

Psalm 119
week 8, v. 114

For those of you who are old enough, recall the air raid sirens during the 60's and 70's. They would be city wide and when you heard them the idea was to take shelter under something strong that would protect you from falling objects. If you were at school it meant crawling under the desk and putting your hands over your head covering your ears. Thinking back I wonder just how much these procedures would have made a difference in the event of a real nuclear attack. Minimal protection might be a generous way to describe the efforts put in place at that time but at least it was something.

Do you have a plan in the event of an earthquake? What is it? How about the Midwest and the threat of tornadoes? What is their protection? In a hurricane you can move to higher ground assuming there is higher ground. Protection is our way of survival from things that might harm us. In the previous verse, Psalm 119:113, the Psalmist contrasted his hatred for vain thoughts, double-mindedness, and foolishness with his love for truth. Now expanding on his love for the truth, he describes it as his protection. The truth protects us from sin.

Ps 119:114 *Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Thy word.*

David calls God is hiding place. God is his protection and he is our perfect protection to keep those things out of our lives that He does not want to allow in for His purposes. Think of a covering to shield you from the hot sun or the pelting rain or extreme cold. A covering brings comfort to those who use it. God not only protects us from outside harm but from the ravages of sin from within.

Ps 27:4-5 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to meditate in His temple. ***5 For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.***

Ps 61:4 Let me dwell in Thy tent forever; ***Let me take refuge in the shelter of Thy wings.*** Selah.

Ps 32:7 ***Thou art my hiding place; Thou dost preserve me from trouble;*** Thou dost surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Ps 91:1-2 ***He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*** ² I will say to the LORD, "***My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!***"

God is faithful to protect those who have faith in Him.

1Pe 1:5 [those who are chose, born again] are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

Pr 1:33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil."

1Th 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil [one.]

We will always find weaknesses in the type of protection we seek from earthly people or things. God is the only true protection that will prevail against all harm meant for evil.

Ps 127:1 (A Song of Ascents, of Solomon.) Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain.

De 31:6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Joh 10:28-30 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and the Father are one."

God's protection is continuous. There is only One who is always at our side, always available, always offers security, knows the future, knows the past, knows our weaknesses, and desires for us to succeed in our faithfulness to Him. We don't have to hope God gets to our rescue on time. He will, He is!

Ps 121:3 He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.

When you read Ps 119:114, can you relate? Do you recognize that you need protection? What is your source of shelter? Is it temporary or permanent? Where are you safe from the onslaught of sin from outside and from within?

Ps 119:114 refers to God as our 'hiding' place and also our 'shield'. Again this is a form of protection used as a defense against harm. A hiding place keeps us away from danger; a shield protects us from harm when danger is close at hand. Imagine this: as God's child, you are safe in any circumstance; no one and nothing can alter the security you have in Him.

God is described as:

our shield (Ge 15:1)

the shield of our help (De 33:29)

our high tower (2 Sa 22:3)

our refuge (2 Sa 22:3)

a buckler (2 Sa 22:31)

the lifter of my head (Ps 3:3)

our defense (Ps 7:10)

our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our strength (Ps 18:2)

our help (Ps 33:20)

If we look to Him, we have everything needed to fight the battle of sin and evil.

In Ps 119:114 we learn that David has confidence in God. His hope ^{KJV} is in God's word. Hope <yachal> means to be patient, to trust, to wait. David knew the promises in the word and that is where his confidence and trust was placed.

Ps 119:81 My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word.

Ps 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.

Ps 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.

Ps 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness,

Ps 38:15 For I hope in Thee, O LORD; Thou wilt answer, O Lord my God.

Ps 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And [why] have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him [For] the help of His presence.

In Christ we have safety, we have a defense, and we have absolute hope.

Our hope in Christ is different than the hope of the world. Do the things you hope for always happen? Have you ever been disappointed? Hope in the world is expected but not certain. It is more of a wish with only the possibility of fulfillment. There is no doubt when our hope is in the promises of God. God's children can be confident in His promises.

Waiting on God is a patient hope. Patience can be difficult. In WordWeb it is described as a good-natured tolerance of delay; forbearance; enduring trying circumstances with an even temper. What does God's word say about being patient?

In Genesis 8:12, Noah practiced patience waiting for the waters to subside.

Job maintained his patience even through great affliction and the questioning of his 'friends'. Job 13:15

As we wait patiently for God, He will strengthen us – our trust in Him will increase.

Ps 31:24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the LORD.

Ps 71:14 But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise Thee yet more and more.

Ps 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His lovingkindness.

Mic 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

Jas 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

As we wait on God, we can count on His protection and His perfect timing with His perfect answer.

Application Questions

In Psalm 119:114 how is God described?

Why would you need a hiding place?

In Psalm 61:4 God is referred to as a refuge. What does this mean?

Read Proverbs 1:33. What is the condition to meet of those God protects?

Read 2Thessalonians 3:3 and Deuteronomy 31:6. What do these verses say about God's protection?

Look up the word shield. What is a shield used for?

How is God's word our shield? Give an example.

Describe the difference between the hope we have in God and the hope the world offers.

How are you encouraged by the truths stated in Psalm 119:114?

Think about God as your protection and your hope as you thank Him for calling you His child.