

Proactive protection

God is our protection - Ps 46:1 - **God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.**

So how was God protecting Job by recommending him to Satan? - Job 1:6-12 - 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." 12 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Wisdom is preparing before the work - Prov 24:27 Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; AFTER THAT, build your house.

Must items to be proactive

Contentment is protection for any situation - Phil 4:11-13 - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I can do everything through him who gives me strength.**

Fearing and trusting God now protects us later - Ps 31:19-20 - 19 Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! 20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues. NKJV

Know and teach real LOVE - 1 Cor 13:7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Hard work of preparedness provides for later while laziness produce devastating outcomes - Prov 6:6-11 - 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest — 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Instill Godly qualities in order to protect - Prov 2:11-12 - 11 Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; NASU

Discretion - mezimmah (mez-im-maw') a plan, discretion, intent, witty invention, lewdness, mischievous (device), thought, wickedly.)

Understanding - tabuwn (taw-boon') intelligence; by implication, an argument; by extension, (discretion, reason, skilfulness, understanding, wisdom.)

How do we live proactive now?

Make sure all plans are "God purposed" - Prov 16:3-4 - 3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. 4 The Lord works out everything for his own ends — even the wicked for a day of disaster.

We need to set our Spiritual state of mind now - 1 Peter 1:13-16 - 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Ask yourself, What do I invest in? - Luke 12:16-21 - 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And **I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."**' 20 "But God said to him, '**YOU FOOL! This very night your life will be demanded from you.** Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who STORES UP THINGS FOR HIMSELF BUT IS NOT RICH TOWARD GOD."

Assess all plans before you do them –

Prov 14:8 -The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Prov 14:15 A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

After assessing the situation act wisely - Prov 22:3 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Know the difference between “your responsibility” & doing extra - Luke 17:7-10 - 7 "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? 8 Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? 9 **Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?** 10 So **you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; WE HAVE ONLY DONE OUR DUTY.'**"

Raising our children should be a proactive training

A child's protection is from Godly parenting - Prov 6:20-22 - 20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

We raise our children now to prepare for the future -Prov 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

God warned us what's in the children he created - Prov 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Discipline is a must to save the child's life –

Prov 23:13-14 - 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Prov 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

This parable displays the importance of Doing what we are supposed to because we don't know when it's time to answer - Luke 12:35-48- 35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 **It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes**. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39 **BUT UNDERSTAND THIS: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into**. 40 **YOU ALSO MUST BE READY**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." 41 Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?" 42 The Lord answered, "**WHO THEN IS THE FAITHFUL AND WISE MANAGER**, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 **It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns**. 44 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers**. 47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

This parable displays the importance of being Spiritually prepared - Matt 25:1-13 - "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The **foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them**. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 "**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour**.