

**SERIES: "THE RICHES OF SALVATION"**

**MESSAGE #4 "THE POWER OF SALVATION"  
I Peter 1:5**

***"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."***

No mind in realm or race of mankind possesses the capacity to calculate or comprehend the inexhaustible, illimitable and immeasurable power of God.

He spoke and worlds appeared;  
He swung the planets on nothing;  
He set the sun on fire;  
He scooped out the seas;  
He ordered plants and animals to appear;  
He fashioned mankind from the dust of the earth;  
He contains, sustains and maintains all that He created.  
**AND this is the power that keeps the trusting soul safe!**

Peter tells us that the inheritance that God has promised His children is kept for them in heaven (v.4) and the heirs are kept for the inheritance on earth (v.5). This promised preserving power takes us from the date of our New Birth to His New Heaven and meets all of our needs in between!

Let us focus our attention upon the statement, "*kept by the power of God*" (v.5). As we do so, may the Spirit of God minister peace to His trusting ones who may be experiencing doubts about the saving *and* keeping power of God.

The biblical answers to three particular questions should minister assurance to any doubters among us about the security of the believer. The three questions are: Who Keeps The Saved Ones? How Are The Saved Ones Kept? And, Where Are The Saved Ones Kept?

**I. WHO KEEPS THE SAVED ONES?**

*"Who are kept by the power of God."* (v.5)

**A. We Are Kept By The God Who Is All-Powerful.**

Theologians use the word "omnipotent" when referring to God's power. The word "omnipotent" is from the Latin "omnis" which means "all" and "potens" which means "potent". Put together the word is "omnipotent" and means having unlimited power, all-powerful.

Peter writes that the power that keeps the believer is "the power of God", that is the power of the God Who has unlimited power, all-power. For any person to doubt that such a God could not and would not be able to "keep" them is either the height of audacity, the breadth of ignorance or the depth of arrogance or all three! And yet, I have met many who say they are trusting Christ for salvation but are not sure they will

reach heaven.

The only hope that we Christians have that we will ever reach heaven, is the truth that God keeps us by His all-powerfulness. If it were left up to our own resources and resolutions no one of us would ever be saved. Let us praise God for His saving and keeping power.

### **B. We Are Kept By The God Who Is Our Parent.**

God sent His Son to die for us, drew us to Himself, saved us, imparted the Holy Spirit to us, inserted us into His family and then - cast us out? That has never happened and will never happen.

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12) If you are born again, you can never be lost unless you are the Judas to whom Jesus was referring, who was not born again. Once born into God’s family, we can never be un-born! The Parent Who birthed us, holds us!

**ILLUST.** More than once have I heard persons say, to whom I was witnessing, “I am afraid I can’t hold out if I accept Jesus as my Savior.” It has been my delight to show them from scripture that if they “lay hold on eternal life” (I Tim. 6:12) by faith, the One Who imparts eternal life will hold on to them!

### **C. We Are Kept By The God Who Is Present In Us.**

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure to return to the Father, He said, concerning the Holy Spirit, “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

Jesus informed the disciples that the Holy Spirit will be in them *forever!* What does His being “in you” mean? Ephesians 1:13 tells us: “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Part of the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the “sealing” ministry. God has put His seal within us and we are His forever. And I remind you that “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (I John 4:4) Hallelujah!

### **D. We Are Kept By The God Who Keeps His Promises.**

I will list just a few of God’s promises in this regard:

- “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You.” (Isaiah 42:6);
- “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9)

- “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.” (1 John 2:25);
- “He who promised is faithful.(Hebrews 10:23);
- Paul said he was “persuaded that what He had promised He was also able to perform.” (Rom. 4:21)

One of my favorite promises is John 10:27-29. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.” (John 10:27-29)

**ILLUST.** The following happened at one of the mid-week services of the first church that I was privileged to serve as Pastor. About 40 to 50 were present and among them was a lady who was visiting for the first time. I was speaking on the passage cited above in which Jesus said, “no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.”

I said something like this: “No one in heaven above, on earth or beneath the earth can take us out of the Heavenly Father’s hand. In order to do so someone would have to be greater than God.” Then I asked the following question, “In view of Jesus’ statement, do you believe that it would be possible for Him to lose any of His children”? To my surprise, and to the surprise of the Bible Study group that evening, the visiting lady spoke up and said emphatically, “Yes!”

I was now on the spot. I did not wish to call undue attention to the lady neither did I want her emphatic “yes!” to be the final answer. I said to her, “Dear lady, Jesus said that no one could take them out of His hand and He added, ‘My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.’ Do you believe that statement from the lips of the Lord Jesus?” She answered just as emphatically as before, “Yes!”

I was now not only surprised but confused. And while I was regaining my mental equilibrium she said, “No one can pluck us out of His hand but we can wiggle ourselves out!” The absurdity of her remark was evident on the faces of the assembled group and I thought it best to move on with our study which I did. It seems, that contrary to all the evidence, there are those who prefer to be eternally insecure and are determined to believe that they can undo what God has done.

What God initiates He consummates. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6) God finishes what He starts. The chosen ones (v.2) are the born-again ones (v.3) and the born-again ones are the kept ones (v.5). What a God! What a Guard we have as the Sovereign sentinel of our souls!

## II. HOW ARE THE SAVED ONES KEPT?

When I was a young teen-ager my Father, who was a Pastor for over 50 years, said to me, “Son, what God does is always momentous; how He does it always marvelous.” And he cited several examples such as dividing the Red Sea, the falling of the Walls of

Jericho, the Virgin Birth of Christ, etc. Momentous acts accomplished in marvelous ways.

We tend to lose the marvel of God's momentous works. When I think about the way in which God safeguards His saints, I cannot help but marvel. The phrase in I Peter 1:5 "*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*" is cause for marveling on the part of those who are "kept".

Let us break this statement up into three parts:

- "*Who are kept by the power of God*" – That is the Force by which we are kept;
- "*through faith*" - That is the course by which we are kept;
- "*unto salvation*" - That is the resource that benefits the kept ones..

The word "kept" in the Greek is a military term. It is from the Greek word "*froureoo*" and is

translated "kept", "guarded", "garrisoned". The same word occurs in II Cor 11:32 and

there it is translated "garrison". It means to keep, as with a garrison or a military watch for

the purpose of protection and/or preservation. The need to be "kept" in this sense implies

that there is danger. We need to be vigilantly on guard even though we are guarded.

Now to answer the question, **How are the saved ones kept?**

**A. We Are Kept Internally.**

Phil 4:7 - "The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Notice the two organs of the body that are mentioned: "hearts" and "minds". That is interesting. You see, the heart speaks of the center of our affections. That is where our feelings come from. The peace of God guards our feelings. However, when we chose to override God's peace and allow our feelings to dominate, the peace of God does not operate!

And then note that God's peace is designed to guard our minds, that is our thinking. When the peace of God prevails over our minds then, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report" (Phil.4:8) are the things upon which we will be thinking.

When we operate on the basis of our fleshly feelings and thoughts there is no inward peace. Not only is this true of believers individually but it is also true of believers corporately. Churches filled with believers who have yielded to the internal peace of God controlling their hearts and minds are blessed congregations. Churches with believers whose hearts and minds are self-controlled are war zones! Paul wrote to the church in Colosse, “let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body.” (Col.3:15)

### **B. We Are Kept Externally.**

Jude v. 24 - “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

Jude’s benediction is a reassuring doxology. It is often pronounced at the end of church services, referenced at the end of correspondence and memorized by scripture loving Christians.

This doxological benediction is divided into two stanzas: it contains promises for the faith family and it concludes with praise to the Father of the family.

#### *The Promises It Contains.*

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”

*There is the promise of preservation* - “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling...” Jude is not saying that a child of God can fall in the sense of losing his salvation. The Greek word is “aptaistous” translated here as “falling” and means “stumbling.” God is the One Who is able to “keep you from stumbling” only as we consciously trust in Him as we walk amidst temptations on every hand.

*There is the promise of presentation.* – “and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...” We may be faulted here but when presented to Christ as His Bride at the Throne we will be presented faultless. Paul writes concerning the church: “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph.5:27) And Jude adds: “with exceeding joy” – what a joyous occasion for both saint and Saviour!

#### *The Praise With Which It Concludes.*

“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

*Jude praises God’s glory* - “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty.” He is God all-wise; He is God and Saviour; He is glorious God and Saviour; He is majestic God and Saviour. Give Him glory all you peoples!

*Jude praises God’s government* – “dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

Our subject is the keeping power of God. His dominion is universal and His power is unlimited. Surely He “is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”

### **C. We Are Kept Eternally.**

II Tim. 1:12 - “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

*Paul was a positive Christian.*

He was positive, “I know whom I have believed” – Do not miss this emphasis. He did not say “I know what I have believed,” (although he did have a knowledge of the “what” of the Christian faith), but he said, “I know *whom*.” Salvation is in a relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ, not in a religion.

*Paul was a persuaded Christian.*

About what was he persuaded? He was persuaded that God keeps, guards and garrisons that which is committed into His care for safe keeping. Are you “swayed” this way and that about your safety in Christ? Allow Paul’s testimony to persuade you that God can be trusted to keep you saved and you too can say with Paul I am persuaded “that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” and then go on your way rejoicing.

The Power Of Salvation, that is the Power that saves and keeps us saved, is seen in The One Who keeps us saved, in how He keeps us saved and, finally, where the saved ones are kept.

## **III. WHERE ARE THE SAVED ONES KEPT?**

I have heard Real Estate Agents say repeatedly, “That which largely determines the value of a house is location, location, location.” The same could be said about salvation. It is the location of the believing soul that is committed to the Savior for safe-keeping that makes the salvation offered authentic and consequently valuable.

Peter said in I Peter 1:5 that we are “kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation.” Kept where? Where is the deposit that, as Paul said, he had “committed unto him against that day” that is, the final day? Scripture is not vague about the Depository! It tells us that:

### **A. We Are Kept In His Heart.**

Jeremiah 31:3 - “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.” What God said to Jeremiah can be applied to all His loved ones! The heart is the seat of the affections. He “so loved the world that He gave” (John 3:16); Of Jesus, John tells us, “having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” (John 13:1) We are forever safe in the loving heart of God.

### **B. We Are Kept In His Fold.**

In John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." He is not only the Door but He is also the Doorkeeper: "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." (Rev.3:7) Jesus is both the Portal and the Protector, Shepherd and Safeguard.

### **C. We Are Kept In His Hand.**

As we have already seen, "neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck Them out of My Father's hand." (John 10:28-29)

**ILLUST.** A young girl was giving her testimony of faith in Christ in a public park where there were many from all walks of life gathered. She concluded by quoting "no one is able to pluck hem out of My Father's hand." In the group was a skeptic who spoke up with this flippant question: "But suppose, Maggie, that you slip through one of His fingers?" In an instant Maggie replied, "But sir, that can never happen because, you see, I am one of His fingers, for Ephesians 5:30 tells us that we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones!"

### **D. We Are Kept In His Book.**

God has The Book of Life with the names of His children inscribed in it for eternity: "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev.20:15) Those who are written therein are the saved ones. The unwritten are the lost ones. Those penned on the pages of the Book of Life will never be removed. Gods has no eraser on His pencil!

### **E. We Are Kept In His Fortress.**

David sings about his security in God: "David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior." (II Samuel 22:1-3)

### **F. We Are Kept In His Arms.**

Deut. 33:27b – "underneath are the everlasting arms."

### **G. We Are Kept In His Prayers.**

"Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me." (John 17:11) And "He ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:25)

Friends, if you have come to faith in Christ as your Savior you have the additional promise that: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37) Since He will not cast us *out*, He keeps us *in* - in His heart, fold, hand, book, fortress, arms, prayers. So instead of enduring your salvation, enjoy it!

## **CONCLUSION**



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**ILLUST.** At Niagara Falls, New York there is a hydro-electric power plant. Years ago the Niagara Falls post office Postmark was this: "Located at the seat of power". That is where you and I, as children of God are - located at the seat of the Power Of God!

We have a possession awaiting us in heaven – our inheritance; we have the power of God safeguarding us until we get there. What cause for joy and praise!

Do you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour from sin? If you don't you are missing more than you can imagine. The Bible says that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes." (Rom. 1:16) Read what the Gospel is in I Corinthians 15:1-6 and believe it. You will experience the power of salvation!

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