



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Celebration of the Lord
Topic	Celebrate the Lord's Protection
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	31 st January & 1 st February 2015

Message Summary

LUKE 1:15-17

"Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation!" – Psalms 68:19 (NKJV)

The year of Jubilee is the year of celebration of the Lord. What shall we celebrate about God? Psalm 68:19 states that God daily loads us with benefits. There are many benefits that God blesses His people with, namely deliverance, forgiveness, favour, healing, and many more. This week's topic focuses on celebrating God's protection. What are some principles found in Scriptures that talk about God's protection over His people?

Principles of Protection

1. We are always protected by the Lord unless we violate the law.

1 John 5:18 gives us the assurance that the evil one cannot touch us who have been born again by the blood of the Lamb. Knowing this, what shall we do then? We are to intentionally appropriate the blood of Christ to cover and protect us, our household, and whatever concerns us. The principle behind this can be found in Exodus 12:22-23, whereby God instructed the Israelites through Moses and Aaron to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts, so that the house would be spared from the calamities that were to come. In addition, Revelation 12:11 reminds us that the blood of the Lamb is one of the spiritual weapons that we can appropriate to counter the evil ones. *Appropriate the Blood of Christ as we go about our daily lives, for e.g. pray for covering over yourself and your household before the day starts, before travelling or driving, etc.*

2. Our protection is compromised when we give ground/doorway/foothold/place to the evil one.

Ephesians 4:26-27 reminds us that in our anger, we are not to sin nor give the evil one a foothold. We are exhorted not to harbour our anger to the next day as this may result in root of bitterness growing inside of us. Hebrews 12:15 mentions that this root of bitterness defiles us and may cause us to miss the grace of God. The speaker cited an example on how bitterness can stir up negative emotions in a person, which in turn affects the person's physical health. Thus, root of bitterness is one doorway that the evil one can use so as to cause us to miss the grace of God and that includes His protection over us. *Examine our hearts for any root of bitterness.*

Engaging in ungodly and unclean activities and having in our possession unclean objects can defile us and provide a doorway for the evil one to harass us. This principle comes from Numbers 33:55, whereby God warned the Israelites that if they did not drive away the inhabitants of the land, those who remained would be irritants that would harass them.

Similarly, are there any objects in our possessions which are not pleasing to the Lord and can defile us? Be wise, but do not be too overly superstitious!

Another doorway that we should be aware of is the spirit of rebellion. 1 Samuel 15:23 equates



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rebellion with a sin of witchcraft. Rebellion attracts the demonic spirit. Romans 13:1 calls us to submit to governing authorities that God has placed above us such as the government, parents, husbands, employers, and spiritual leaders. *Guard against the spirit of rebellion in our hearts. Are there authorities whom we have issues in submitting to?*

3. We must be vigilant always.

Matthew 12:43 tells us that the evil ones are attracted to spiritually dry individuals. In the words of Peter, they are like a roaring lion seeking to devour us; they can scare us but they cannot touch us as they have “no teeth”. Nevertheless, we should be vigilant in all ways, spiritually, emotionally, situationally, and relationally.

We must be vigilant to ensure that we are under spiritual covering. We too have to be aware of any inadequacy in covering and defective covering. This means that routine matters require routine prayer, while for non-routine matters (such as sickness, going for mission trips, etc), there is a need to step up on our prayers and ensure that we are covered with the prayers of others. The speaker exhorts us to be connected in small groups where there is prayer covering from the leaders and fellow cell members. BBTC has a systematic approach to ensure that every member is covered in prayer. The principle of corporate covering can be derived from 2 Chronicles 30:18-20, where the Lord answered King Hezekiah’s prayer for atonement over the Israelites who did not cleanse themselves before eating the Passover. Hezekiah as King of Israel is the spiritual authority over Israel, and thus his prayer covering superseded the law of purification that God instated over Israel.

We must also be vigilant because we are affected by the decisions and actions of people that we come in contact with (such as careless drivers who may endanger the other drivers around him/her) and the environment that we have no control over (such as extreme weather). God has set principles and laws of life on earth and God cannot haphazardly intervene. We will reap what we sow. For e.g. a godly man who quotes Psalm 91 and jumps from a tall building will not be spared from the consequences of the existence of law of gravity. Therefore, we need to know and adhere to these laws that God has put in place in His Word. Consequently, we are to build our faith as we hear the Word and appropriate the specific Grace that He has for us to live a more abundant life.

4. The word “Allow”.

God in His sovereignty has allowed man to have free will and He has placed laws and principles of life to take its course on earth. Thus, man will reap what he sows accordingly. If bad things happen to us, we must know that God is not the source of the bad things. Luke 11:13 and James 1:17 assure us of this truth. Bad things may happen because of the fallenness of man and the fact that we live in the end times. 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God will not allow us to be in situations we cannot overcome. The exceptions to this will be persecution and martyrdom. The speaker believes that special grace is given to people belonging to this category. For example, in Acts 7, Stephen caught a glimpse of the open heavens and Jesus before he was martyred.

5. The importance of building faith convictions.

We need to realise that we will not fully know what happens to others. However for us, as believers, we must personally grow in our relationship with God by staying rooted to the Word and connected to the Holy Spirit. Luke 13:1-5 also reminds us that we should not be concerned too much about what happen to others, but there is one thing we should know – that unless we repent, we too will perish.



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When we continually experience God coming through for us as we stand on His promises and connect with Him, we will develop faith convictions that we are always protected in Christ. To do so, we need to have an active relationship with Him and speak the Word of God in faith. We trust God in our heart and release faith to the natural realm by words from our mouth. Romans 10:9-10 confirms this in the context of salvation where confession with our mouth accompanies our belief in the heart. Hebrews 1:14 states that God sends angels to minister to His people and the angels respond to the word of God that we utter (Psalm 103:20).

Make ourselves an ark

Just as God instructed Noah to build an ark before the rain came, let's build an "ark" with the Word of God to prepare us before the troubles and challenges of life come.

Questions

Name two to three principles found in Scriptures that talk about God's protection over His people.

(Fill In Answer Here)

Recall one instance when you experienced God's protection over your life. Take time to reflect if any of the above principles are applicable in your specific situation.

(Fill In Answer Here)

What is one specific principle of protection that you can apply this week?

(Fill In Answer Here)
