

Being Kept by God's Power

Faith is more than just carrying around spiritual knowledge or principles - it's about learning to lean completely on God's power. This transformation from self-reliance to total dependence on God represents one of the most crucial shifts in our spiritual journey.

What Does It Mean to Be Kept by God's Power?

The apostle Peter tells us we are "kept by the power of God through faith" (1 Peter 1:5). This isn't just about salvation - it's about being preserved, protected, and guided through every aspect of life. God's power doesn't just save us; it keeps us saved and helps us live like saved people.

Many believers acknowledge God when facing difficult situations but forget about Him during ordinary moments. We pray fervently before job interviews or medical procedures, but think we can handle grocery shopping or family conversations on our own. This selective dependency reveals our spiritual immaturity.

The Difference Between Carrying and Leaning

Jacob's story in Genesis 32 illustrates this perfectly. When he first left home, he carried only a staff - representing the power and presence of God. For years, he carried this power but relied on his own wit and manipulation to get ahead in life.

It wasn't until he faced a life-threatening crisis with his brother Esau that Jacob learned to truly depend on God. After wrestling with God in prayer all night, Jacob emerged with a dislocated hip. From that day forward, he didn't just carry his staff - he leaned on it.

By the end of his life, Hebrews 11:21 tells us Jacob was "leaning on the top of his staff" even while blessing his sons. He had learned total dependency on God's power, even for simple conversations with family.

Why Do We Need Genuine Faith?

Peter explains that trials test "the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes" (1 Peter 1:7). Sometimes we think we have strong faith until circumstances reveal otherwise. These tests aren't meant to discourage us but to show us where our faith needs to mature.

Genuine faith is far more valuable than money or material possessions. Faith is the currency of heaven that makes life work. You can have all the gold in the world, but without faith, you have nothing but a pile of dirt with nice minerals.

What Is the Ultimate Goal of Faith?

Peter reveals that we "receive the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:9). While we use faith to believe for houses, cars, and provision, these aren't the ultimate purpose. The real goal is transformation from the inside out.

God wants you not just to have great things, but to be a great person. He doesn't just want life to be wonderful for you - He wants you to be wonderful in life. Through the process of claiming His promises and trusting Him through trials, your soul is being saved and transformed.

How Does This Transformation Happen?

The process works like this: Jesus saved your spirit through His suffering on the cross. But your soul is saved when you suffer while looking to the cross for deliverance. As you press through trials with faith, claiming God's promises, you're being changed into His image and likeness.

This is why some promises take time to manifest. The waiting period isn't just about getting what you're believing for - it's about becoming who God wants you to be. "Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:4).

What Does Spiritual Maturity Look Like?

A spiritually mature believer acknowledges God in all their ways, not just during crises. They understand their vulnerability and need for God's protection and guidance in every situation. Like Jacob leaning on his staff, they maintain constant awareness of their dependence on God's power.

This doesn't mean living in fear, but rather in humble confidence. You know that God has you covered, but you also know that you need Him for everything - from crossing the street safely to having wisdom in conversations.

How Do We Know Our Faith Is Working?

Peter gives us clear indicators: "Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8). When your faith is genuine and growing, you'll experience:

- Deeper love for Jesus
- Joy that's hard to explain
- Glory - God's presence manifesting in your life
- Transformation in your character and responses

This joy and transformation become contagious, helping others around you to also step into genuine faith.

Life Application

This week, practice acknowledging God in all your ways - not just during difficult moments. Before you leave the house, acknowledge that He's keeping you safe. Before conversations with family, recognize that you need His wisdom and grace. Before making decisions, big or small, lean on His guidance rather than your own understanding.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I carrying God's power like a possession, or am I leaning on it like Jacob with his staff?
- Do I only turn to God during crises, or do I acknowledge my need for Him in everyday situations?
- Is my faith producing genuine transformation in my character, or am I just hoping for material blessings?
- When trials come, do I see them as opportunities for my soul to be saved and matured, or just obstacles to overcome?

Remember, you are kept by the power of God through faith. This isn't just about getting to heaven someday - it's about living as a transformed person today, completely dependent on His grace and power in every moment of your life.

Quotes

1. "I'm so glad God isn't giving up on us. He's sticking with us, no matter what."
2. "As long as we don't give up, we know we're going up."
3. "This life is a vapor. Before you know it, we'll be out of here. It's just a shadow of what we will one day see face to face."
4. "We are kept by the power of God through faith."
5. "Pride thinks it can do everything on its own until it gets into tight places—what we call tough situations—that we say, 'Oh God, I need Your help.'"
6. "We hit situations that feel unnerving, uncomfortable, even scary—and that's when we pray. But going about everyday life, we act like we don't need God"
7. "You don't have anything—He's got you—you've been begotten of God"
8. "We've got to know the difference between faith and arrogance."
9. "Jacob went from carrying his staff to leaning on it after wrestling in prayer."
10. "We don't want to just be vessels that carry God's power—we need to lean on it."
11. "Faith is much more valuable than money?"
12. "Faith is the currency of heaven—it's what makes life work. You can have silver, gold, and money, but without faith, it's just a pile of dirt with some nice minerals."
13. "As much as God wants you to have good and even great things, it matters more to Him that you become good—and become great. He's not just interested in what you have; He's interested in who you are."
14. "He doesn't just want life to be wonderful for you—He wants you to be wonderful in life. He wants you to be like Him."

15. “You’ve got to want to *be* right more than you want to *have* it right. Want to be right more than you want things to go right.”
16. “Your spirit is saved because of Jesus’ suffering on the cross, but your soul is saved as you suffer in the flesh looking to the cross for salvation.”
17. “The faith you obtain by pressing through to possess the promises you’ll carry for eternity.”
18. “Though you haven’t seen Him, yet is your love still growing deeper in Him?”
19. Believing God. But here’s the question—do you love Him? Is your love growing deeper in Him?”
20. “When we all come into one accord in faith, revival will take care of itself.”

Verses

1. Romans 8:18
2. Romans 8:19
3. Romans 8:20
4. Romans 8:21
5. First Peter 1:5
6. First Peter 1:6
7. First Peter 1:7
8. First Peter 1:8
9. First Peter 1:9
10. Genesis 32:9
11. Genesis 32:10
12. Genesis 32:11
13. Genesis 32:12

14. Hebrews 11:21

15. First Corinthians 13

Summary

Faith is more than carrying spiritual knowledge - it's about learning to lean completely on God's power. Jacob's transformation from carrying his staff to leaning on it illustrates this journey from self-reliance to total dependence. Peter teaches that we are kept by God's power through faith, not just for salvation but for every aspect of life. Genuine faith is tested through trials to reveal where we need to mature. The ultimate goal isn't just receiving blessings but experiencing soul transformation. Spiritual maturity means acknowledging God in all situations, not just crises, and finding joy that's inexpressible as we're changed into His image