FOUNDATIONS  
“GOD’S BENEFIT PACKAGE: PROTECTION”  Lesson #3

Intro. We’ve been looking at “God’s Benefit Package”

1. The first lesson was about God’s forgiveness

2. Last week we talked about the benefit of healing
   a. This benefit is all inclusive, “who heals all your diseases”

   • I wanted to give you an example of how to pray for healing

   ex. “Jesus, thank You for Your power to heal. Right now I speak healing to
       this body. By Your stripes, (I am), or (they are), healed. In Your name, the
       name of Jesus, Amen.

   • Tonight we’re going to look at the third benefit listed in Psalm 103
   • We’re promised God’s protection

Psalms 103:1-4 (NKJV)
1. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
2. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:
3. Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,
4. Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with
   lovingkindness and tender mercies,

I. ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS GOD OFFERS US IS HIS PROTECTION

   • We’re going to look at a number of scriptures that speak of God’s protection

   A. THESE AREN’T JUST GENERAL PROMISES, THEY ARE ___________________________ THAT WE NEED TO CLAIM

   • THEY’RE PART OF THE PACKAGE!
Psalms 91:1-7 (NKJV)
1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."
3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.
4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; his truth shall be your shield and buckler.
5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,
6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.
7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.

1. Psalm 91 is one of the most important references to God’s protection in the Bible

- We have such powerful promises in God’s word concerning our protection

Psalms 121:1-8 (NKJV)
1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- from whence comes my help?
2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
4 Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; he shall preserve your soul.
8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

B. THIS BENEFIT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO CLAIM BECAUSE THERE ARE TIMES WE ALL FEEL _______________________

- There’s an obscure portion of scripture in Exodus 22

Exodus 22:22-24 (NKJV)
22 "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child."
23 "If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry;
24 "and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

1. There’s a reason God was so protective of the fatherless and widows
   a. In their time, they were defenseless; they were completely at the mercy of the society they lived in
   b. Weak, vulnerable, easy to take advantage of…
   c. God is a protector, a defender of the defenseless

• There are times when we all feel weak, vulnerable, fragile, hurt

2. One of the truths about God we have to remember is He doesn’t despise our weakness
   a. He’s not surprised when we feel distressed, overwhelmed, or unable to solve our dilemmas…
   b. When we feel weak and vulnerable, we can always come to Him
   c. When we feel defenseless…He is our defender

Matthew 9:35-36 (NKJV)
35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.
36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

3. Oftentimes when we feel harassed and helpless we also feel humiliated that we feel that way
   a. It’s embarrassing to feel so needy…to be so needy

• We hate to appear weak

Again, Matthew 9:35 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

   b. They were weak and vulnerable and God thought, “I want to help them out!”

• Why? Because He’s compassionate
4. If we’re going to feel like we can come to Him at any time for any thing we need to remember this about Him
   a. When He sees us harassed and helpless, He’s moved with compassion

   • The Greek word for “moved with compassion” expresses the involuntary
gasp wrenched from a man overwhelmed by great sorrow, or a woman’s
groans in labor

   b. This is more than a “sympathetic feeling”
   c. It’s a forceful term like “taking a punch in the stomach”

   • If we believe that, then we should know we can run to Him when we need to
   • God isn’t offended, repulsed, or put off by our weakness and vulnerability…
     HE’S MOVED

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)
For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

   • Other versions say, “He sympathizes with our weaknesses”

Message Bible, “We don’t have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He’s been through weakness and testing, experienced it all – all but the sin. So let’s walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”

   • He’s our defender when we feel defenseless

II. LIVING UNDER THE BENEFIT OF GOD’S PROTECTION

   • There are three specific areas we should give attention to if we’re going to enjoy the confidence of God’s protection

   A. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH ______________________

Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

   1. God’s name is a source of our protection
In Biblical times a name represented certain characteristics or traits.

- We dealt with the name of Jesus in our last class on healing so tonight I wanted to give you some other names of God from the Bible

2. God’s names represent who He is to us
   a. Below is a list of some of the names of God we find in the Bible
   b. The list isn’t comprehensive but gives us an idea of who our God is to us

   - Jehovah-jireh: “the Lord will provide”  Genesis 22:14
   - Jehovah-rapha: “the Lord who heals”  Exodus 15:26
   - Jehovah-nissi: “the Lord is my banner”  Exodus 17:15
   - Jehovah-m’kaddesh: “the Lord who sanctifies”  Leviticus 20:8
   - Jehovah-shalom: “the Lord is peace”  Judges 6:24
   - Jehovah-tsidkenu: “the Lord our righteousness”  Jeremiah 23:6
   - Jehovah-rohi: “the Lord our shepherd”  Psalm 23:1
   - Jehovah-shammah: “the Lord is there”  Ezekiel 48:35

3. All these names represent who God is to us
   a. He is our provider, healer, banner, sanctification, peace, righteousness, shepherd

   Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

   b. When we feel vulnerable or weak, we can run to His name and find shelter and protection

Psalms 91:14 New Living Testament The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.

B. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH ______________________

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

   1. One of the greatest sources of vulnerability and weakness in believers today is a lack of consistency in the word of God
a. We will not feel strong and protected without spending time, *daily*, in God’s word
b. The importance of taking time every day to read, meditate, and confess God’s word cannot be overemphasize

**Psalms 119:49-50 (NKJV)**

49 Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.

**C. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH __________________________**

1. Something we must understand about God…He is __________________________
   - *This literally means He is “all-present” or His presence is “present”*

**Psalms 91:1-2 (NKJV)**

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide *under the shadow of the Almighty.*
2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

   a. **Psalm 91:1** says His presence is *over us*

**Isaiah 52:12 (NKJV)** For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the LORD will go before you, and *the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*

   b. **Isaiah 52:12** says God’s presence is *behind us*

**Psalms 125:1-2 (NKJV)**

1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD *surrounds His people* from this time forth and forever.

   c. **Psalm 125** says God’s presence *surrounds us or encircles us*
   - *Through these verses and many others in the Bible it’s obvious God is trying to help us understand His presence is our protection*
• His presence is over us, behind us, encircling us  
• His presence is PRESENT  

2. The real test of our understanding of God’s “present presence” is in the time of ________________  
   a. If we’re going to become more conscious of His presence when we’re in crisis, we’re going to have to make an important choice  
   b. We must choose to trust He is with us over our natural inclination to panic!  

3. If we’re going to become more aware of God’s “present presence” in the time of crisis, we need to ________________  

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)  
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.  
   a. Our natural reaction to crisis or trouble is panic  
   b. Panic and fear is the opposite of faith and trust  
   c. We must make the decision to trust and acknowledge God’s presence  

Psalms 56:3 (NKJV) Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.  

Psalms 27:13-14 (NKJV)  
13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.  
14 Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!  
   d. This is a decision the Psalmist has made…to trust in God’s presence and “wait” on Him  

ex. This “waiting” isn’t something done out of frustration. “Okay, God, I’m ‘waiting’ for You to do something…”  

• It is a conscious, determined, focusing our attention on the present, presence of the Lord  
• When we do this, we quiet panic and fear
ex. “God, I don’t understand everything that is happening to me now, I don’t know how it’s going to work out, but I believe You are here with me now. I acknowledge Your presence, and trust You are with me.”

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: Jesus, thank You for Your watchfulness and protection over my life. When I feel vulnerable or afraid, I will come to You. Thank You for Your present presence with me always, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #3

I. ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS GOD OFFERS US IS HIS PROTECTION

A. THESE AREN’T JUST GENERAL PROMISES, THEY ARE ___(PERSONAL BENEFITS) THAT WE NEED TO CLAIM

B. THIS BENEFIT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO CLAIM BECAUSE THERE ARE TIMES WE ALL FEEL ___(VULNERABLE)

II. LIVING UNDER THE BENEFIT OF GOD’S PROTECTION

A. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH ___(GOD’S NAME)

B. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH ___(GOD’S WORD)

C. WE FIND PROTECTION THROUGH ___(GOD’S PRESENCE)

1. Something we must understand about God…He is ___(omnipresent)

2. We may know this theologically, but the real test of our understanding of God’s “present presence” is in the time of ___(crisis)

3. If we’re going to become more aware of God’s “present presence” in the time of crisis, we need to ___(acknowledge Him)