

## **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 suggest 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 these suggestions. I've known believers who have been maimed or killed in accidents. I've seen believers overcome with misfortunes, trials, and afflictions. Even though 'kept by the power of God' believers still sin.

Let's look at the verse again. According to the text we are kept by the power of God unto salvation. Our salvation is, therefore, secured. We are kept firmly in Him despite all accidents, misfortunes, trials, afflictions and through all sin.

### **We are Safe!**

What Power! What Goodness! What Grace!

The Lord is in the keeping business. Jesus said, "Of all Thou hast given me I have lost none." (John 18:9). He also said, "of those that you gave me I have kept, and none of them is lost." (John 17:12).

God's keeping means that He preserves us through all the troubles and changes of this mortal life unto eternal glory.

Who, for example, was more afflicted than Job? But he was kept! He was safe!

Who was more harassed by his own fiendish flesh than David? But he was kept! He was safe!

Who more tried than Paul? He was beaten by the Jews five times! He was beaten with a rod three times. He was stoned once. He was shipwrecked three times, spending at least 24 hours afloat at sea. He often fled for his life under persecution. He suffered from hunger, thirst, the elements, and inadequate clothing. But he was kept! He was safe!

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. I've been safe!

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. (See John 14:16-17; 16:12-15; Ephesians 1:13-14).

So, let no one jump to false conclusions. When a believer breaks down, fails and falls, don't assume that they are not kept unto salvation. When the believer falls, Don't assume that they are a lost cause. Don't presume they have fallen from grace, no, they have fallen into it. If they are the Lord's, they are kept by the power of God unto salvation. They are safe!

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, saves and keeps. 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." We are safe. Our God never changes. He is forever faithful to His word.

May we believe what has been written in the Word.

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

**We are safe!**