

SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION

Supernatural Protection

January 19th, 2020

When you have a call of God on your life to preach the Gospel, God will protect you from the schemes of evil men and deliver you out of their hands so that you may continue preaching the gospel. Many think that the call of God on their life is their career, but it's greater than that; it's to preach the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and all Christians have that call. It's what was commanded of you when you became born again. So, have you preached the gospel to someone this week? Are you concerned about your co-worker's soul or just about the amount of money you'll make at the end of the week? Have you been a friend to a sinner this week?

Prior to Peter and the Apostles being imprisoned in Acts 5:17-21 we read in Acts 5:12-16 about the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church. The early church needed supernatural protection as the spirit of Herod, or the anti-Christ spirit, was out to shut down any work and progression of the church. That same demonic spirit is alive today, intimidating Christians to clam up, be quiet, walk in fear of the future and prioritize everything else other than the gospel.

So, **Acts 5:12-16** says; *"12 And through the hands of the Apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed."*

It's amazing to see that the people esteemed them highly yet some refused to join them. It happens today too. People looking on and maybe admire or respect what's happening in a move of God yet stay clear, not wanting to be associated with the power of the Holy Spirit.

This power of the Holy Spirit is what Peter and the Apostles were operating in and it's what King Herod and his anti-Christ spirit despised and wanted to kill and destroy. It continues today. That demonic spirit in Herod could not kill the Christ child, Jesus, so now it wants to kill the Holy Spirit in the church. How? By getting you to be silent and to not preach the gospel. This will quench the Holy Spirit. By doing this, you come out from under the protection of the Holy Spirit. Remember what Jesus said in **Mark 8:38**; *"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels."*

We continue now in **Acts 5:17-20** where Peter and the Apostles were imprisoned by the religious system, the Jewish leaders, but by a supernatural event they were freed; *"17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with [a]indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the Apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."*

You see that the angel did not tell them to go back to fishing, or being a tax collector. No, he told them to go and preach the gospel! So, as the preaching of the gospel was transpiring, we read a few chapters later in **Acts 12:1-17** about Herod's violence to the church. It says; *"12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. 4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four [a]squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. 5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but [a]constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were [b]keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him."*

This killing and martyrdom of the Apostle James happened about 11 years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Jews, as well as King Herod who was still being controlled by the anti-Christ spirit which is a murderous spirit to kill the church, was emboldened by James' murder, and Herod proceeds to arrest Peter. But another supernatural event happened that set him free.

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Maybe you need to have chains break off of your hands, to be freed from the spiritual prison you're in, you need to be delivered and set free. You need supernatural protection.

Prior to Peter being arrested and put in prison, he had been at the home of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, a Gentile, and it was there that he preached the Gospel and Cornelius and his household were not only born again, but they were filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. You can read this in [Acts 10:1-48](#).

This whole section is about Peter fulfilling his call, and it simply was not his time to die. Therefore, God protected him and delivered him from the violence of Herod, not in a natural way, but rather a supernatural way that involved angelic intervention.

Going back to when Jesus was speaking to Peter in **Matthew 16:15-19**, we read; *"15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not [a]prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth [b]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Jesus was decreeing Holy Spirit protection over Peter, that Hades would not prevail against his call, nor the call of the church when they declare that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This same authority, you and I can walk in today.

After all of the harassment and murders done by King Herod to the Apostles and early church, we read about his violent death in **Acts 12:20-24**; *"20 Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus [a]the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was [b]supplied with food by the king's country. 21 So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. 22 And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and [c]died. 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied."*

I wonder if it was the same angel that delivered Peter from Herod that was assigned to kill Herod. This is a great example of how it does not go well for those who persecute Christians. No matter what's going on around today, you need protection. You have it available to you, but you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and not be filled with the world. You have two filling stations today and you can choose which one you want to fill up on; 1) the Holy Spirit or 2) the world. It's your choice.

We read about supernatural protection on Paul and Silas when they were thrown into prison in **Acts 16:25-34**; *"25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer [a] called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God."*

This was a supernatural spiritual earthquake to bring deliverance to these two men of God, not just happenstance. The Holy Spirit was giving a supernatural sign for the gospel to be preached to this jailer. This rattled him to the core and when the gospel was preached to him, he and his family were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. I wonder if people see the Holy Spirit power on you and all they're asking is, 'what must I do to be saved'? Is this happening in your life? Your call is to preach the gospel.

In the midst of what appeared to be a natural disaster or a supernatural disaster, Paul and Silas and all the other prisoners are saved, and they use it as an opportunity to lead the jailer and his household to the Lord.

We continue on the theme of this message about the need of supernatural protection and in **2 Corinthians 11:24-28** we read the list of Paul's hardships but the supernatural protection that was on him to preach the gospel; *"24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false*

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brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

As a side note, it's said that few people would even survive one of the whippings like Paul received, let alone five. Paul needed supernatural protection and if you look with natural eyes, you'd say he wasn't protected because of what he suffered. But here's the key to today's message; none of what he went through before he ultimately was martyred, was fatal to him. There was nothing untimely about what happened to him and nothing brought an untimely death by accidents or natural disasters.

Paul operated in the supernatural, and it is seen in many ways in that he was delivered from death until it was his time to fulfill his call. It's not to say that he did not experience natural disasters or accidents but it's clear that no matter what happened to him it never proved fatal. It's the same with you and I. Even though similar things like this happen, if we're preaching the gospel, we won't be taken out by untimely deaths until we fulfill what God has commanded us to do. If you're not preaching the gospel though and are ashamed of it or riddled with fear, doubt and unbelief, or if you're prioritizing the things of the flesh, that supernatural protection isn't there to watch over you.

Ultimately, on Judgement Day, whatever was not of the Spirit of God which is like wood, hay and stubble, will be consumed by fire. It will be nothing but smoke and ashes. The only thing that will remain is what you did for Him and that's likened to precious stones, [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](#).

All of the Apostles, except John, were martyred but they were not untimely deaths, they never died before fulfilling the call on their lives. Some died early in their ministry others died later, but they died preaching the gospel and that is what makes it not an untimely death. We can all fulfill the call on our life and not be taken out by the devil before our time.

When I hear of Christians dying untimely deaths caused by accidents or natural disasters, I can't help but wonder where the door was left open for the devil to take them out before fulfilling the call of God on their lives.

Let's look at how Jesus handled the storm and the lesson we can learn how to handle the storms in our lives when they come. **Matthew 8:23-27** says; *“23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” 26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, [a]“Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*

These storms may not just be physical or natural, but spiritual storms. Have you called out to Jesus this past year asking him to save you? You're under attack and you feel like you're drowning in the storm from the devil. When the storms arise in your life, it's good to examine yourself and see if you are fearful and of little faith or are you like Jesus, rebuking the storm that wants to short-circuit your life and ministry. The same Jesus who rebuked the storm lives in you by the power of the Holy Spirit and you too can rebuke the storm in Jesus' name and see it stop in its tracks, whether it's natural or spiritual.

In **Matthew 14:22-33**, Jesus again rebuked another storm; *“22 Immediately Jesus [a]made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now [b]in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, [c]“Be of good cheer! [d]It is I; do not be afraid.” 28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw [e]that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat [f]came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”*

Do you walk in fear in the midst of the storm that you can't even see and recognize Jesus walking to help you? Look at your own life, see where you don't believe when He's been walking up to you in the supernatural but you still don't believe it's Him. So if you do step out to walk by faith, don't look at the natural and be full of fear because it will cause you to sink. Now Jesus saved him but rebuked him for fear, doubt and unbelief. Peter failed the test.

“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” Can't you see yourself in the same situation?

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Psalm 91 in the Amplified Bible is powerful and builds faith as it talks about the security that comes when you trust wholly in the Lord. It says; “ *1* He who [a]dwells in the shelter of the Most High will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand]. *2* I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!” *3* For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence. *4* He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall. *5* You will not be afraid of the terror of night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, *6* Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon. *7* A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but danger will not come near you. *8* You will only [be a spectator as you] look on with your eyes and witness the [divine] repayment of the wicked [as you watch safely from the shelter of the Most High]. *9* Because you have made the Lord, [who is] my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, *10* No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. *11* For He will command His angels in regard to you, to protect and defend and guard you in all your ways [of obedience and service]. *12* They will lift you up in their hands, so that you do not [even] strike your foot against a stone. *13* You will tread upon the lion and cobra; The young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. *14* “Because he set his love on Me, therefore I will save him; I will set him [securely] on high, because he knows My name [he confidently trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never abandon him, no, never]. *15* “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. *16* “With a long life I will satisfy him and I will let him see My salvation.”

That life is the life of fulfilling your call and election as a Christian. You can live a life that is full of faith in God’s word, or you can live a life full of fear in the cares of this world. It’s your choice. Choose supernatural protection today.