

SECURITY vs. ANXIETY

SECURITY IS KNOWING THAT GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US AND THAT WHATEVER WE GIVE TO HIM WILL BECOME AN ETERNAL TREASURE

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” (Psalm 20:7).

DEFINITION OF SECURITY

The Greek word for *secure* is *amerimnos*. It means “freedom from anxiety and care.” Paul prayed for the church at Corinth: “I want you to be free from anxieties” (I Corinthians 7:32a, Revised Standard Version). Another word for security is *confidence*. “In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15). The Hebrew word for *confidence* comes from *batach*, which means “to hasten for refuge and safety,” both physically and emotionally.

THE VALUE OF SECURITY

Every person’s heart longs deeply for security. Unfortunately, we tend to look for security in temporal things that perish, such as money, possessions, or people, rather than eternal realities that circumstances cannot take away. Ironically, the very things we depend on for security produce insecurity and anxiety. “The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much. But the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep,” (Ecclesiastes 5:12, New American Standard).

Ironically, in a desperate attempt to find security, a woman will often sacrifice the strength of her purity for glib promises from a vain man, or a man will often surrender his riches for a business scheme that he believes will provide for his future security. Yet “a gracious woman retaineth honor; and strong men retain riches” (Proverbs 11:16).

THE DANGER OF FALSE SECURITY

People sense the need for security so greatly that many will latch on to whatever they think will produce it. This creates false security, until a trial comes and our sense of security collapses. For example, Proverbs 11:28 explains the consequences of looking to riches for security, “He that trusteth (*batach*) in his riches shall fall.”

False security produces a spirit of carelessness. Careless people appear secure but in fact stumble blindly to destruction. “Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly (*betach*—derived from *batach*), that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me...For thou hast trusted (*batach*) in thy wickedness... Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth” (Isaiah 47:8, 10-11).

Human nature includes a tendency to attach divine powers to inanimate objects fashioned by men. Men then revere these objects as sources of security. “The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth (*batach*) in them. (Psalm 135:15-18).

Severe consequences come to the person who turns away from the Lord and puts his confidence in other people. “Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth (*batach*) in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited” (Jeremiah 17:5).

THE REWARDS OF MAKING THE LORD OUR SECURITY

1. Strength and help

“In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15). “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted (*batach*) in him, and I am helped” (Psalm 28:7).

2. Freedom from fear

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident (*batach*)” (Psalm 27:1-3).

3. Inward peace and joy

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth (*batach*) in thee” (Isaiah 26:3). “Whoso trusteth (*batach*) in the Lord, happy is he” (Proverbs 16:20).

4. Stability and fruitfulness

“They that trust (*batach*) in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever” (Psalm 125:1). “But blessed is the man who trusts (*batach*) in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit,” (Jeremiah 17:7-8, New International Version).

FOUNDATIONS OF SECURITY

Every believer enjoys the security of the Lord in the following specific ways:

1. Secure in His love

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, (Romans 8:38-39). “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3).

2. Secure in His fellowship

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:19-20, New American Standard). “For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (I Corinthians 1:9). “Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (I John 1:3).

3. Secure in His Spirit

“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts” (II Corinthians 1:22). “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15). “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13).

4. Secure in His hand

“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:29). “Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand,” (Isaiah

41:10, New American Standard). “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:6).

5. Secure in His Body

“So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” (Romans 12:5). “There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it,” (Ephesians 4: 4-7, New International Version).

6. Secure in His family

“...and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.’ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (Hebrews 12:5-7, New American Standard). “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him” (Psalm 103:13). “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together,” (Romans 8:16-17).

THE KEY TO SECURITY

Security springs from building our life around that which nothing can destroy or take away. On this basis, only God, His Word, and eternal things qualify. By believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, we know His presence within, as well as the Holy Spirit Who confirms with our spirits that we are children of God. (See Romans 8:16). Then, as spiritual infants, we desire the Word of God so that we can grow to maturity.

To most people, building security means collecting possessions and money. By contrast, for the believer, security comes by giving to the needs of the poor. “Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting (*batach*) in the LORD,” (Psalm 112:5-7, New International Version). Such generosity flows from a proper fear of the Lord. Those who fear the Lord will not fear man. “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life” (Proverbs 22:4).

HOW SECURE ARE YOU?

- Do you concentrate on winning others to Christ rather than building a bank account?
- Do you give to the needs of the poor so that you do not fear evil tidings?
- Do you reject the false notion that good things come from objects made by man?
- Do you put your confidence in your Heavenly Father’s love for you?
- Do you focus on the things of the Lord throughout the day?
- Do you have fellowship with God’s Spirit, and does He control your life?
- Do you function effectively in the Body of Christ?
- Do you pray for a closer walk with the Lord rather than material things?
- Do you concentrate on spiritual strength rather than on building physical strength?
- If you lost all your possessions, would you still sense completeness in Christ?