

HEAVEN'S HEDGE FUNDS FOR THE COMING YEAR

By Phil Arms – January 2010

In a day when the nations and the world's economies are on the verge of collapse and financial insecurity threatens everyone, it's easy for Christians to lose their peace. Many that I hear from are giving in to despair and fear over the coming economic collapse.

However, every true child of God can assuredly look to God's Word and His promises to provide for His own regardless of the economy.

The Scriptures are clear that God set up a hedge of protection around Job because he prioritized the things of God. Let me assure you, God's character has not changed and we can be confident that God has a plan to watch over His own regardless of what happens in the world around us.

It is extremely important that we all understand that God does not guarantee that we will never have illness, economic loss or a catastrophic "accident." He does promise us that absolutely nothing can touch our lives unless God, in His infinite wisdom, allows it. Even then, we have the promise in Romans 8:28 which says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

SATAN'S BOUNDARIES

It is imperative Christians realize that Satan is not able to run around at will and assault the people of God. God has placed boundaries that limit satanic assaults to those that will ultimately accomplish God's will.

My friend, Manley Beasley, used to say that Satan is really nothing more than God's messenger boy. God may allow him to bring a message as a "shot across our bow" in order to bring a believer back into line if that believer has refused all other calls to change his direction.

But as Christians we must never forget that God affords us supernatural protection as He did for Job in the Old Testament. It, indeed, is a hedge of protection that Satan himself acknowledged in Job 1:10.

In addressing God, Satan said, "Have you not made a hedge about him, around his household and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands and his possessions have increased in the land."

As Christians, we can rest assured that no matter what happens in the economy or world around us that God will protect and provide for all of His who are trusting any relying on His Word. As David once declared, "I have never seen the righteous forsaken or His seed begging for bread."

So how can we know that we are truly relying on God's promises? By answering the question, are we now obeying the Biblical principals laid out in the Word of God?

If after having given a diligent examination of our actions and attitudes toward money and our handling of it, we will know if we are in line with God's truths on the matter. So many Christians get in financial trouble by mishandling money and then expect God to bail them out.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

There are some very basic demands God lays out in His Word to guard our financial well-being. Let me mention a few important ones.

GET RICH QUICK

So many Christians get involved with these groups who offer a quick road to wealth. These kinds of schemes flood not only the marketplace but also the church.

Remember the saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it is."

Scripture warns us against get-rich-quick schemes in Proverbs 28:20, "A faithful man will abound with blessings but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished."

I have always thought it strange that a lot of Christians have such trouble obeying God's promises on giving but will spend a fortune on a lottery tickets where the odds are a hundred million to one against winning.

CO-SIGNING

Another financial trap is co-signing a note guaranteeing someone else's loan. I urge you to never, ever do so, even for family. God promises the co-signer will regret these actions.

The Word of God states in Proverbs 6:1-2, "My son, if you become surety for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, you are snared by the words of your mouth."

AVOID DEBT LIKE A PLAGUE

If as a Christian you have built up a mountain of debt, you must immediately develop a plan to extricate yourself as quickly as possible. There are numerous Christian ministries that help believers lay out aggressive plans to resolve their debt.

God's Word repeatedly assures us that debt is a curse and we therefore must make it our priority to get out from under the yoke of its bondage. If you find yourself strapped with debt on depreciating items, you must act now to resolve these matters.

God promised Israel great economic blessings IF they would follow His commands on these matters.

Deuteronomy 28:11-12 says, "And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens to give rain to your land...to bless all the work of your hands. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."

ABSOLUTE PROTECTION

The most important thing we can do in these perilous economic times is place our confidence in God's financial truths and start acting upon them. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

GOD'S NORM

Once believers know that God not only promises His protection and provision but that He longs to bless His children, then they must act to obey His Word.

You may ask, what is God's norm for us? The answer is given in II Corinthians 9:8 where Paul writes, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you that ye, **always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work.**"

In other words, God longs to make his financial favor abound toward you. You may ask, "But how do you know it's financial favor Paul's talking about?"

Because the entire passage before and after that verse is dealing with one thing exclusively: God's people giving themselves into financial blessings. In fact, God's promise is not only will our obedient giving bring us financial security but it will allow us to have plenty to give away to God's work.

Further, II Corinthians 9:6-7 says, "...He who sows sparingly shall reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully shall reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Do you ever wonder what makes a cheerful giver so cheerful? It is because he has discovered the glory of allowing God to place a demand on everything and anything he has at anytime and the joy of God's guarantee that regardless how much he gives, God is going to just keep pouring it back onto him. That is so absolutely liberating in every area of life. It is little wonder that Satan fights these truths in our lives so aggressively.

START NOW

I urge you to put God's Word to work in your life by obeying His demands and yielding to His Truths. Ask God to show you where corrections need to be made in your personal finances and then begin the process by going to the Lord and re-committing your way and your finances to Him.

These are the pre-requisites to our being able to enjoy God's protection and provision regardless of when the coming economic collapse happens.

And when you sow your gifts put them on good ground where God's Word is being proclaimed and the priority is reaching the lost.

Above all, dear friend, position yourself now in obedience, before the coming storm hits then when it does come, you will have the luxury of God's peace and provision during the storm.

I do pray you will stand with this ministry as we assault the enemy and face the challenges in this new year. God bless you for caring.

Phil Arms

"...and God shall meet **all** your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19