

Who Needs a Guardian Angel? I Have Jesus!

It has been a busy week in ministry, especially returning to the office after a week off with family. I am truly blessed to have a job that I look forward to coming back to after being off. His faithfulness has kept me here for almost 17 years. I was told when I came that being in ministry was not at all like being in Utopia, but that there would always be challenges. That has proved very true, but through it all my faith has been strengthened and my character progressively molded into His image. One of the most difficult areas for me has been to submit my rebellious spirit to the godly authority that He placed over me. This week was no exception. But by His Grace alone I have experienced Victory in Jesus, not because of a guardian angel but because of Jesus.

I was reminded this morning in my quiet time that my responsibility is to simply live a life pleasing to Him and allow Him to navigate the course for me. That may sound simple, but my flesh wars against my spirit continually even now. I am reminded in God's Word to ***"Be submissive to every human institution and authority for the sake of the Lord, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, Or to governors as sent by him to bring vengeance (punishment, justice) to those who do wrong and to encourage those who do good service. For it is God's will and intention that by doing right [your good and honest lives] should silence (muzzle, gag) the ignorant charges and ill-informed criticisms of foolish persons. [Live] as free people, [yet] without employing your freedom as a pretext for wickedness; but [live at all times] as servants of God. Show respect for all men [treat them honorably]. Love the brotherhood (the Christian fraternity of which Christ is the Head). Reverence God. Honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:13-17 AMP)***

Oswald Chambers helped me to see that when I take up my own defense (which I can do in thought, word and deed), I remove myself from His protection. This is this morning's reading from My Utmost;

The Overshadowing Personal Deliverance

"I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 1:8.

God promised Jeremiah that He would deliver him personally—"Thy life will I give unto thee for a prey." That is all God promises His children. Wherever God sends us, He will guard our lives. Our personal property and possessions are a matter of indifference, we have to sit loosely to all these things; if we do not, there will be panic and heartbreak and distress. That is the inwardness of the overshadowing of personal deliverance.

The Sermon on the Mount indicates that when we are on Jesus Christ's errands, there is no time to stand up for ourselves. Jesus says, in effect, 'Do not be bothered with whether you are being justly dealt with or not.' To look for justice is a sign of deflection from devotion to Him.

Never look for justice in this world, but never cease to give it. If we look for justice, we will begin to grouse and to indulge in the discontent of self-pity—‘Why should I be treated like this?’ If we are devoted to Jesus Christ we have nothing to do with what we meet, whether it is just or unjust. Jesus says—‘Go steadily on with what I have told you to do and I will guard your life. If you try to guard it yourself, you remove yourself from My deliverance.’ The most devout among us become atheistic in this connection; we do not believe God, we enthrone common sense and tack the name of God on to it. We do lean to our own understanding, instead of trusting God with all our hearts.

Chambers, O. (1986). My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year. Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.

When I attempt to defend myself or stand up for my reputation I am putting the opinion of men above the opinion of God and getting caught in Satan’s snare. Instead I must live in a way that acknowledges His approval of me no matter what anyone else, including me, thinks! I don’t have to defend myself before others and I don’t have to prove myself to gain God’s acceptance of me. In fact doing so is a hindrance to His love and protection of me.

“If I allow the thought that what I am toward God will in some way or other affect what God is toward me, I shall be filled with the specter of bondage. But when I see that what God is toward me is altogether the outcome of what He is, and that He is this though knowing perfectly what I am, it puts my heart in the right direction for liberty.” -C.A.C.

Stanford, M. J. (2002). Complete Works of Miles J. Stanford. Galaxie Software.

"Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places."(Psalms 135:6 NKJV)

Jim Freed