

## Real Security

We live in a relatively safe area, but last week our next-door neighbors' house was broken into. Fortunately, they weren't home, so it was only their belongings that were looted. It's very unsettling, though, and our knee-jerk reaction was that we should do something to increase our own security – locks, alarms, gates, a big dog? We instantly became discouraged, however, realizing that if we installed deadbolts on all our doors, the thieves would just break a window instead. Even with an alarm system, they might still decide to smash and grab. Or they might steal our car, possibly while we were still in it!

In a society where, sadly, so many no longer fear God – or consequences of any kind – lawlessness inevitably increases. One look at the news tells us that. So what can we do? Well, we can take every reasonable precaution, but short of remaining locked in a concrete bunker fulltime (and I wouldn't want to live like that, would you?), we have no real assurance of keeping ourselves and our belongings completely safe in this world. While thinking on this subject, a few scripture references (and a hymn) came to my mind. I've excerpted them here, but I hope you'll take the time to read them in full:

*"...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,"* (Matthew 6:19-21). *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear... the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress* (Psalm 46). *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world...* (Ephesians 6:10-18)

The point is that your idea of security will be very different according to whether your mind is set on earthly things or on the things of heaven. There is no true safety in this world. Our only real security lies in the person and promises of Almighty God himself; he will not fail us. So, no, a state-of-the-art security system isn't the answer to all your fears, neither is a concrete bunker. We have a better fortress available: *A Mighty Fortress is our God*. In him, we already possess the ultimate victory over evil. No matter what happens to us in this life, through him, *The kingdom's ours forever!*

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