

GOD PROVIDES OUR PROTECTION-II

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A previous message told us that God's Word promises us His divine Protection, and that it is like a weapon which He placed in our hands to use against all the stratagems of the devil, but it is surprising how many Christians leave their weapon at home, and they attempt to fight and win over the enemy without it. However, God's Word says that if we will take on ourselves His promised armor of protection, and do as He said with it, not one attack of the enemy will be able to reach us. So, it is important that we use His armor.

We were reminded that God's plan (Matt.26:41) is that we watch and pray ahead and *not wait for the devil to attack us*, but claim His protective armor by faith each day (and for that day), because that keeps us closer to Him via our faith on Him each day, in a life of trust on Him for everything we need for that day. His object is to take us away from all our false places of trust, and to realize that if we can trust on His *divine armor* for our protection from the devil and his agents, then we can trust-in-Him for all other parts of our life, as well. How close that brings us to God and the cleansing Blood of Christ; and, how clean that enables us to live our life away *from all false places of trust!*

And the person who realizes that they must depend each day on a present and living Christ, and that they must meet right up to the mark; they are the ones who will find themselves living a real Christian life. It is a valuable place in life for us to be compelled to live by faith (and it has an Eternal Reward)!

So, the real questions are these: What am I today? What am I trusting in today? Am I trusting God today? What am I able to trust God for? If God calls me home or if Jesus comes, the matter of most importance will be, not what I trusted God for in the past—but what I am trusting Him for this day (spiritually, physically, financially, or

otherwise). We need to understand the importance of our living 'one day at a time' with our trust centered on God alone.

A true Christian life of faith and trust could be expressed in one sentence, which is, "Where is my Place of Trust?" We do not want to hear Jesus say, "I never knew you: begone from me, you doers of wickedness." (as He warned us, Matt.7:23).

So, God's plan is that we are to watch and pray ahead, holding up the precious Blood of Christ as the purchased price paid for us. The book of Hebrews tells us that the Word of God is full of life and power. If we believe and obey that as we are told, and watch and pray ahead as His Word directs us, we can go on to victory spiritually, physically, and financially. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation," Jesus said. (Matthew 26:41).

Psalm 91:4 assures us "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his; wings shalt thou trust; (which means trust in God alone and nobody else) his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

His truth shall be thy shield and buckler, means that God's Word is to be our armor and our shield. The real thought is that we are to take the 'Word of God' and place it between us and Satan, so that he cannot get thru. There is no disease that can get thru that shield, the Word of God' (even death itself cannot get thru), until our work is finished, and our life is ended here on earth). God has provided that 'shield of faith' armor for each one of us to claim and to use against Satan and his agents!

(In Luke 11) that was put into practice, as Jesus was telling His disciples just how to pray for that protection, also for their supplies needed each day. And, surely, we believe Jesus Christ knew how to teach other people to pray. "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 on earth."

We can take notice that 'the prayer then for the things which follow is made to God alone (and that is common-sense as well as Scriptural). In earthly business, people do not go to a hardware store when they desire to buy groceries; they do not go to a dry- goods store when they desire to buy meat; instead, they go to a place where they sell the articles they desire to purchase.

(Jesus continued) "Give us day by day our daily bread." The real thought is: "Give us our

temporal supplies and prosper us, help us in the supply of our temporal needs, food and clothing, etc., for today; just what we need today. Let us therefore be content and take no thought for the morrow, because Jesus said—"sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us."

That means, 'Keep our sins forgiven and cleansed today.' So, we may notice that our spiritual life is to be supplied for just what we need today.) "And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." (means) "Do not allow Satan to attack us today; drive off every attack of Satan."

"We want to take notice of the wide-sweep of that prayer, as it includes spiritual attacks, physical and financial attacks, troubles in the home, troubles at our work or anywhere else. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us," (means) 'keep us from the devil's snares, temptations and trials today; (and give us a day of peace today, a day of real protection and blessing.' (What a privilege it is to pray to God with such a prayer, each morning.)

Many years ago (the late Pastor said), we were called on the phone by a very upset and weeping mother of small children. How bitterly she wept while we were at her house, as a lovely baby boy had injured his arm, and it was hanging limply. We asked that these parents be shown where the enemy Satan, had gotten in? The husband told me that he works quite a distance from home, and he had to get up early to tend to the fires before leaving in the morning. So, he had failed to take the proper time to watch and pray for God's protection for himself and family, and Satan was getting in one way and another.

This surely was a lesson learned for him, for he said, whatever comes, whatever happens, he intended to read the Word and meditate upon it and pray for the protection of himself and family each morning before starting out. That is our privilege, and it is a valuable one. We are glad to say that God instantly healed that child; in about two hours after praying for the baby, we called to 'see how the baby was', and the child was sitting up playing, and using the arm as if nothing had happened. A real miracle had been performed, but God also revealed the cause of the trouble, which could be liable to happen with all of us, at times.

"And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." The actual thought here would be,

'Deliver us from every touch of the evil one (Satan); do not allow the evil one to touch us or stay with us; deliver us altogether from the devil and his power today.'

Again, this prayer has wide-sweep; a prayer for righteousness and prosperity in spiritual things; a prayer for deliverance from every oppression in our body; deliverance from any disturbance in our home life; and a prayer for victory in temporal affairs. Satan is not permitted to block our income, nor to starve us out; it is a prayer for any trouble where we work; (in short), it is a prayer for deliverance and protection from every power of the devil.

What part of God's Word shall we decide to use? Since Jesus left us with a Word which will cover 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. Hither-to 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 in the morning, asking God in Jesus' Name for just what we desire for that day. Then we are to depend absolutely upon God alone. As we pray for these things in the Name of Jesus Christ, God says we shall have them until our joy is full. So, we rise from our knees having asked for all our spiritual needs, all the righteousness and peace needed for that day, and to be protected from the snares and pitfalls of Satan (spiritually, physically, financially, and in all other things).

The next step is for us to claim perfect righteousness and peace, perfect victory and protection for our body and those of our family, and perfect deliverance from every power and attack of the devil. We can say "I refuse to have any colds and coughs today, and no wrong influence can enter my house today, no sickness can touch my children today; and I am not alarmed because there is a contagious disease in the house next door. I have my great shield of faith set up in Jesus' Name, and God has said that 'what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. So, I am not going to wait until tonight to see myself as getting along fairly well; but I do know now that "I am going to be more than conqueror thru the Blood of Jesus Christ."

Satan will then come upon the scene and say "Now, listen," "you know from the news you are hearing that an influenza is going around,

and you are very likely to catch that, also the children may come down with a contagious oppression. But you can reply in the Name of Jesus}, "Glory to God, I have a written guarantee from God, that my family is to be protected today;" "we are under the Blood of Jesus Christ, and I know that God is able to keep us (and He will).

(The late Pastor said) "We want to say that if the 'heads of homes' would take that position, day after day, week after week, month after month, there would not be one disease to enter from one season to another, no matter how foul the weather; we could be as safe as Noah was in an ark while the whole world was perishing.

So, it pays to watch and pray as precious souls did in the Bible, and they found it worked out perfectly. We can recall the incident in the life of Ezra, when in the land of Babylon. King Artaxerxes had granted permission to Ezra and his followers, for them to return to Jerusalem to build the walls of the city and to restore it. He also commanded that they should have all the money, gold, and silver, they could carry with them. So, they gathered vast treasures in order to do God's work at Jerusalem.

It was a great distance from Babylon to Jerusalem (and there were no railroads in those days). When people traveled they usually were protected by a band of soldiers; but Ezra said he was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers for protection, because he had testified among the people about the God in Heaven that he served; and that He had His hand upon them for all good; also that he believed and trusted in the 'living God', Who would protect His people in all circumstances regardless of the danger.

Ezra was put to the test; however, as he was called upon to live up to his profession. (What a profitable thing it is when we are compelled to live up to our profession). So, they started out for Jerusalem, and the way in which they traveled was through a desert (infested with robbers). Ordinarily people would not have gone five miles thru it, before they would have been robbed and beaten and the women taken off into slavery.

As we read the-story we will discover the value of 'watchfulness and prayer'. In this case it had a wonderful result, as it will in every case. Ezra did not wait until the robbers came to attack them; they did not wait until they got into that

desert (infested with robbers), but rather they held a prayer meeting before they ever entered into that desert. They committed their whole situation into God's hands, placed the whole battle into His hands to take care of them. Ezra said: "Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a 'right way' for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." (Ezra 8:21)

(We all want to learn from this example), of how much easier it is to watch and pray ahead as Jesus told us to do, instead of waiting until our body is attacked with fever and pain and aches. In the morning when our thinking is clear, and our body fresh and strong, is the best time to get down before God and pray for our protection and supplies for that day. Just as one may go out in the morning to buy the supplies needed for that day, so we can also set about to draw upon God's great storehouse, and receive all the protection, all the life and power, and receive ample supplies for everything for that day.

(Ezra said) "For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen, to help us against the enemy in the way; because we had spoken unto the king, saying, 'The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him'; 'but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him'. So, we fasted and besought our God for this; and he was intreated of us." (Ezra 8:22,23).

When Ezra and company reached Jerusalem they had the entire value of their money, in gold and silver (there was not a penny missing). God not only protected them from the evil robbers and murderers, but also protected their valuables; they did not suffer the loss of anything. 'May God bless us and increase our confidence in that watchfulness and prayer in God alone.

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