

A CHRISTIAN IS GUARDED BY THE POWER OF GOD

1 Peter 1:1-5; John 10:27-29

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Although a Christian is a person who has been "reborn," who belongs to the God, who lives by faith and is consecrated to God, that does not mean that being a Christian, living the life that God wants him/her to live is easy for today's world does not encourage godly living. For there are many forces that are bent on destroying anything spiritual. Thankfully the Christian is guarded by the power of God and has God's special protection as long as he/she stays faithful to God.

I. SATAN'S GOAL IS TO DESTROY THE CHRISTIAN

1. Satan is the Christian's main enemy.
 - Satan is like a roaring lion - 1 Peter 5:8
 - He is always around.
 - He is always seeking a Christian to destroy.
 - Satan often appears as a good, great "angel of light" - 2 Corinthians 11:14
 - He works through his own "people" - 2 Corinthians 11:15
 - He misleads people through false doctrines - 1 Timothy 4:1-3
2. A Christian needs to pay attention, to beware.
 - Some Christians have the wrong idea about and say there's no need for concern:
 - they believe that they don't have to do anything now that they are saved.
 - they believe that it is impossible for them to be deceived.
 - God's Word warns about becoming hard headed or hard hearted - Hebrews 3:12-14
 - Sin hardens the heart by being deceitful.
 - Satan deceives the whole world and no Christian is immune. Revelation 12:9
 - 1 Peter 5:9, 10

II. GOD PROVIDES SAFEKEEPING FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. God is the Christian's helper:
 - He provides the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Who is the Christian's Mediator - 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Who is the Christian's Advocate - 1 John 2:1, 2
 - Who is the Christian's faithful High Priest - Hebrews 2:17-28
 - Whose blood cleanses the Christian from all his/her sins - 1 John 1:7-10
 - He provides other blessings to keep the Christian safe by:
 - Public assemblies and mutual support - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Lifting up others and being lifted up by others - Hebrews 3:12-13
 - The Word of God, the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Prayer - Philippians 4:6-7
 - He provides a way of escape:
 - Sometimes to avoid temptation - Matthew 6:13; 26:41
 - Sometimes to bear up and overcome the temptation - 1 Corinthians 10:13
2. God is the Christian's victory:
 - The Christian's confidence comes from God's power, now his/her own - Philippians 4:13
 - He provides power that is greater than Satan's - Ephesians 3:16, 10; 1 John 2:13-14; 4:4

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO REMAIN FAITHFUL

1. The Christian's security:

- The Bible teaches about the security of the believer:
 - No one can take a believer out of the hand of God - John 10:28-29
 - Nothing can separate a believer from the love of Jesus Christ - Romans 8:35-39
 - These promises are for the believer ONLY!
- The Bible also teaches that a believer can also drift away from God - Hebrews 3:12
 - A believer can begin to act like an "unbeliever."
 - A believer who acts like an "unbeliever" will drift away from God.
- The Christian needs to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God's Word.

2. The Christian's responsibility:

- He/she is to take to heart the many admonitions in the Bible:
 - To take heed - 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - To gird up the loins of his/her kind - 1 Peter 1:13
 - To discipline him/herself - 1 Corinthians 9:27
 - To root him/herself in Jesus Christ and His love - Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 2:7
 - To put on the armor of God in order to be able to stand - Ephesians 6:10-18
 - To be strong in the grace of the Lord - 2 Timothy 2:1
 - To stand fast in the faith - 1 Corinthians 16:13
 - To resist the devil - James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 2. He/she is to take advantage of things conducive to remaining faithful, such as:
 - Daily prayer
 - Daily Bible study
 - Frequent fellowship with other Christians
 - Attendance at worship services and Sunday School
 - Involvement in doing work of/for the Lord.
 - Accepting correction and even repenting when necessary.

CONCLUSION:

1. Being a Christian is to be guarded by the power of God.
 - There is a spiritual warfare going on and the Christian can stand strong in the power of God - Ephesians 6:10-13
 - In resisting the devil, Satan, God will intervene and establish, strengthen and calm the Christian - 1 Peter 5:9-10
2. The Christian should never lose sight of the importance of his/her faith.
 - His/her resistance must be "steadfast in the faith" - 1 Peter 5:9
 - He/she is "kept by the power of God through FAITH" - 1 Peter 1:5
3. ***"...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life..." Revelation 2:10***