

Introduction:

I have heard the above phrase a lot recently or some variation of it “You be safe”. It can be said in one of three ways, 1) as a reminder to be careful, 2) as a desire, almost like a prayer, and 3) as words of encouragement. I got to thinking of the need for all of us to be safe because of the dangers we face. After all the devil is liken to a “roaring lion” seeking to devour us.

I) S

A) Sanctified – as in set apart, cleansed, and made holy.

1. Due to the “virus” people are trying to wash their hands more, wear mask while in public, social distancing. All in an effort to protect themselves and those around them.
2. In the Bible there is an important spiritual component to being sanctified.

B) In the Bible

1. Sanctification is not used in the Old Testament. Although things we set apart and cleansed in order to serve God.
 - a. The Levitical Priesthood had to go through a process of cleaning to serve God.
 - b. ***Exodus 28:41 "So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.***
2. Sanctification used 10 times in the New Testament- used on connection with Holy, consecrate, and saint.

- a. A saint is a Christian- they have been cleansed, set apart in their obedience to the Gospel.
- b. ***John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.***
- c. A person is sanctified by the blood of Christ- ***Hebrews 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.***
- d. Sanctification involves the inner man, the soul of the person -- ***1 Peter 3:15a But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,***

C) The first step in being safe is being sanctified in our hearts mind, and soul.

- 1. Obey the Gospel of Christ
- 2. One cannot be a sanctified non-Christian.

II) A

A) Alert

- 1. In speaking of the virus and how we react to it, we are to be vigilant.
- 2. Meaning to do the right things and don't let down your guard. Carelessness is a big reason bad thing happen. Auto accidents, work accidents, accidents at home, etc.

B) Alert words in the Bible.

1. Watch as in to keep a watch or watch out for something.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 16:13** *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*
 - b. There are all kinds of things to watch out for such as temptation, lust, evil desire.
2. Guard – to protect. You place a guard to keep things out or in.
 - a. **Luke 21:34** *"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.*
 - b. The Bible does not tell us when Jesus will come back but it does tell us He will come back and we need to be ready.
 - c. A guarded person will be ready whenever He returns.
3. Zeal and zealous – to be on fire, enthused.
 - a. One thing our social distancing may have taught us is to not take things for granted.
 - b. Problem of Christians can be lukewarmness. **Revelation 3:19** *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

C) Another step in being safe is being alert.

III) F

A) Faith and faithfulness

1. It is not enough to practice safety some of the time or most

of the time.

2. As I just said we need to be alert all the time so we need to be faithful all the time.
 - a. A car that starts 80% of the time is not a faithful car, a spouse who is faithful most of the time is not faithful.

B) Faith is built upon the word of God.

1. ***Romans 10:17*** ***So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***
2. Faith is not a hunch or a feeling but it is fact-based.
3. Faith is also used to mean conviction to have faith in. We have faith in God, in Jesus being the Son of God, in the Bible being the word of God.

2 Peter 1:5 ***But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,***

4. Faithfulness then is being full of faith. Being obedient to God all the time.
 - a. A Christian not striving to be faithful all the time is not really being faithful.
 - b. A faithful Christian will overcome the world. ***1 John 5:4*** ***For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.***

C) Faithfulness is necessary to be safe.

IV) E

A) Examine and examination as in self-examination

1. This requires us to concentrate on ourselves.
2. To see what we are and are not doing, things we need to change.

B) Examination in our lives.

1. There is a necessity of looking at ourselves first.
 - a. ***Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.***
 - i. This passage condemns hypocritical judging and self-deception.
 - ii. This kind of examination is worse than useless- it is misleading.
2. We are told to test or examine ourselves.
 - a. ***2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.***
 - b. The standard is “the faith” – am I reading my Bible?, am I “rightly dividing the word”? (***2 Timothy 2.15***).

- c. Test yourself – not your neighbor, I can't change you without first changing myself.
 - d. Passing the test – Jesus Christ is in us. We are abiding by His word.
 - e. Failure is possible.
3. ***Galatians 6:4*** ***But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.***
- a. We know ourselves better than anyone else, our weaknesses, our thoughts, our intentions.
 - b. My faithfulness in some ways is connected to your faithfulness but in other ways it is not. I can serve God with or without you.
4. The examination must be by the right standard.
- a. Not looking at what you are doing or others are doing.
 - b. Not by a creed book and whether it approves of what I am doing.
 - c. Not by looking at some sinner and comparing myself to that person.
 - d. But by the word of God.
 - e. ***James 1:22*** ***But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.***

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Conclusion:

I hope everyone is safe from the virus. More importantly I hope everyone is S.A.F.E. spiritually.