

Dangers of Trusting in Self

We know, Satan cannot harm those protected by God - 1 John 5:18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ***Is God's protection automatic?**

Let's pay attention to Christ's protection concerning Satan's attack - Luke 22:31-34 - 31 "Simon, Simon, **Satan has asked to sift you as wheat**. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." 34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

We see the outcome of Peter taking that protection for granted - Matt 26:69-75 - 69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. 70 But **he denied it before them all**. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 **He denied it again, with an oath**: "I don't know the man!" 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." 74 Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Like many of us, Peter has a track record of reacting from self-reliance, instead of just doing what Christ said

- Concerning Jesus washing their feet (John 13:5-11)
- Concerning Jesus dying and rising again – (Matt 16:21-23)

Job's 100% trust in God is what makes him such a great example

Job 1:1 - In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was **blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil**.

Job 1:5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

No matter what Satan throws at us, Like Job, our complete Trust in God is our protection

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."

Job 2:1-6 - On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. 2 And 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." 3 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. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." 4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." 6 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

God's protection is always there, we just have to consciously stay in it - Jude 20-21 - 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 **Keep yourselves in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

We stay protected by not being moved away from "The Faith" - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 **Be self-controlled and alert**. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

We are never to trust the flesh at all - Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who **put NO CONFIDENCE in the flesh**—

We must leave the main standard to God, never to self - 2 Cor 10:12-13 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **THEY ARE NOT WISE**. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

Today we tend to take ourselves too seriously, which blurs what we really are - 1 Cor 3:5-8 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but GOD MADE IT GROW. 7 **So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW**. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

When it comes down to it, we were never meant to rely on self - 2 Cor 1:8-10 - 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, **far beyond our ability to endure**, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But **THIS HAPPENED THAT WE MIGHT NOT RELY ON OURSELVES BUT ON GOD**, who raises the dead.