

Women & More

Our Lord Protector

April 4, 2013

Anywhere the Lord sends us, He is prepared to protect us with His presence—He goes ahead of us. We just have to keep ourselves in Him to be assured of His protection. “And who is ‘he that will harm you’, when God is your protector?” asked Charles Spurgeon rhetorically, and then added: “In every trouble we should first seek to realize God’s presence with us.”

“To me remains nor place, nor time:
My country is in every clime;
I can be calm and free from care
On any shore, since God is there.
While place we seek, or place we share,
The soul finds happiness in none;
But with a God to guide our way,
‘Tis equal joy to go or stay”

Charles Spurgeon

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 46:1-3 “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

²“Therefore (because of that) we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.” Selah.

Then verses 7 and 11 say: “ _____ LORD Almighty _____ _____; _____ God of Jacob _____ _____.”

Psalm 91:1

Isaiah 45:22

Matthew 10:28

John 17:15 (Jesus prays to the Father for our protection from evil)

Scripture to Memorize:

John 17:24 (Jesus speaking) “*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*”

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. When we think about **needing protection** and being protected—having a ‘protector’—what are the first three things you feel we all **most need protection from**?

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____

2. Give yourself an A+ on this line, _____, if your list of three things under the first question included one of the following: **unbelief, the ‘evil’ one, eternal punishment, or out of God’s presence forever**. And it’s okay if you looked ahead and read this first!

3. Remember Jesus question to us all in **Mark 8:36-37**? “*What good is it for a man (woman) to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*” Or **Luke 9:25** “*What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?*”

► Explain in 10 words or less: _____
_____.

“May infinite wisdom cure us
of the madness of self confidence.”

Charles Spurgeon

Recommended Reading:

Hope for the Troubled Heart, Billy Graham

Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World, David Jeremiah

Through the Darkness

This hymn won first prize in the Millennium Hymn Competition sponsored by St. Paul's Cathedral in London. More than 550 writers and musicians from around the world submitted entries. The writer was a 52 year old widowed cleaning lady, **Hilary Jolly**. The hymn can be sung to *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*—music by Ludwig van Beethoven. Today her works are represented by Jubilate Hymns Ltd. in UK, and Hope Publishing in the US and Canada.

Through the darkness of the ages,
Through the sorrows of the days,
Strength of weary generations,
Lifting hearts in hope and praise
Light in darkness, joy in sorrow,
Presence to allay all fears,
Jesus, you have kept your promise,
Faithful through two thousand years.

Bounty of two thousand harvests,
Beauty of two thousand springs,
He who framed the times and seasons,
Has vouchsafed us greater things,
Word of God who spoke creation,
Speaks forgiveness, speaks to save,
Gathers still His ransomed people,
In the life He freely gave.

Countless flowers have bloomed and withered,
Countless noons are sealed in night,
Shattered thorns and fallen empires,
Realms and riches lost from sight,
Christ, your kingdom still increases,
As the centuries unfold,
Grain that fell to earth and perished,
Has brought forth ten thousand fold.

Master, we shall sing your praises,
Man of sorrows, God of Power,
For the measured march of seasons,
Shall at last bring in the hour,
When, as lightning leaps the heavens,
You return to lead us home,
You have promised, "I am coming,"
Swiftly, our Lord Jesus, come.