Devotion #265

**Protected by the Power of God**

**1 Peter 1:5 (NASB)** “ *Protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*.”

As I sit this morning looking out into my back yard, I am staring at the leafless trees that surround us. Even though they appear lifeless, they stand there day after day, night after night like sentinels guarding our home. Looking at them reminds me of how God protects His people. There is so much comfort in knowing that God is with us, watching, protecting, providing, even until the day He takes us to our heavenly home.

I can think of several very significant events where God watched over me and even my family. One was when I was young riding in a little rowboat on the creek behind our house. The rain had been heavy for a few days, but finally the sun came out again. So my cousin, my brother, and I climbed into the little three-man boat and headed up the creek. The water was calm because the river that it flowed into was raging, backing up the creek, making it a nice calm place to ride. I remember there were trees uprooted in some spots and some logs that made it difficult to pass by. On one of the root balls of a giant tree lay a copperhead snake that I didn’t see until my head was beside it only a foot or two away. Thankfully it was more interested in sunbathing than eating.

There was the time my wife and I took our kids in my brother-in-law’s truck, filled with household items that we were trying to sell at a local flea market. It was being held at a drive-in movie theater parking lot, and it was extremely crowded. It was a good morning for us as many people wanted to buy our things. So busy that my wife had gone to the office of the flea market to get some change for our transactions. While she was gone, we had a busy run of people, so I set our daughter down on the ground, who I was holding at the time. When my wife came back she asked where our daughter was, to which I said, “”I thought she was with you”! At that moment panic set in our hearts like nothing we had ever experienced before. The man beside us selling his items said, “Go. See if you can find her”. I remember running down the middle of the aisles where the vendors were parked pushing through the crowd calling out to Jesus. I just kept saying out loud, “Oh Jesus, please Lord Jesus”. I couldn’t say anything else. It was like my tongue was tied, and that is all that I could utter. Any parent knows the thoughts that go through the mind at a moment like that. Did someone take her? Would we ever see her again? The panic was incredible. As I made my way back to the truck, not finding her, a woman from our church came with our daughter, holding her hand saying that she saw her walking in the crowd so she stopped and asked where we were. I’m not sure our daughter was old enough to tell her but somehow this dear sister was able to find us and give us our daughter back. Do I need to tell you about the joy, the relief, the expressions of thankfulness to God?

Jesus was very real to us that day and has been many times since, reminding me of the words that Peter spoke to the persecuted, scattered, frightened people in his day. His reminder to them was not to ever forget the power of God that protected them - the power that comes through simple faith - the faith that believes God, just because He is God.

The joy of knowing deep in your heart that your eternal home is waiting for you is priceless. It is something that will never be taken away. God is preserving us here in this life from ever being taking from Him. He is protecting us even when we make mistakes or make decisions that are not the wisest or even the decisions that are not honoring of Him. Like our daughter who walked away from me on that day, we walk away from Him. We are blinded by the things and allurments of this world and the trappings of Satan, but yet He has promised all who have surrendered their hearts to Him, that we will forever be safe with Him. He is the sentinel who stands guard over us even when it seems as though He’s not paying attention. He is, beloved. He is always watching, protecting, and providing. Trust Him with these truths today.