

"Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
Philemon 1:3 KJV



Father is always concerned for our safety and wellbeing. God holds on to believers whether we cling to Him or not. *"If we believe not yet He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself. Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my 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. I and my Father are one."* God sees the dangers ahead in our path to which we may be oblivious, because He knows the end from the beginning. A restriction here, a restraint there, is not for our chastisement, but our protection. Did you ever consider illness protection? It may very well be! Like traffic red lights or slow traffic. Even if we drive for a living, if we are obedient, all delays in OUR schedule put us back on God's schedule where we are safe! How many times have you driven by an accident that just happened? Father was protecting you! *"Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation (obeyed God's Word); There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."* We would rush headlong into danger and peril were it not for Father's watchful eye and firm grasp. *"Behold, the Eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: He is our help and our shield."* David wrote, *"I have been young and now I am old and I have never seen the righteous (obedient) forsaken nor his seed (family) begging bread."* When we quietly abide at His side, Father will take us everywhere He goes. We will see everything in His time, safe from danger. Our biggest threat is our own impulsiveness which leads us away from the path of obedience where our provision is already in place, and hurls us into the path of destruction without ever so much as a glance toward Father! Sometimes, God allows us the freedom to run ahead a bit to see if we will return to Him, but if we continue without Him, we will certainly suffer the consequences. He will not deliver us from our own impulsiveness, but He will heal our wounds and comfort us when we repent. He wants us by His side, because He cares for us deeply. *"Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the WHOLE heart."* When we reject His grasp through disobedience we grieve Him deeply, and bring hurt to ourselves. He desires our companionship. *"And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."* If you find yourself astray, repent and seek God's forgiveness and mercy. Repentance is obeying God's Word, not the tears and heartache of remorse of Godly sorrow over our sin. *"If from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with ALL thy heart and with ALL thy soul."* Partial obedience IS disobedience! Father awaits your return!

Firmly grasped by His mighty hand,
We can trust whereupon we stand,
When we struggle to be free,
We'll find He's all we ever need. -CGP

Remain steadfast in faith and learn to resist the impulses gendered by fleshly lust to stray. Satan whispers into your soul, "It's only a little thing and God will forgive you, anyway, so go ahead and do it." Stop think and pray before yielding to impulses contrary to God's Word. *"Be still and know that I am God."* It may not be something specifically forbidden by God's Word, but we are commanded, *"Abstain (stay away) from ALL APPEARANCE of evil."* If we find ourselves alone, it's because WE wandered, not because Father went anywhere. Father never leaves and always knows best. *"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* Obedience is walking with God! You're safe with Him.

"But they that wait upon (obey and serve) the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 KJV