

KEPT BY GOD, FOR HIS GLORY

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Introduction

While we travel down the road of Christian salvation, something becomes painfully obvious. Our walk has ups and downs, trials, tribulations and sufferings that can come straight out of nowhere. I think of the Book of Job sometimes and how Job loved God and was a righteous man and then, for no apparent reason, Satan, with God's permission was allowed to attack him. Then, to make matters worse, Job's friends who thought they had all the answers God would have given, volunteer their advice which only added to Job's confusion. But unbeknown to Job was the fact that God put limits on what the devil could do to him and that God had a glorious finish planned for his life. Yet even though we have the benefit of reading all the Books of the Bible, trials, tribulations and sufferings still hit us like a ton of bricks when it happens directly to us and not to someone else. They are some of the tools the Lord uses to keep us humble and looking to Jesus Christ and no one else for the answers, which in turn builds up our most holy faith. Let's keep it real, most of us would not dare to claim to be as righteous as Job yet the Lord demonstrates His love for us while we are learning to trust Him in trying time and know that our hope of finishing well is possible because He's keeping us for His name's sake. I am so thankful of how the Holy Spirit will bring some scriptures we have memorized over the years to our remembrance, reminding us of how reading the word, praying the word, and waiting on God's promises to what we do and no matter what, we can look back and see that in the mist of it all, God kept us.

Who Is Being Kept

Those who are partakers of the Divine nature. Who are born again to a living hope, no matter where they may be.

The word Kept means.....to guard, to protect by a military guard, by watching and guarding to preserve one for the attainment of something.

1 Peter 1:5 states we are kept (protected) by the power of God for salvation ready to be revealed the last time. Our salvation has 3 three phases of Christian growth. Justification...

Ephesians 2: 8 We are saved by grace through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Vs 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Galatians 2: 16 knowing that a man is not justified by works but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by works of the law no flesh shall be justified

This means we can be justified by believing (faith) in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. There are absolutely no works God will accept. We can't work our way in or out of salvation's justification. This is a real reason we are kept by the power of God; we are His property now. But the next phase of salvation, Sanctification is where we are to put the work in, not to stay saved, but to grow in the grace we have received. This is where we go through the trials and sufferings to be made like Christ.

John 17: 17 Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth

2 Timothy 2: 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work

Hebrews 10: 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Philippians 2: 12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as much as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence work out your own salvation in fear and trembling:

Vs 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure

1 John 3: 3 And everyone who has this hope purifies himself, just as He is pure

Glorification the final phase of salvation

Colossians 3: 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you will appear with Him in glory

1 John 3: 2 Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Why Are You Being Kept

God wants us to know that our power and hope come from a dependance on Jesus Christ alone. When we count on ourselves, we don't need a living hope, we just need to do our best hope it works out. But a living hope comes from believing and following the Holy Scriptures and leaving the results to God. This epistle clearly teaches that God allows us to experience trials and sufferings to humble us and help us grow strong in the by casting all our cares on the Lord , for He cares for us. Each trial, each tribulation and each suffering will show us how genuine our faith currently is or is not in the Lord. If you are still depending on people to help you, then you've miss the mark. But if you cry out to the Lord, He will hear and help you in the way that is best and all glory will go to Him'

1 Peter 1: 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials

Vs 7 That the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

Jeremiah 29: 11 I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope

Vs 12 Then you will call upon Me, and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you

Vs 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart

2 Corinthians 2: 9 And He said to me "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I would rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me

Vs 10 Therefore I will take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I'm weak, then I am strong

What Must You Do Who Are Being Kept

As a result of having been delivered, rescued and brought through the trials and sufferings allowed by God and knowing more may be on the way and having gone through some purification fires, we should began to understand some of the things the scriptures tell us to and become doers of the word. Let us look at some of the therefore in 1 Peter

1: 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking

2:2 As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby

2: 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion, a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes in Him will by no means be put to shame"

2: 7 Therefore to you who believe He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone who the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

2: 13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme

4: 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin

4: 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him, in doing good as a faithful Creator.

5: 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time

Conclusion

Because we know how easy it is for us Christians to say, act or do the wrong thing due to our old fleshly nature, we must be kept by the power of God to reach the glorification phase of salvation. Our selfish pride will make our loving God resist us. But when we learn the way up with God is to humble ourselves, call on His holy name because we know in our hearts God only allows things to happen to us that will draw us closer to Him.

5: 10 But may the God of all grace who called us to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered awhile, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you

5: 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion, forever and ever. Amen

