

# GOD'S PROTECTION



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The protection that has been provided for us by Jesus' great work on the Cross, can be described as a weapon placed in our hands, by God, for us to use, every moment of every day.

This is a great armor that God has provided for His people, and He tells us that if we use this armor and do with it as He tells us, not one attack of the enemy will be able to touch us.

Since this has been provided for us by God, it is very important that we use this armor. God's Word says that Satan's weapons cannot get through that armor that He has provided, every fiery dart, every spiritual dart, every physical dart, every ache or pain or trouble of any kind, can never get in if we use that armor that God has provided for us to use.

Many will wait until they get into a spiritual, physical, or financial difficulty and then go before God to seek deliverance. But God's plan has always been for us to place that armor on us before each new day, to be protected from Satan's darts throughout that day.

God promises us one day's protection at a time, He does not promise to give us enough today to last us through tomorrow or throughout the week, but He does promise to give us one day's supply at a time. It is as Deuteronomy tells us— "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

A writer once penned a great spiritual truth in a poem they had written, in it they wrote, "Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray, But keep me, Lord, just for today."

That is a valuable truth for us to learn. We cannot depend on the protection we had yesterday or last week, but we must depend on the resurrected Christ every new day.

The human heart would naturally like a deliverance that could be stored up, they would like to receive their victory and then be packed up and ready for Heaven.

But those who are willing to live the true Christian life, as God had His Word written out for us, realize that this is a day by day, and moment by moment life of faith and trust on God and His will and Word.

It is a very valuable spiritual life that we are living when we are compelled to live this life by faith. The writer to the Hebrews tells us that every righteous person will have to live by faith.

Faith simply means to trust in God, through His written Word, depending on Jesus' shed Blood in the present moment. We cannot live one moment in the past nor one moment in the future, but only in the present moment in the presence of the living God.

Faith cannot be exercised in the past because anything that is past has become knowledge. Neither can faith be exercised in the future, because where there is no risk, there can be no faith.

People who say they have faith to believe they are going to Heaven because they had a change of heart in the past is a delusion.

The real question is; What am I today? What am I trusting in today? Am I trusting in God today? What am I able to trust God for? If God calls me home, or if Jesus should come today, what would matter would be—not what I trusted God for in the past, but what I am trusting Him for at this moment, spiritually, physically, and financially. God knew that if He stored up all these blessings inside us, we would just wander off, depending on the past, and He would never see us until they were used up or maybe never trust in Him again.

His object is to keep us close to Him, having a total trust in him day by day, and moment by moment. It is so necessary to have this close union with

Him because our supplies must come from Him, every day, just as we need them.

God's plan for our protection is for us to watch and pray. Pray ahead each new day before we have any signs of an attack from the enemy.

Mark 14:38, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

This was Jesus' advice to His disciples in the 26th chapter of Matthew when He was about to be taken into custody. Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him. He knew the powers of darkness were gathering around Him, that He would be arrested, a crown of thorns would be placed upon His head, He would be beaten, mocked, spit upon, ridiculed, and finally nailed to a Cross after an unjust trial.

He knew that He would hang alive for six hours until that last drop of Blood was shed. Jesus knew that it would take more than what any human being could ever stand or go through, when He went through this ordeal.

As far as the disciples were concerned, Jesus knew their faith would fail, they would flee when their Leader was killed. Their faith would not grasp that He was the real Son of God. At that critical hour, Jesus told them to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

Peter did not suspect in the least that Satan was within a hundred miles of them, he never thought that the hosts of darkness were gathering so close to them and their Leader, neither did He think that He would be taken from them.

Peter said, in his own strength that he would go through with Jesus; he would never deny Him. When anyone comes up against the powers of Satan in this world and your life is at stake, that will prove your true heart attitude.

When Peter was questioned at Jesus' trial about being a follower of Jesus, he denied Him, he said, "I never knew Him." It takes a circumstance like this to prove what our true heart attitude really is. Is it skin deep or is it really the old, first century Bible quality of Truth? One that will stand true to God, even at the

cost of our lives. Then we will not be an inch out of the will of God, whether it would mean life or death.

In this case, the disciples were entering a warfare without putting on the whole armor of God. Although Jesus told them to watch and pray, lest they fall into temptation. Jesus gave them an example in the garden alone, with perspiration falling like blood drops, He wrestled with the powers of darkness; but He had a heart talk with His Father and as a result. He was strengthened.

He was enabled to go through that great trial and glorify His Father in answer to that prayer. The angels of Heaven came down and strengthened and enabled Him to go through without a tremor, to be nailed to that Cross, and the only comment He made was “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

It was the spiritual strength received in the garden, from His Father, which enabled Him to go through that distress and still pray for those who were crucifying Him. The disciples were sleeping and taking it easy, according to the flesh. When the test came, and a little maid accused Peter of being one of His followers, he denied it three times, and the last time he even denied Him with an oath, that he never knew Jesus the Christ.

Sometime later, after Peter had received the Holy Spirit, he was not afraid to acknowledge Jesus Christ as his Lord and Master. He even stood up before several thousand people and preached the Word boldly, all because he had then learned to watch and pray.

The disciples prayed together and waited at the appointed place, where Jesus told them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit; and in answer to their united prayers, there came that mighty rushing wind from Heaven and the Holy Ghost took possession of them.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, nothing could make Peter fear. He always spoke out boldly, even death had no power to make him tremble.

God’s plan for us is that we are to watch and pray ahead, holding up the precious Blood of Christ as the purchased price. The writer to the Hebrews tells

us that the Word of God is full of life and power. If we believe it and obey it as we are told, and watch and pray ahead as the Word directs, we can go from victory to victory, spiritually, physically, and financially.

Moses tells us in Psalm 91:4, “He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust; His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”

That means that we are to trust in God alone and nobody else. “His Truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” He meant that God’s Word is to be our armor, our shield. We are to take the Word of God and place it between us and Satan, so that he cannot get through. There is no disease, ache or pain that can get through that shield—the Word of God.

Satan may try to bring up many things, but there is not a thing manufactured by Satan that can get through this armor. The Word of God is an armor plate through which nothing invented by men, or demons, can pass through.

Then Paul said in Ephesians 6:16, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

We are to take that shield of faith and believe that that Word means what it says. That moment we pray, we have the power of God in front of us, behind us, and all around us, which will quench all the fiery darts of the evil one, God has this armor for us.

In the eleventh chapter of Luke, we have this put into practice. Jesus is telling His disciples how to pray for their protection and supplies for each day. Here we are given what is commonly known as ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. This prayer is not to be said as a formality, but every word came from our Savior and has special meaning and covers many points of our daily trust.

And He said unto them, “When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.”

Notice here that the prayer now turns to God for the needs of the day. Jesus continues, “Give us day by day our daily bread.”

The real thought is, “Give us our temporal needs for today; just what we need today.

“And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.” Or keep our sins forgiven and cleansed today. (Notice our spiritual life is also to be supplied just for what we need for today.)

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. That means protect us from Satan’s attacks for today.

Notice the wide range that prayer covers. It includes spiritual attacks, physical attacks, financial attacks, trouble in the home and in the workplace, trouble anywhere.

Jesus also left us with another Word that covers our every need and desire John 16:23-24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

That is how we are to pray every morning, asking God in Jesus’ Name for just what we desire for that day, and believe we have what we have asked for. Knowing that we have a written guarantee from God’s Word, that we have whatsoever things we desire.

Mark 11:24, “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”



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