

HOW GOD PROTECTS

Our protection must rest wholly in God—NEVER IN people and NEVER IN ourselves. - Ps 18:2 **THE LORD IS my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; MY GOD is my rock, in whom I take refuge.** He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (**Prov 28:26, Ps 146:3**)

We struggle to trust God rightly because we try to build that trust on our own comprehension - Prov 3:5 **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING**;

We must realize God's protection is always there, however, it is our choice to stay in It or not - Jude 21 **KEEP YOURSELVES in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Christ warned us plainly about the one barrier we must remove if we hope to remain under God's protection - Matt 16:24-27 - 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, HE MUST deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 **What good will it be for a man if he GAINS THE WHOLE world, yet forfeits his soul?** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

***Many of our perceptions are pointed at the wrong outcome. While we think we are in the path of safety, we are actually in danger.**

When we truly trust Him, we will know that His path to true protection at times will be painful - James 1:2-4 - 2 **Consider it pure joy**, my brothers, **whenever you face trials of many kinds**, 3 because **you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance**. 4 **Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

If we are not TRULY Spiritual, we will end up leaning on our distorted understanding from our corrupt wisdom - 1 Cor 3:18-20 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves.** If any one of you thinks he is **wise BY THE STANDARDS OF THIS AGE**, he should **become a "fool"** so that he may become wise. 19 **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.** As it is written: **"He catches the wise in their craftiness";** 20 and again, **"The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."**

God's ways can only be understood Spiritually - 1 Cor 2:13-15 - 13 **This is what we speak, NOT IN WORDS TAUGHT US BY HUMAN WISDOM** but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and HE CANNOT understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Here are some examples of God's protection

God provides the lifepath answer with the final consequences - Matt 7:13-14 - 13 **"ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE.** For wide is the gate and broad is the road that **leads to destruction**, and many enter through it. 14 **But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and ONLY A FEW FIND IT.**

He makes us aware of HOW and HOW NOT to fight the wars - 2 Cor 10:3-4 - 3 For **though we live in the world, WE DO NOT WAGE WAR AS THE WORLD DOES.** 4 **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, **they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**

His provided protection concerning your needs - Matt 6:31-34 - 31 **So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'** 32 **For the PAGANS RUN AFTER ALL THESE THINGS, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.** 33 **But SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

He protects us from false teachers by warning us about them - Matt 7:15-20 - 15 **"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.** 16 **BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 **Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** 18 **A good tree CANNOT bear bad fruit, and a bad tree CANNOT bear good fruit.** 19 **Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.** 20 **Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**

He makes sure we stay focused on how to deal with situations instead of being affected by them - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 **Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him.** 21 **Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you** — although if you can **gain your freedom, do so.** 22 **For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman;** similarly, **he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.** 23 **You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.** 24 **Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.**

He provides protection for our mental battles - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 **DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING,** but in everything, by **prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** 7 **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

He made clear of the dangers of the relationships we chose - James 4:4 **You adulterous people, don't you know that FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS HATRED TOWARD GOD?** Anyone who **chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

He provides the strength of the Godly roles to protect our marriages - Eph 5:21-33, 1 Peter 3:1-4

He provides us with what we are REALLY up against - Eph 6:12-13 - 12 For **OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 **THEREFORE put on the full armor of God, SO THAT** when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Live with the awareness that God's protection must be deliberately embraced — applied with both spiritual clarity and conscious trust - Eph 6:11 **PUT ON** the full armor of God SO THAT you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.