

## GOD SAVES AND SAFEGUARDS

In my college days I worked at the local YMCA as a Lifeguard. What did I do? I guarded the lives of those who were swimming lest they sink and drown. God is the ultimate Lifeguard! He guards His children from drowning in the sea of sin.

Here is a verse of scripture that speaks about God's soul-guarding power that I want to share with you. It tells us that we are ***"kept by the power of God through faith for salvation."*** (1 Peter 1:5)

We tend to lose the marvel of God's Guardianship. When I think about the way in which God safeguards His saints, I cannot help but marvel. The assurance that God is overseeing His saved ones is cause for marveling on the part of those who are saved.

Let us break this statement up into three parts:

- *"kept by the power of God"* – That is the Force by which we are kept;
- *"through faith"* - That is the course by which we are kept;
- *"for salvation"* - That is the resource that benefits the kept ones..

The word "kept" in the Greek is a military term. It is from the Greek word *"froureo"* and is translated "kept", "guarded", "garrisoned." The same word occurs in II Cor 11:32 and there it is translated "garrison". It means to keep, as with a garrison or a military watch for the purpose of protection and/or preservation. The need to be "kept" in this sense implies that there is danger. We need to be vigilantly on guard even though we are guarded.

How does God safeguard?

### **We Are Kept Internally**

Phil 4:7 - *"The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

Notice the two organs of the body that are mentioned: "hearts" and "minds". That is interesting. You see, the heart speaks of the center of our affections. That is where our feelings come from. The peace of God guards our feelings. However, when we chose to override God's peace and allow our feelings to dominate, the peace of God does not operate!

And then note that God's peace is designed to guard our minds, that is our thinking. When the peace of God prevails over our minds then, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report" (Phil.4:8) are the things upon which we will be thinking.

When we operate on the basis of our fleshly feelings and thoughts there is no inward

peace. Not only is this true of believers individually but it is also true of believers corporately. Churches filled with believers who have yielded to the internal peace of God controlling their hearts and minds are blessed congregations. Churches with believers whose hearts and minds are self-controlled are war zones! Paul wrote to the church in Colosse, “let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body.” (Col.3:15)

### **We Are Kept Externally**

Jude v. 24 - *“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”*

Jude’s benediction is a reassuring doxology. It is often pronounced at the end of church services, referenced at the end of correspondence and memorized by scripture loving Christians. This doxological benediction is divided into two stanzas: it contains promises for the faith family and it concludes with praise to the Father of the family.

#### ***The Promises It Contains.***

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”

*There is the promise of preservation* - “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling.” Jude is not saying that a child of God can fall in the sense of losing his salvation. The Greek word is “aptaistous” translated here as “falling” and means “stumbling.” God is the One Who is able to “keep you from stumbling” but we must consciously cooperate with Him and trust in Him as we walk amidst temptations on every hand.

*There is the promise of presentation.* – “and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...” We may be faulted here but when presented to Christ as His Bride at the Throne we will be presented faultless. Paul writes concerning the church: “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph.5:27) And Jude adds: “with exceeding joy” – what a joyous occasion for both saint and Saviour!

#### ***The Praise With Which It Concludes.***

“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

*Jude praises God’s glory* - “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty.” He is God all-wise; He is God and Saviour; He is glorious God and Saviour; He is the majestic God and Saviour. Give Him glory all you peoples!

*Jude praises God’s government* – “dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Our subject is the safeguarding power of God. His dominion is universal and His power is unlimited. Since He keeps the sun, moon and stars from falling, surely He “is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy”!

### **We Are Kept Eternally**

Paul testifies: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (II Tim.1:12)

*Paul was a positive Christian.*

He was positive, "I know whom I have believed" – Do not miss this emphasis. He did not say "I know what I have believed," (although he did have a knowledge of the "what" of the Christian faith), but he said, "I know *whom*." Salvation is in a relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ, not in a religion.

*Paul was a persuaded Christian.*

About what was he persuaded? He was persuaded that God keeps, guards and garrisons that which is committed into His care for safe keeping. Are you "swayed" this way and that about your safety in Christ? Allow Paul's testimony to persuade you that God can be trusted to keep you saved and you too can say with Paul, "I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" - and then go on your way rejoicing!

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