap. (If something is popular and accepted by the world, you know that Satan is pushing it). Jesus both advised and solemnly warned us all (Luke 13:24) "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

We do, however, still have God's promises of protection, and it is most important that we claim and rely on them, by meeting God's conditions to receive and enjoy that protection. (As was made note above) "Meeting the conditions for protection from attack and oppressions of the devil, means being in the will of God, Who, wants us to always be victorious over Satan's power. As we learn how to live out God's plan for deliverance and protection, as He had written in Scripture for us to follow under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, we will then enjoy His protection, peace, prosperity, and many other gifts from Him.

SOME MAIN POINTS:

1 ... The message emphasizes throughout, that following God's plan of trusting on Him for our deliverance and protection, is in reality, staying within His will, which is "meeting His conditions" to have and enjoy His promised divine protection.

2 ... We are reminded from Jesus' words, how important it is that we must stay within God's will (Matthew 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Therefore, it not only brings God's blessing of His protection in this life, but it will take us on the path to Eternal Life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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