

The Wednesday Word, February 6, 2019: KEPT

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time."
1 Peter 1: 5.

What is meant by being "kept by the power of God?" There are often great mistakes made on this point. Some teach that this verse tells us that we are:

- (1) kept from accidents;
- (2) kept from misfortune;
- (3) kept from trials;
- (4) kept from affliction; and
- (5) kept from sin.

But the wording of our text, the facts of Scripture and the experience of the believer do not agree with such conclusions.

I've known believers who have been maimed or killed in accidents. I've seen believers overcome with misfortunes, trials, and afflictions. Though "kept by the power of God" believers often sin.

"What, then is the use of the power of God?" Let's look at the text again: "*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.*" According to the text we are kept by the power of God unto salvation. Our salvation is secured. We are kept securely in Him despite all accidents, misfortunes, trials, afflictions and through all sin. What Power! What Goodness! What Grace!

God is in the keeping business. Jesus said, "Of all Thou hast given me I have **lost none**" (John 18:9) and "those that you gave me I have **kept**, and none of them is lost" (Jn 17:12). God's keeping means that He preserves us through all the troubles and changes of this mortal life unto eternal glory.

Who more afflicted than Job? But he was kept!

Who was more harassed by his own wicked flesh than David? But he was kept!

Who more tried than Paul?

He was beaten by the Jews five times. But he was kept!

He was beaten with a rod three times. But he was kept!

He was stoned once. But he was kept!

He was shipwrecked three times, spending at least 24 hours afloat at sea. But he was kept!

He often fled for his life under persecution. But he was kept!

He suffered from hunger, thirst, the elements, and inadequate clothing. But he was kept!

On a personal level, I have known many uncomplicated periods free from accident and misfortune in this life. I also have known the opposite. But in all such seasons, I have been kept by the power of God. My salvation has been secure.

Believers are the children of God through Christ (Galatians 3:26). We are inheritors of everlasting life through grace alone. We have been given the Holy Spirit and we will be kept forever (John 14:16-17; 16:12-15; Ephesians 1:13-14).

So, let no one jump to false conclusions. When a saint breaks down and falls, don't assume that he is not kept unto salvation. Don't assume that he is a lost cause. If he is the Lord's, he is kept by the power of God unto salvation.

May we always remember, our salvation is based on Christ's performance not ours. He is the one who keeps. He is the Shepherd who seeks and saves the lost.

Because of the Gospel we can be assured of the power of God working on our behalf. Sometimes it feels like our faith has keeled over and died but, even so, we are "kept by the power of God." Our God never changes. He is forever faithful to His word.

May we believe what has been written.

May we always remember that we, His blood washed people, are the objects of God's eternal kindness, care, protection and keeping.

And that's the Gospel Truth!