PROTECTION THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

The Protection Series Book Two

Abstract

Once you get your armor on and are starting to get success through spiritual warfare, Jesus will give you assignments to protect people who don't have their armor on yet.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Chapter One

There Are Four Things You Must Have

John 20:19-22 (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

1. Jesus had to be with them.
2. He had to give them His peace.
3. They had to be sent.
4. The Holy Spirit had to occupy their body.

ONE: Jesus had to be with them

Jesus had been with them for approximately three and a half years. Why did they still need Him to be with them? First of all, there is never a time when you don't need Jesus. Your salvation and sanctification are constantly dependent on His life being lived in you. Second, He has to do His ministry of helping hurting people through you or there isn't going to be a ministry. You can't help yourself; and, you can't help others. You need Jesus and everyone else needs Jesus.

Jesus, help me never try to live any part of life or do any part of ministry without You. Help me constantly understand that all the things that are going on in this world, including me, are being influenced by the spirit realm. Teach me that, if I do anything without You, only the human, natural part gets changed. The spiritual influence on that human, natural part remains in place. Help me see that, if I want to make a positive, spiritual change, I must work in cooperation with You.

John 15:4-5 (NIV) ***Remain*** **in Me, and I will** ***remain*** **in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must** ***remain*** **in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you** ***remain*** **in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man** ***remains*** **in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.** Jesus is telling you that **apart from** Him **you can do nothing.** That means nothing of value. Natural efforts don't change spiritual conditions.

Jesus, help me always be aware that **apart from** you I **can do nothing.** So, help me join You in building relationships with people who can't protect themselves. Help me gain their confidence, so they can trust me to help them with personal needs and problems. Help me **remain** in You, so You can speak through me with love and trustworthiness. Let Your character and attitudes radiate out of me and my behavior. Give me a personality that wins people over to You.

Remain in Me, and I will *remain* in you: For Jesus to be with the disciples, the disciples had to remain in Him. They had to take the first move in responding to this relationship. If they remained in Him, He would remain in them. This was important because Jesus had to be with the disciples all the time for them to be able to do anything. The moment they *thought* He was gone, was the moment they couldn't do the ministry. Their human weaknesses took over and their human abilities were all that was left.

Jesus, make it clear to me that my full armor consists of You. You are the individual pieces of my full armor. Show me that my full armor disappears the moment I disconnect from You. **Gal 3:26-27 (NIV) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who <u>were baptized into Christ have *clothed* yourselves with Christ</u>.** Help me understand that the protection I am providing is You. As they are being protected from major damage, help me explain to them that it is You Who are doing it.

Jesus' disciples remaining connected to Jesus was a relationship. He was constantly giving them everything they needed to do everything they did. They didn't know how to live life or do the ministry any other way. He had developed a complete dependency on Him in their life and ministry. He resisted almost all of the suggestions they came up with. He didn't allow them to decide where they were going to go or what they were going to do. He didn't allow them to think for themselves. He gave them every assignment with complete details, as to how to carry it out.

Jesus, help me see that the protection and relationship I build with others is only as good as my relationship with and dependency on You. Since they actually need You, I must be a source through which You flow. You want to include me in Your work in these people's lives, and I thank You for that privilege. So, let it all be a relationship of me bringing You to others. Teach me, train me, and flow through me, so You can protect these people and meet all their needs.

If Jesus' first disciples lost Him, they were going to cease being able to live the life that He had given them or do the ministry of helping people. All they knew was to follow His instructions and obey His commands. They hadn't learned how to do the ministry on their own. Instead, they learned the most incredible truth of all--how to hear, identify, understand, and yield to everything He told them. Once they stopped trying to do it their way, they were well on their way into a worldwide Christian movement.

Jesus, help me see that this type of relationship You are working with me will provide others with this special relationship with You. As I start going forth building relationships with others, it will automatically be a relationship with You. Since I am making all my decisions based on what You are telling me, they are getting all the benefits from You. Instead of them getting some of You and some of me, they are getting all of You.

When you put on the full armor of God, you are putting on Jesus. At salvation, you received Him into your body and He made His residence there. Jesus remains in you forever. However, to have His protection and to do His work in helping those around you, you had to put Him on. This was an additional decision you had to make. As you remain in Him, you live inside the full armor of God at all times. If you live in the full armor of God at all times, you fulfill John 15:4-5.

Jesus, by realizing that You are the full armor of God, it has helped me understand why it is so powerful. All those parts of You that I am wearing, are not only protecting me, they are You infusing me with Your knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power. My full armor isn't just an item, it is You, as a living part of me. When I am remaining in my full armor, I am remaining in You. When You teach me how to remain in You, You are teaching me how to remain in my full armor.

John 15:8-9 (NIV) This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. Jesus is telling you how to show yourself as being one of His disciples. He is saying that the proof will be that **you bear much fruit.** Then He is telling You how to **bear much fruit--remain in** His love. Next He is going to tell you how to **remain in** His **love.**

Jesus, help me **bear much fruit.** Help me do that by **remaining in** Your **love.** Then teach me how to **remain in** Your **love.** Help me understand these principles, so I can not only live this life myself, I can help others do the same. Show me that part of me protecting others is to teach them how to **bear much fruit** and to **remain in** your **love.**

John 15:10 (NIV) If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. Here are the instructions for remaining in Jesus' love. When you do that, you will **bear much fruit.** As you go around using your full armor to lead people to Jesus, you are working on **bearing much fruit.** As you protect those who don't have their full armor on yet, you are working on another aspect of **bearing much fruit.**

Jesus, just like there is the meat of a peach and the seed or pit of the peach, so there is much fruit in the quality of my life and the propagation of my life in the lives of others. If there is a lot of high-quality meat in a peach, then there is a lot of benefit from it. If it is a high-quality seed in the peach, then it will produce many other high-quality peach trees. Help me understand the two aspects of **"much fruit."**

First, you become able to produce a hundred-fold crop of righteousness. Then in others, you produce a hundred-fold crop of righteousness. There is the **much fruit** of people accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Then there is the **much fruit** of disciples trained through your life and ministry. Learning how to resist the devil's temptations, how to resist invitations and pressures of people, and how to not conform to the world, is using your full armor of God for righteousness.

TWO: He had to give them His peace

Heb 2:14-15 (NIV) Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death--<u>that is, the devil</u>--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery <u>by their fear of death</u>.

Jesus, help me understand that another reason You had to be with them was this--You are different than the Jesus they had been walking with. You are the risen Christ or Messiah. You died for their sins, forgiving them of all their past sins. And, You raised for their justification, giving them a perfect record with God. From there, they could be delivered from the greatest fear humans have. The fear of death. Show me that the main reason they were locked inside the house, was because they were afraid to suffer and die.

Our greatest fear, of course, is a fear of eternal death. But, your fear of physical death can be held in place by your fear of eternal death. If you don't know *for sure,*where you are going after you die, you will fear dying. Jesus took care of that. You know that, if you are killed for the cause of Jesus, you will spend eternity with God in His eternal Kingdom. The thing that can be confusing, is the fact that you live in a place where few are killed for being Christians.

Jesus, help me see what Your disciples were facing, as they spread Your gospel message. They knew these people would kill those who disagreed with them. They knew it, because they killed You. If they didn't have a problem killing You, then they sure wouldn't mind killing them. Help me be so protected by my armor that I no longer fear death. Also, help me no longer fear persecution or pain.

Why would you fear sharing Jesus with others, if typically they wouldn't even think about killing you? What is scaring those who don't face that fear? They lack Jesus' peace. When you, the person in the full armor of God, are filled with peace, then you are brave, bold, unintimidated, and fearless. That helps you be able to push forward through all the satanic opposition and get to those who want to accept Jesus.

Jesus, give me Your peace, so I can be unaffected by any and all opposition. Let Your peace so fill my heart that I take comfort in my full armor and let it shield me from those things others are trying to do to me. Help me be able to ignore some things. Help me address those things that evil people say in front of those who want You. Help me bring out the evil aspects of those resisting me, so those who want You can give them up, as leaders. Help me stand in the midst of the battle and win, so others can see how to win too.

He Had To Give Them
His Peace To Free Them From Fear

John 14:26-27 (NIV) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. <u>Do not *let* your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid</u>. As Jesus has already shown you, when He says something, He speaks with creative power.

Jesus, teach me--when You said to Your disciples: "Peace be with you!", You weren't saying: "You guys relax." You were *giving* them peace. When You tell me to not *let* my heart be troubled and not *let* myself be afraid, You are speaking deliverance into me. You are delivering me from a troubled and fearful heart. You are *giving* me healing in that area of my heart and life. But, help me see that I have to *believe* that these verses do transform my heart.

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not *let* your hearts be troubled and do not *be* afraid. He isn't telling you to stop being afraid. He isn't prodding you into getting out there to do the ministry and stop being chicken. The pressure is never against you and your human strength, skills, or efforts. If you believe that He is at this moment *giving* you freedom from a troubled heart and a life of fear, then you will immediately have it.

Jesus, teach me that the way for me to **"not let"** is to *practice* feeling Your peace. Help me yield to Your peaceful feelings through believing that it is there. Show me that this is different from human effort because of who I am believing in. If I *try* to have peace without believing that You have given me the power to feel it, then it is human effort. But, if I believe the peace is there and all I have to do is yield to it, then I am moving into the Jesus life.

Mark 11:24 (NIV) Therefore I (Jesus) tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, <u>believe that you *have* received it</u>, and it *will* be yours.

Chapter Two

TWO CONTINUED:
He had to give them His peace

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. *Do not let* your hearts be troubled and *do not be* afraid.

The only pressure God places on you
is for you to put your complete trust in Him.

God provides you with a whole Bible full of information, power, explanations, illustrations, proofs, and help. All of it is so you will be able to respond to that one element of pressure He has placed on you. In this particular case, you are being pressured to put your complete trust in Jesus for your life and ministry. When you hear words like "do not let" and "do not be," you can automatically think you are being instructed to use your own strength.

Jesus, when I read the Bible, I see a lot of things that seem to be putting the pressure and responsibility on me. I know I am not supposed to be looking at it that way; but, I also know I have to be obedient to the Bible's requirements. Help me see the Biblical principle for **"do not let"** and **"do not be."** If I am going to protect others, then I must allow You to teach me how to be protected from human effort and world systems.

It can be easy for you to think that, when Jesus says: "do not let," He is saying: "Try hard to not let ...." When He says things like: "do not be," you can think He is saying: "I am holding you responsible for not being ...." **"My peace I give you"** precedes "do not let" and "do not be afraid." Peace is the power to not let your heart be troubled; and it keeps you from being afraid. Jesus is the Prince of peace. Having Him living inside of you can bring great peace. The only thing that would keep you from having that peace is a lack of faith in Who Jesus is.

Jesus, I am used to being told what to do, how to do it, when to do it, and where to do it. Most words that come at me are instructions that are giving me responsibility. Help me see that You are giving me a responsibility; but, it isn't the responsibility I may think it is. Show me that my responsibility is to fix my eyes on You. **Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

When Jesus said this, in John 14:27, it was Him giving you the permission to do it. It was Him giving you the power to do it. It was Him telling you what you could believe you could do. It was Him letting you know that He was willing to join you in faith-action and start living your life on the basis of it. If Jesus hadn't said this and all the other things, you wouldn't have the permission, the power, the faith, or the knowledge of what it was you were to take faith-action on.

Jesus, thank You for helping me know why all Your commands are in the Bible. Thank You for helping me realize that You are just giving me the permission, the power, the faith, and the relationship with You to take faith-action on them. Help me no longer read the Bible as an instruction book. Help me not look at it as a self-help book. And, help me stop reading it as a human book. Show me how to receive Your permission, power, faith, and relationship in every verse I read. Then help me pass this life on to my friends.

People who don't have God's permission to do something
don't have God's power to do it.

THREE: They had to be sent

There are some things you don't have God's permission to do. That is why you can fail at some of the things you try to accomplish *for* God. You can assume, based on Scriptures you read, that God wants you to take a certain job. You can assume that God wants you to move to a certain place. You can assume that God wants you to buy certain things. You can assume that God wants you to do a certain ministry or protect a certain person. When that assumption is false, you fail.

Jesus, help me understand how important it is for me to be able to hear Your voice. If I am hurting or failing in certain areas, help me check and see if it is because I made my own assumption. If You are working in one area and I am working in another, help me realize I am working without Your permission. Show me that I am also working without Your power. And, I am working with all the preparation You do in getting a situation ready for me. Show me that You really want to have a relationship with me.

A lot of Christians are living their life on the broad commands. **Mark 12:31 (NIV) The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."** If you take this broad command and try to fulfill it using your opinions, then it will appear that the command isn't working. Here is another broad command. This broad command is pointing you in the *general* direction of where Jesus wants to take you. **Mark 16:15 (NIV) He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."**

Jesus, help me see how important it is for me to be protecting the right people, the right way, at the right time. Show me that I get confusing and limited results, when I fail to consult You on what I have permission to do. Let little or no results be my indicator that I am not listening to You. Teach me to wait for You to send me to those that You want me to work with. But, help me not just be waiting around; help me be knocking on the doors of opportunity for the privilege of sharing Your message.

Jesus said it to His disciples. He sent them into all the world. Is He sending us? Are you exempt? If you don't believe that this broad command is applicable to you, you aren't going to yield to Jesus, when He starts trying to take you there. Maybe you don't have this feeling of peace concerning sharing the gospel, because you are not required to by God. Let Jesus show you what the Bible says.

Jesus, show me what my responsibility is. Help me not just decide on my own. Help me yield to Your love, rather than basing my decisions of what feels right to me. Teach me how to protect people by building relationships with them. Help me protect as many as is possible, through a system that creates friendships. Reveal to me that You aren't leading me into a responsibility of regimented, mechanical ministry. You are all about protecting people because of love.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and *you will be My witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Jesus first disciples weren't able to be Jesus' witnesses **to the ends of the earth.** That is requiring all of His disciples of each generation. Jesus isn't saying you may or you could be My witnesses. He is saying: **You will be My witnesses.**

Jesus, help me understand that I had to know what the broad, general command was. But, help me also understand that it is just laying out what Your overall desire and plan is. Show me that it isn't giving me permission to go out on my own and expect You to empower and bless my plan. Help me find out what Your plan is and join it. Help me seek You will for my life in general, then help me start seeking what Your will is for my life each moment of every day. Help me do my part of going into all the world.

Chapter Three

FOUR: The Holy Spirit had to occupy their body

Rom 8:9 (NIV) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And <u>if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ</u>. You can't function, as a Christian, without the Holy Spirit being inside you. Since Christianity is all supernatural, you need constant supernatural assistance. Keep in mind that anything you do without supernatural assistance is human effort. And, human effort and world training do not work in Christianity.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But <u>you will receive power</u> when the Holy Spirit comes on you; <u>and *you will be My witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth</u>." Jesus, help me understand that being Your witness isn't just going around preaching and teaching. Help me see that most of it involves the way I live my life in relationship with others. When I get involved in building relationships of protection, that lays the foundation for them receiving the message.

Rom 12:21 (NIV) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. The power of good comes from Jesus and the Holy Spirit living in you. **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** Being controlled by the Holy Spirit means you have power to not be controlled by the sinful nature of your body. The control of the Holy Spirit brings good behavior. The control of the sinful nature brings bad and evil behavior.

Jesus, reveal how powerful good is. Help me see that just because good doesn't force people, that isn't evidence that it lacks power. Show me that I can **overcome evil with good.** Show me that good stands out like a bright and shining light in the midst of the darkness of other people's misbehavior. When I build a protective relationship with people, they see You loving them without trying to get anything out of them. You don't have any hidden agenda or selfish motivation.

This was the gospel message Peter preached, as his first ministerial act: **Acts 2:38-39 (NIV) Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. <u>And you *will* receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call</u>."** This is the Holy Spirit that empowers you to be Jesus' witness. The relationship you develop will be so friendly, helpful, caring, and joyous that they will trust you and enjoy your company.

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out *His love* into our hearts <u>by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us</u>. Jesus, I thank You for setting me free from doing the "business" of the ministry. I thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit of love. Rather than You sending me out to treat people like clients, the Holy Spirit is empowering me to feel their pain, confusion, and fear. Thank You for involving me in friendships rather than business relationships.

Luke 2:52 (NIV) And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Your Jesus-ministry isn't to impress people with your supernatural power. It isn't to accumulate a crowd. It isn't to do something really important. It is a love relationship of healing them, helping them, loving them, and caring about them. Jesus did supernatural things; but, He did them because that was the only way hurting people were going to be helped. He was popular because He loved people.

John 15:12 (NIV) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus, the Holy Spirit has poured God's love into my heart. Help me use it to build protective relationships because I love them. Set me free from all other motivations. Set me free from motivations of money, possessions, power, prestige, popularity, positions, pleasure, and accomplishments. Get my eyes off of everything except building love relationships of protection because I care about them.

Mat 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. If your motivation is anything other than love, then you can't really help hurting people. You can't have a meaningful relationship of protection. You can't truly get to know a person and understand what they are going through. You can't step outside yourself and feel the pain and suffering of others.

Jesus, show me that, as long as I am protecting myself, I have a wall that doesn't allow others in. Help me see that, if I am worried about what might happen to me, my eyes are focused inward. If I am busy trying to get my needs met, then I am mainly establishing a relationship with You and others from a selfish perspective. Help me realize that, as I start reaching out to others, You will make sure all my needs are met. Help me yield to God's love that the Holy Spirit poured into my heart.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; <u>and you will be My witnesses</u> in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and <u>to the ends of the earth</u>." That's you. That's all of Jesus' people. You have received God's love-power, through the Holy Spirit, to be His witness all the way **to the ends of the earth.** People who have never experienced true love, will find out what God is all about. People who have been lied to about God, will be loved by Him.

Jesus, when Your true love touches the lives of people who have never been truly respected and loved, it is going to bring a powerful healing to them. They will feel like they have move out of great darkness into Your marvelous light. **1 Pet 2:9 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

You have seen these four things, as they related to Jesus' first disciples. Now, let Jesus take you through them, as it relates to you. There are four things you are going to have to have in order to get out of your home, your shell, and your church. You will be Jesus' witness to the ends of the world, because He is giving you these four things.

1. Jesus has to be with you in a very special way.

2. Jesus has to give you His peace, or, you will be too fearful, forceful, business like, or selfishly motivated.

3. You have to be sent, so you can be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things, to the right people.

4. The Holy Spirit has to occupy your body, or, you won't have the supernatural power you need to be Jesus' witness.

ONE: Jesus has to be with you.

There are two aspects of Jesus being with you. First, He has to be with you, as it relates to who you are. The reason you will be getting such incredible results will be because of what Jesus is doing in and through you. **Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and <u>I no longer live, but Christ lives in me</u>. *The life I live in the body*, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.** Because of what Jesus is doing in and through you, He will actually be building this protective relationship with your friends.

Jesus, help me learn how to totally yield to You and Your life. Help me see how You will be flowing into my feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds. Help me understand that it will "seem" just like my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds, but, it will have knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power from You. You will supernaturally increase my mental and emotional abilities. And, You will empower me to live a pure, holy, righteous, and godly life.

The second aspect of Jesus being with you is ministerially: **John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, <u>anyone who has faith in Me</u> will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.** Additional knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power will flow through your feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds into the lives of others. Jesus has special things He wants to say and do to those around you. It will feel like your words and deeds; but, it will be Jesus doing it. They will be supernatural words and deeds.

Jesus, help me understand that, when You cause feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds to start flowing in and through me, if I will give You the credit, You will continue to join me in ministry. Help me believe that You are giving me these supernatural things to feel, think, say, and do. Help me realize that I must be looking for them, identifying them, yielding to them, and thanking You for them. Empower me to be ready to do this on a regular basis.

Who does this apply to? "Anyone who has faith in Me." But, how are you going to do what Jesus did?

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. You study the Gospels, not so you can pattern after Jesus. You study the Gospels, so you will give your life over to Him. There is no way you, on your own, are going to do the dynamic ministry that Jesus did in the Gospels. There is no way you can pattern your life after the Creator of the universe; you must yield to Him.

Jesus, help me embrace Galatians 2:20. Set me free from other messages Christians have given me. Help me see that me, as a human, trying to follow Your example would be like me trying to follow the example of an eagle. Teach me how to **no longer live, but** let You **live in me.** Then, when I go about protecting someone, they will get all You have to offer. Help me always keep in mind that they need You rather than me.

He will do even greater things: You will be doing even greater things, because Jesus will be empowering you to do even greater things. If you yield, on a continuous basis, to Jesus' ministry, He will do all of it through you. You will no longer be living your life through your body. You will be *allowing* Jesus to live His life and do His ministry through your body. You will feel Satan, your body, and the world resisting you. But, Jesus' life will be much more powerful, if you choose to yield to Him instead.

Jesus, help me be aware that I will still experience the way my body, the devil, and the world come at me. It is always going to be my choice, as to who I listen to and who I yield to. Teach me that every moment of every day, I will be able to take my body back; I will be able to yield it to its own drives; I will be able to yield it to the enticements of the world; and I will be able to let Satan's temptations take it over. Keep all of these things from confusing the fact that You have added Your life to my list of choices.

You will be able to choose to give in to Jesus moment by moment. The more you yield to Him, the more He will live and minister in and through you to your needs and the needs of the people around you. What is going to help you yield to Him? Jesus' peace! A lot of the battle will be Satan, the world, and your body trying to keep you from helping people be set free through Jesus. Jesus' peace will help you not feel anxious, intimidated, too tired, overwhelmed, or to busy.

Jesus, help me recognize the difference between Your voice and all other influences. Help me be willing to yield to You every moment of the day. Prepare me to win over the battle between me and my body, the devil, and the world. Fill my heart with Your peace that empowers me to not be moved by all those things that try to block me off. Let Your peace be the dominate influence over my heart and mind. Let me protect those who want to be set free from their body, the devil, and the world.

Chapter Four

TWO: He has to give you His peace.

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

As you read this Scripture, you are being given permission and empowered to have Jesus' peace. This Scripture is empowering you with the ability to be at peace. The first response required of you is to believe that this Scripture has given you permission and empowered you to have Jesus' peace in your heart and mind. **Mark 11:24 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, <u>believe that you have received it</u>, and it will be yours.**

Jesus, teach me how to face the most difficult and challenging situations with Your peace. Help me see that life and all its problems are better faced with a heart and mind of peace. Show me that Your peace will protect me from fear, intimidation, confusion, and anger. Let Your peace empower me to protect people even when they are being difficult to work with. Help me show them how to live a life of peace in the middle of a storm. Help me calm them down, so they can approach their problems with Your peace.

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, *peace*, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. These are your supportive characteristics that join in with Jesus' peace. When you surround peace with these power-emotions of the Holy Spirit, your protective influence on the people around you is wonderful. People love being around you; they trust you and want to get what you have.

Rom 12:21 (NIV) Do not be overcome by evil, but <u>overcome evil with good</u>. Jesus, show me that the world doesn't understand how to **overcome evil with good.** Help me understand that their hidden agenda and selfish motivations keep them from winning people over with love. To them, love, good, and gentleness are signs of weakness. But, let me keep in mind that everyone is looking for love and respect; they just don't know how to go about getting it. They try to con it, force it, trade for it, and steal it from others. But, I get it by giving it.

Rom 12:18 (NIV) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Peace can't just flow out of you because you have a peaceful attitude, it takes wisdom to know how to share it. Like all the fruit of the Spirit, if you share it in the wrong way, people will take advantage of you. And, no one wants a Christianity that makes them a doormat. Jesus was filled with the fruit of the Spirit; but, no one took advantage of Him until He was ready to lay His life down.

Jesus, sometimes it is hard to understand what the fruit of the Spirit look like in real life. They seem soft and vulnerable; but, You were very powerful and authoritative. Yet all Your power and authority were presented through the fruit of the Spirit. Help me be able to have and provide peace, while demonstrating it with incredible wisdom. Let my protective efforts be dynamic but loving and respectful. Teach me how to walk that narrow path with great and effective skill.

James 1:5 (NIV) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should *ask* God, <u>Who gives generously</u> to all without finding fault, and it *will* be given to him. Without fighting one battle with the nations all around him, Solomon ruled the nation of Israel for forty years. God gave him incredible wisdom, so that he was able to have peace with the warring nations next to him. When you couple Jesus' peace with His wisdom, you will be able to protect people without having to give up win/win solutions and systems.

Jesus, I *ask* You to allow Your wisdom to flow into my mind and out through my mouth and life. Give me Your supernatural wisdom that can take love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith and faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and present them in power. Help me see that part of my protecting people is to **be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph 6:10 NIV). The weapons** I **fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds (2 Cor 10:4 NIV).**

THREE: you have to be sent.

Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. *Therefore go* and <u>make disciples</u> of all nations, <u>baptizing them</u> in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and <u>teaching them</u> to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Obviously you can't do this whole job by yourself; but, Jesus has called you to do your part.

Jesus, You have been exposing me to circumstances, life-classes of various challenges in my life, and have been helping me spend time with You. You have given me certain interests, skills, talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts. You have been working on my attitudes and character, so all these abilities in my life would be governed by righteousness. Guide me into those areas, where You have been preparing me. Lead me to those people that You want me to use my full armor of God to protect and set free.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit takes your interests, skills, talents, abilities, and gives you certain spiritual power-gifts.

- **1 Cor 12:4 (NIV) There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.** These are the power-gifts of the Holy Spirit that empower you to do the supernatural work that Jesus will be joining you in doing.

- **1 Cor 12:5 (NIV) There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.** These are the service or ministry gifts that Jesus gives you, so you will be able to be involved in His life, message, ministry, and methods.

- **1 Cor 12:6 (NIV) There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.** This is the work of your heavenly Father; He takes the power-gifts of the Holy Spirit and the service gifts of Jesus, and produces **different kinds of working** in you and all other Christians. This will be a special and unique type of ministry designed just special for you. It will fit into all your interests, skills, talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts that have been developing all during your life.

Jesus, help me yield to the Holy Spirit's power-gifts, Your service gifts, and my heavenly Father's **different kinds of working** in my life and ministry. Help me see that You will be leading me to protect those who need my specific ministry. Make it clear to me that You have been shaping me all my life for this special assignment. Show me that this fits into who You have been making me. It will bring great fulfillment and satisfaction to the purpose of my life.

1. **Rom 10:13 (NIV) "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** This is all a person has to do to be saved. But, you are a vital part of this process. Jesus has been working on you, developing you, shaping you, and growing you spiritually.

2. **Rom 10:14a (NIV) How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in?** This is why Romans 10:17 says: **Consequently, <u>faith comes from hearing the message</u>, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**

3. **Rom 10:14b (NIV) And how can they believe in the One of Whom they have not heard?** This is why you must go around presenting the gospel message of Jesus!

4. **Rom 10:14c (NIV) And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** This is why Jesus has been shaping, training, and empowering you. You have to be willing to go out there where the persecution, opposition, and resistance is and find those who want Jesus.

5. **Rom 10:15 (NIV) And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"** But, you can't go, you aren't ready, and you won't succeed until Jesus gets your attitudes and character ready. Then He will send you out where the lost and hurting people are.

Jesus, get my attitudes and character ready, so I can be **sent.** Then fill my heart and mouth with a message, so I can be **preaching to them.** Let me work through all the resistance, persecution, and opposition and make sure all who want You have **heard.** Give me You supernatural message that provides those who want You with faith, so they can **believe.** Then let me show them how to **call on the name of the Lord** so they can **be saved.**

This helps you know what to expect out of this unified life and ministry of Jesus. He wants you to go out where the people are. He is going to be taking you out of the safety of your home and church. You know you can't handle all this responsibility. You feel your inadequacies, as you start thinking about taking on the "ends of the earth" ministry. If Jesus starts to take you out into such a work and you don't know that this is our job, you will resist.

Jesus, help me relax in the fact that my heavenly Father has been getting me ready for this all of my life. Help me realize that You have been shaping me for a special service gift or ministry through every circumstance and life-class that has come my way. Help me open my heart to the power-gifts that the Holy Spirit has been planning to use me with from the moment I was born. Show me that they and I will fit together in such a perfect way, that I will say, "This is why I was born."

Chapter Five

The Holy Spirit Must Occupy Your Body

The Holy Spirit Gives You All You Need

The reason you are able to protect others is because the Holy Spirit is protecting you. It is only because of what has been produced in you, that you are willing and able to help others. Let Jesus show you what is going on in your life, so you can help others get Him doing it in their life.

Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Jesus, help me see that You had to expose me to the control of the Holy Spirit before I became willing and able to think the way I do. Now, help me show those You are sending me to protect, how to get their minds set on the desires of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:6 (NIV) The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. Jesus, at first I didn't like the concept of being controlled. Let me help my friends understand that they will never lose their God-given free will. Help me show them that they have to give the Holy Spirit control moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. Help them want to have their **mind controlled by the Spirit,** so they can have **life and peace.**

Rom 8:7-9 (NIV) The *sinful mind* is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those *controlled* by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Jesus, help me understand that one of the main assignment of me protecting others is to help them not be **hostile to God.**

Rom 8:10-11 (NIV) But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the *Spirit* of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His *Spirit*, Who lives in you. Jesus, help me teach my friends how to let their heavenly Father **give life to** their **mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in** them.

Rom 8:12-14 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Jesus, help me teach my friends how to **by the Spirit** them **put to death the misdeeds of the body,** so they **will live.**

The Holy Spirit Gives Your Friends All They Need
New and untrained Christians suffer from trying to live the Christian life using human effort and world training. All new Christians move into the Romans 7:15-25 life. They do it, because that is all they know. And, they do it, because that is what worked for them in their human life. Untrained Christians say in the Romans 7:15-24 life, because they either resist training from mature Christians or they are being neglected by mature Christians. You are the mature Christian, who can change all of that, if they are willing to let you.

Rom 8:15 (NIV) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." Jesus, help me teach my friends that their Romans 7:15-25 life is normal but must be temporary. As Satan tries to take their inconsistencies and prove to them that either Christianity doesn't work or they don't qualify to be called a Christian. Help me show them that human effort and world training don't work in Christianity. Help me lead them into the Romans 8:1-39 life.

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Jesus, help me show my friends that the Holy Spirit's testimony in their spirit is their proof of salvation. Help me teach them how to tell the difference between Satan's voice and the Holy Spirit's voice. Empower them to believe the Holy Spirit and the Bible over the devil's lies. Help me protect them from doubting their salvation, so they can move forward into the Romans chapter eight life.

Rom 8:17 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. Jesus, help me show my friends that they will have to suffer persecution from their "friends," from those they share their story with, and from the demands they will experience from the world. They will be required to cheat, mislead, misinform, and pressure people just to please a boss, a "friend," or a client. Help me protect them from yielding to these sins.

Rom 8:18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Jesus, my friends don't have the full picture of **the glory that will be revealed in us.** Help me protect them by showing them how awesome Your blessings are now and Your rewards will be in eternity, if they will allow You to empower them to face suffering for doing the righteous thing. Help them be strong in You and Your mighty power.

There Are Four Things You Must Have

John 20:19-22 (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

1. Jesus had to be with them.
2. He had to give them His peace.
3. They had to be sent.
4. The Holy Spirit had to occupy their body.

Jesus Has To Be With You
Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. <u>And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age</u>. Jesus being with you isn't a problem; He has already made that clear. **John 15:4a (NIV) Remain in Me, and I *will* remain in you.**

Jesus, I can count on You always being with me. Help me see that the real issue is me being with You. Help me **remain in** You, by consulting You all day long. **John 15:5 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. <u>If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing</u>.** Help me believe that I am remaining in You and You are remaining in me at all times.

He Has To Give You His Peace.
Mat 5:9 (NIV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Once you have Jesus' peace, you are to use it to protect people from the damage they typically do to each other. With Jesus' incredible wisdom, you will be able to teach people how to produce win/win situations. Rather than two people trying to get the best of each other, you will help them become a team and produce incredible results by working together.

Jesus, help me understand that since You have given me Your peace, I have the power to help people who are in conflict, in competition, and are enemies to find out what they have to offer one another. Help me yield to Your incredible wisdom and see where fighting and competing people can start working together to get all their needs met. Show me how to yield to Your peace and be a peacemaker in the efforts of my day.

You Must Be Sent
Mark 16:15 (NIV) He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." This is your assignment; and, even though you can't do this alone, you can understand the exponential method of Jesus. It is like the branches of a tree. The trunk grows branches and the branches grow twigs. The tree doesn't just try to be one big trunk; it "branches out." A forest fire can start from a small little match. Exponential growth is far better than trying to build bigger groups.

Jesus, show me that when I share You with someone and teach them to obey everything You commanded me to do, while I am still doing this with others, they are doing it with their friends and acquaintances. Help me see that it goes from two people, to four people, to eight people, to sixteen people, to thirty-two people, to sixty-four people, to a hundred and twenty-eight people, and so on. Show me that this is the way to spread Your message to the whole world.

The Holy Spirit Must Occupy Your Body
1 Cor 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Jesus, help me understand that the Holy Spirit is in me. But, He is honoring my God-given free will. Help me realize that He won't do anything that I don't yield to. As I study the Bible, let me wait for Him to give me Your meaning to each verse. Set me free from my interpretation, human interpretation, and satanic interpretation. Show me that each verse must agree with the whole Bible. Teach me that every verse must agree with all the other verses or there is something wrong with my interpretation.

John 16:13-14 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, <u>He will guide you into all truth</u>. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. <u>He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you</u>. You can read your Bible and study it for the rest of your life; and, you will never learn it in a transforming way without the Holy Spirit guiding you into all truth.

Jesus, help me yield to the Holy Spirit, so He can make Your discipleship training real to me. As I go through the Gospels, help me allow Him to put me in the disciple's situations. Help me let Him insert me in their walk with You, so I can sit at Your feet and learn what they learned. Empower me to let the Holy Spirit make the Gospels come alive to me. Help me let Him **take from what is** Yours **and make it known to** me.

It seemed like the disciples were never going to learn anything. Jesus kept teaching them and they kept misunderstanding. **Mark 7:17-18 (NIV) After He had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples asked Him about this parable. "<u>Are you so dull</u>?" He asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'?** But, take a look at Peter in Acts chapter two. All of a sudden, he seemed to become a tremendous Bible scholar. That is what the Holy Spirit does to you.

Jesus, take me through this process, so I can take others through it with You and the Holy Spirit. Help me see that the best way I can protect people is to help them build a relationship with You and the Holy Spirit. Help me show them these principles, so they will be able to soon start protecting themselves. Help me not build a dependency in them on me. Show me how to, from the very beginning, to keep their eyes on You. Help me show them that the Holy Spirit is inside them waiting for them to yield to Him.

John 15:26 (NIV) When the Counselor comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth Who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me.

The Holy Spirit is constantly explaining the ministry of Jesus to you, so you will be willing to cooperate with Him. Since you are in a constant state of deciding whether or not you are going to yield to the life and ministry of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is constantly explaining why Jesus wants to do what He wants to do. If Jesus just took over your life and ministry, then you would be turned into a robot. You would simply be His remote control that He used to do His ministry through.

Jesus, help me keep in mind and make clear to those I protect that we will always maintain our freedom to choose what we will or will not do. Help me always realize that and help others understand that this makes us able to worship and serve You from our hearts. But, it also makes it necessary for You and the Holy Spirit to keep convincing us that this is the right thing to do. So, help me see that this is a major part of why I study the Bible and what I am to do to help protect others. They must be gently convinced that Your way is the right way.

Chapter Five

Relationship Building

How Do You Protect People?

Mat 25:31-32 (NIV) When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. It is important to know what is going to be on your final exam, when you stand before Jesus. What will make you a person that Jesus will accept? This is a test that you do not want to misunderstand or fail.

> Jesus, I thank You for putting my final exam in the Bible. I want to protect people by building relationships with them; but, it isn't always clear what it is You want me to do. Help me see that You never leave me in the dark. You always make everything You expect of me clear and fully resourced. It is Your deepest desire for me to be totally prepared and ready to stand before You. Help me fully understand what it looks like for me to protect others in such a way that they are able to do the same with those around them.

Mat 25:34 (NIV) Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." This is what you want to hear from Jesus. This is the results you want your activities on this earth to bring into your final exam. However, this isn't something you just want to hope for. This is something you want to put your priority on. This is the ultimate moment of success or failure.

> Jesus, make it clear to me what it looks like for me to succeed in life and how to help others succeed in life. Help me understand that You are the only One Who can decide what true success is. Show me that I and those I am protecting must embrace Your evaluation of what life is all about. Help me realize that I and those I am protecting are only heading in the right direction, if we are doing what You want us to do. Help me not protect them with my criteria. Help me set them an example for how to pass their final exam.

Mat 25:35-36 (NIV) For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.' This is what protection through relationship is all about. Your body, the world, and the devil are all about selfishness. It is about what you deserve, you being the best, you getting to the top, you getting your needs met, and you feeling good about yourself.

Mat 7:12 (NIV) So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Jesus, help me to take all my selfish desires and use them to **sum up the Law and the Prophets.** It is clear to me **what** I **would have them do to** me. Now empower me to take that full understanding and **do** it **to others.** But, help me also understand that what I would really want, is for them to get to know me, so they can know what to do to me.

For I was hungry: How do you know someone is hungry? You know when you are hungry, because you can feel it. But, it doesn't work with others. You must learn a whole new way of knowing when others are hungry. Just like you learned the messages sent to you from your body, you must learn the messages sent to you from those around you. You must learn how to "feel" the hunger pains of others. You can't protect someone, if you don't know what their need is.

Jesus, I am very experienced with knowing what humans go through. Since You made me a human, I have had a lot of personal experiences that have taught me what it is all about. Help me see that You can take all my personal experiences and use them to help me be sensitive to the needs of others. I know what they feel like; I know what is causing them; and I know what I typically have to do to take care of them. Let my protective procedures be based on doing to them what I would have them do to me.

For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat: Once Jesus has taught you how to know when someone is hungry, the next thing is for you to be empowered to respond to that hunger. It isn't like you don't have an already busy schedule. It typically takes all day long, every day, just to take care of your needs. How are you going to add the needs of someone else to your schedule? Plus, it is often true that you barely have enough resources for meeting your own needs. How are you going to add someone else to your financial burden?

Jesus, help me learn how to stop living a life that is just involving me. Help me not just focus in on my needs and not be willing to see and respond to others. Show me how to add the needs of others to my life. Help me understand that You are wanting me to include others, so I can protect them by seeing and responding to what they are needing. It is going to take a miracle for me to take an already challenged life and add more responsibility to it. But, I believe that You will empower and train me how to respond appropriately.

What Does Protecting Through Relationship Look Like

The Way Jesus Sees It

Mat 25:35-36 (NIV) For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.' Protecting through establishing a relationship isn't some vague, fuzzy idea that you are responsible for. It is clearly defined in Matthew 25: 31-46.

Jesus, I don't want to be guessing what You want me to be doing, while living in on earth. I know You put me here for a specific purpose. I thank You for giving me these truths, so I can get actively involved in the plan You have for me. Help me see how this presentation is to play out in my life. Help me understand the principles here and then ask You to guide and empower me to live them out. Show me how to interpret this and submit my life to these concepts.

I was a stranger: Now this is getting bigger. It is one thing to see the needs of your friends and associates; but, it is another thing to start taking on the needs of all the strangers around you. As you can see, this is going to take supernatural knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power. This can't be done by human effort and world training. Jesus didn't meet all these people's needs using human resources and human skills. If you will yield to Him, He will help you do what needs to be done to protect through relationship.

Jesus, I can see that this is bigger than me doing some benevolent things. You are helping me get my eyes off of just myself and teaching me how to live life. There are a lot of needs around me and they are a lot like my needs. You have been training me and putting me through life-classes, so I would be able to see what humans go through. Now that I know a lot about what humans go through, help me use this training to protect through building relationships with humans.

I was a stranger and you invited Me in: Did Jesus invite every stranger into His life and ministry? He only did what His Father wanted Him to do. In The Three Keys To All Of Christianity--*ask, seek, and knock*--the *knock key* is where you find out which people, who are hungry, thirsty, and a stranger, you are to help. There are some people He doesn't want helped, because He is using their situation to show them they need Him. There are people He wants other people to help. And, there are people He wants to teach how to be helped through applying The Three Keys for their own needs.

Jesus, I now *knock* on the doors of opportunity for me to get involved in meeting the needs of those You want me to meet. As I *knock* on these doors, You said the door would be opened. Show me that this means You have already prepared these people for me working with them. Give me Your supernatural guidance to these people. Then give me Your supernatural provisions, so their needs will be met by You and not by my human abilities and resources.

I needed clothes and you clothed Me: Once you build a relationship with a person by being sensitive to their needs, it takes supernatural guidance for how to protect them, when to protect them, what to protect them with, and how much. You aren't trying to be their benefactor. You are building a relationship, so they will experience Jesus. Everything you do needs to be done in such a way that they see Who Jesus is. If you just come across as a nice, caring person, then you are clothing them and not letting Jesus clothe them.

Jesus, help me care for people, as if they are You. But, help me also care for them, as if they were me. Help me see that my needs aren't always clothes. I can think my need is clothes; but, I am in need of clothes because of some spiritual problem that is blocking off You supplying me with clothes. Help me not misunderstand this final exam. You aren't turning this into a social gospel. You are still concerned about the spiritual needs of the people around me. Guide my thoughts and feelings, so I will stay on track with You.

Luke 12:22-23 (NIV) Then Jesus said to His disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes." This final exam isn't sending you a different message than this one. Every verse in the Bible *must* be interpreted by every other verse in the Bible. No verse can stand alone and be used is if it is a unit in itself. If you memorize a verse, make sure you are using it in unity with all the Bible.

Jesus, help me see that, as I feed, clothe, and befriend strangers, these things are to help them see that You and I care about them. We are doing these things to them and for them, so they will trust You and turn their life over to You and all Your provisions. Help me see that I am building a protective relationship with them, so they will see Who You are and what You do for those who put their trust in You. If I build a relationship around just me and clothes, then I am missing Your point.

Chapter Six

Jesus' Type Of Relationship Building

How Do You Spiritually Protect People?

Mat 25:35-36 (NIV) For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.' If you did these things to one person one time, would it satisfy Jesus' criteria? What is being presented here? Jesus is expecting everyone's needs to be met all the time.

Jesus, help me realize that You aren't wanting me to just check the box off on all these needs. These are ongoing needs that are reoccurring. And, they exist in every person on the planet. Help me see beyond the natural and get the meaning to You supernatural solution to this final exam. You are an all-powerful God, Who knows how to fulfill this requirement supernaturally. Help me take this final exam and hold it up to the methods You used for fulfilling it.

Fulfilling Jesus' Final Exam

Supernatural Provisions

Luke 6:36 (NIV) Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. You want mercy from all those around you. But, what procedure do you use to get mercy? Some people demand it. Some try to persuade people to give it to them. Some try to trick people into making it available to them. Some try to earn or buy it from others. Jesus says that the way to get your needs met is to go around being merciful to others. He is saying that He will respond supernaturally, if this method is applied.

Mat 5:7 (NIV) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Jesus, help me see that, as I go around building relationships with others in order to protect them from their body, the world, and the devil, I am doing what it takes to get my needs met. As I am merciful to others, I am setting myself up for mercy from You. Show me that if I live this and teach it to others, I will be able to show them how to be fed, clothed, and befriended for life. I have started them on a journey with You that meets all their needs.

Luke 6:37 (NIV) Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Do you see a pattern here? Why is a person's food, clothing, and relationships not being met? When you see someone hungry, thirsty, or a stranger, why is that happening to them? **Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.** There some truth or spiritual condition that is missing in their life.

Jesus, I can feed, give a drink, and befriend a stranger. But, they will keep needing me to do it all over again every day for the rest of their lives. Help me see that human effort and world training won't take care of this final exam requirement. Help me do these things for these people, as You lead me to the ones You want me to help. But, help me never forget that Your life, Your principles, and Your salvation is the only way I am going to be able to help them on a continuous and permanent basis.

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Here is the life-success principle that Christians are to live by. After a person accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, this is to be implemented into their life. As they put their trust in Jesus, they start on a small scale and gradually learn how to succeed through giving.

Jesus, a lot of Your sermon on the mount wouldn't make sense, if I didn't understand this principle. Help me see that it won't be understood by those You assign me to protect, until they find out how incredibly well this principle works. Help me live by this principle in a great way in my life, so I can share the miracles with them. Let them see me be free from the cares of this world through me putting my full trust in You. Help me share with them what I am doing to live the miraculous life of You supplying all my needs.

Protecting From Distraction

A Relationship Of Faith

Mat 6:31 (NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' What do you think people worry about most of the time? What do you think is causing a person to spend most of their life working on a job to earn money for? What do you think people create so many bills for? If your friend is dominated by the cares of this world, then it is hard for them to be set free from it. Most have become a slave to mony because of their bills and social needs.

Jesus, frequently I and my friends don't have much time or money to spend on those who are hungry, thirsty, or strangers. We have a full day and a strict budget that doesn't give us much leeway. It can be very difficult for me to set a good example, if I am caught in the same trap that they are. Help me start looking for Your miracles in my life that will help me get involved in the giving system You are setting forth. Increase my time, effort, and money, as I start sharing more of them with others.

Mat 6:32 (NIV) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Why do **the pagans run after all these things?** They don't have a **heavenly Father** Who **knows that** they **need them.** Why do Christians **run after all these things?** They don't *know they* have a **heavenly Father** Who **knows that** they **need them.** And, they don't know how to take advantage of that fact.

Jesus, help me broaden my protection through relationship. Help me not only protect people from the sins of their body, the enticements of the world, and the temptations of the devil, help me bring freedom to them with their time, effort, and money. Help me see that You want to free them, so they can spend more time helping others. If we are so busy that we only have time for ourselves, then we will never be available for You to flow through us to others.

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. This verse actually tells you how to get *things* through living the Christian life the right way. Jesus is telling you and your friends that, if you will put a priority on **seeking first** God's **kingdom and His righteousness** those *things* that have been forcing you to spend most of your day on, will be taken care of.

Jesus, I and my friends don't have much time for relationships, because we are spending most of our day seeking those things You told us not to run after. Help us start spending more time **seeking first** God's **kingdom and His righteousness** and then start looking for a way out of the time and money trap we are involved in. Show us that the more time we spend with You, the more time and money You will provide, so we can spend more time helping others.

Mat 6:34 (NIV) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. This is a different way of planning ahead. It is a whole new system for preparing for your future. If your friend is trying to get ahead, planning for retirement, making sure they are prepared for the worst, they are sabotaging all of it. If God isn't on their side because they are using their time, money and energy on themselves, then they can count on worst-case-scenarios.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of <u>those who love Him</u>, who have been called according to His purpose. Jesus, help me see that You can tell whether or not and how much I love You, by what I pursue with most of my time, effort, and money. Help me teach my friends **that in all things God** does not **works for the good of <u>those who</u>** <u>do not</u> **<u>love Him.</u>** <u>Help me show them that they need You on their side, so they can succeed in life.</u>

Mat 6:24 (NIV) ***No one*** **can serve two masters. Either he** ***will*** **hate the one and love the other, or he** ***will*** **be devoted to the one and despise the other. You** ***cannot*** **serve both God and Money.** This is an impossible task that many Christians are trying to get God to help them accomplish. They are wanting to spend the majority of their time working on getting money. Then they are asking God to prosper them. Serving God starts with seeking God first.

Jesus, help me see that it all starts with what I and my friends seek first. Help our priorities be seeking You first. But, since we are already in a financial bind, help us take the small steps toward financial and time freedom. Give us a determination and a commitment to not drag our feet. Help us put our whole heart into **seeking first** God's **kingdom and His righteousness.** Help me lead them into a step-by-step process of moving into total trust and reliance on You.

Chapter Seven

What Does It Mean To Protect Through Physical Help

The Way Jesus Sees It

Mat 25:40 (NIV) The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, <u>you did for Me</u>.' Jesus sees all the hands raised and hears all the mouths singing, worshipping, and quoting Scriptures. But, what He is really looking for, as an indication of how much we love Him is, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine.** That is the main theme of your final exam for eternity.

Jesus, I now embrace Your main theme for my final exam for eternity. I accept that I am being evaluated based on: **Whatever** I **did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine,** I **did for** You**.** Help me stay involved in protecting through relationship with that truth in mind. Help me see that You take it personal, as to how I treat the people around me. Help me love, care about, and protect with that kind of attitude. Show me how to demonstrate how much I love You, by how I treat them.

A lot of times sin would seem to only involve those wrong, bad, and evil things you *do*. But, the actual definition of sin doesn't identify it that way. **James 4:17 (NIV) Anyone, then, who <u>knows the good he ought to do *and doesn't do it*</u>, sins.** In preparation for your final exam for God's eternal Kingdom, also spend some time talking to Jesus about what you should be doing. **Mat 25:45 (NIV) "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you *did not do* for one of the least of these, *you did not do* for Me.'**

Jesus, as I and my friends go about our day, we may feel pretty good about the fact that we didn't cheat, lie, mislead, misinform, steal, or hurt anyone. But, help me see that part of my protection must consist of helping people *do good.* Help me remind them that not doing wrong, bad, and evil isn't enough. We must involve ourselves in actually *doing* right, good, and righteous things to those around us.

Luke 6:46 (NIV) Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Part of helping people grow spiritually is exposing them to Jesus' Bible. Many Christians only know a few Scriptures and Biblical principles. They don't know why Jesus caused the Bible to have so much information in it. **John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will *know* the truth, and the truth will set you free."** They don't realize that they have to **know** a truth in order for it to set them free.

Jesus, help me to explain to those I am protecting, that a major part of them being protected is to know the truths of the Bible. Help me show them that knowing the truth is the first step in being set free. Help me lead them into reading and studying their Bibles on a daily basis. Then help me lead them into praying for each verse that has a truth they still need. Help me understand that this is a major part of my protection procedure.

Luke 6:47 (NIV) I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice. This is a three-step process: First, you must come to Jesus. Second, you must hear His words. And, third, you must put them into practice. Coming to Jesus is to read and study your Bible. Hearing His words involve listening to the Holy Spirit explain the meaning of each verse. Hearing His words also involves allowing the Holy Spirit to show you what the meaning would look like in real life. Putting them into practice involves praying and asking Jesus to empower you to yield to that truth being installed and activated in your life.

Jesus, help me always come to You moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue all during my day. Help me pray and ask You to give me revelations and guidance on all the problems, issues, and decisions of that moment. Help me receive Scriptures in my mind that help me produce solutions that are righteous, fair, and loving. Help me then pray and ask You to empower me to do what You teach no matter what the consequences are.

Luke 6:48 (NIV) He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. *When* a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. You are actually building an eternal house right now. All your activities have eternal implications that are currently being evaluated, as to whether they will be stored as eternal treasures or not. If they have eternal value, they will serve you well in God's eternal Kingdom.

Jesus, help me protect people by showing them that Jesus' words are like building their life on solid rock. Help me show them that the reason some of the things they do fail, is because they weren't connected to Jesus' truths. Help me teach them that success and failure aren't random, luck, or karma. You are telling them that, when the storms of life come their way, if they have established their life on Your words, they will be able to win over the storm and be secure.

Can Protection Improve Your Eternal Life?

What Are Eternal Treasures?

1 Cor 3:9 (NIV) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. You **are God's fellow worker.** As a person, who is protecting people, who don't have their armor on yet, you **are God's fellow worker.** The people you are protecting **are God's field, God's building.** When you shared the gospel message with them and they received Jesus, you laid the Jesus-foundation in them.

Jesus, help me learn, through this illustration, how eternity works for Christians. Show me how I and my friends are affecting our eternal life in God's Kingdom. Help us understand how it works, so we will be more actively involved in making good, spiritual decisions during our day. Just like I know how my activities of my day affect the end results, help me have the same knowledge about eternity. Let me be a knowledgeable Christian, who understands why I am doing what I am doing in Christianity.

1 Cor 3:10 (NIV) By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. In this building illustration, the person, who led another person into salvation in Jesus, they **laid a foundation as an expert builder.** Then other mature Christians started teaching them and leading them into living the Christian life. They are that **someone else** who **is building on it.**

Jesus, as a person, who is now building on people's Jesus-foundations, help me **be careful how** I **build.** Help me base all my efforts and protections on Your word, the Bible. Help me lead my friends into doing the same, as they make decisions about their own life. Even though I present Your Word to them, they are the ones who are making the final decision, as to what they accept and believe. Help me explain to them that their decisions can have eternal consequences and benefits.

1 Cor 3:11 (NIV) For no one can lay any foundation other than the One already laid, which is Jesus Christ. Your eternal life and Christianity start with Jesus being the foundation you build on. Anything else is like building your life on sand. Jesus, as your foundation, gives you the *potential* of making the rest of your life count for eternity. Being a new or untrained Christian means your behavior is such that very little counts for storing up treasure in God's eternal Kingdom.

Jesus, I am truly thankful for You making it possible for me to spend eternity with You in God's eternal Kingdom. Now I am asking You to help me store up treasure for eternity. Help me live my life in such a way that I am very successful here and in eternity. Teach me how to protect others with such righteous behavior that everything I do counts for here and in God's Kingdom. Show me how to make the changes in how I live, so I am doing what it takes to build eternal materials on You, the foundation of my life.

1 Cor 3:12-13 (NIV) If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

If any man builds on this foundation: As you go about your day, you are making decisions that are building on your Christian life. If you choose to go with Jesus and Biblical ideas, at that moment concerning that issue, then you build with materials that have earthly and eternal value. If some of your decisions leave Jesus out of the decision-making process, then you are building on your Jesus-foundation with materials that only count for here. But, you are the builder, building on your Jesus-foundation.

Jesus, teach me that I am building a Christian life where I have two choices for the kind of material I use to build on it. As I make decisions during my day, I am picking the kind of material I will build with during that day. Help me not have a mixture of some human material and some heavenly material. Help me be able to identify and choose only those materials that last for eternity. Help me include You and Your knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power all day long.

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw: Here are the types of building materials that are available to you. The heavenly building materials are: gold, silver, and costly stones. The earthly building materials are wood, hay, or straw. The heavenly building materials are not flammable. The earthly, human materials will burn. This Christian judgment, where only Christians will be involved, is an exposure to spiritual fire. Every thought, feeling, word, and deed will be exposed to this fire.

Jesus, help me see that You are always available for me to look to for every decision I make. You aren't putting a legal, human effort requirement on me to use the correct materials. You are offering Your life and Your provisions, so the burden and eternal requirements aren't placed on me. Help me use *ask, seek, and knock* rather than my skills, talents, abilities, experiences, and power. Help me see that the more I let You work in and through my life, the easier it will be to build with gold, silver, and costly stones.

1 Cor 3:14 (NIV) If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

If what he has built survives: As you can see, you are doing the building; but, you don't have to do this alone. **Mat 11:28 (NIV) Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** This is all about how much you pray and ask for Jesus' help all during your day. If you read about these things and feel stressed and burdened, that is your signal that you are looking to you and your human efforts to live the Christian life. If you get excited about this, then your trust is in Jesus.

Jesus, help me read these verses and let them test where my faith and trust are. Help me bring any stress, worry, anxiety, or fear to You. Help me realize that only You can produce nonflammable materials on my Jesus-foundation. When I feel stressed or burdened, help me bring them to You, so You can give me rest. Then, when I pray and ask You for rest, help me understand that it doesn't force itself on me. I must believe You heard and answered my prayer and must resist anything that tries to keep me from feeling Your rest.

If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward: Rewards are what you are to be concerned about, as a Christian. If you live your life in such a way that you enter into heaven with great rewards, you have taken advantage of your Christian life. Of course, getting into heaven is your top priority. However, just barely making it into heaven, is taking a huge chance. When you start doing what it takes to store up great rewards, you are really making sure you are going to be spending eternity with Jesus.

1 Cor 9:24 (NIV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Jesus, help me move my motivations, goals, and dreams into an eternal perspective. Help me live life here using the Biblical procedures that lead me into winning here and winning in eternity. Help me not settle for just being successful in this world. Show me that true success involves me doing all the things I do by using Biblical principles that count in both places.

Jesus, help me make my plans, set my goals, and develop my strategies based on doing what I do here, so as to **run in such a way as to get the prize.** Help me pick my jobs, careers, associations, and activities through what You say will help me win in both realms. Guide me in all my life planning, so I am doing what it takes to run this race with purpose and commitment. Help me see that I must win in both places in order to win in eternity. What I do here to win *can* bring great rewards in Your Kingdom.

1 Cor 3:15 (NIV) If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; <u>he himself will be saved</u>, but only as one escaping through the flames. Here is a person, who made it into God's Kingdom. They lived their Christian life without sinning or doing anything that would keep them from spending eternity with Jesus. But, that was the extent of their involvement with Him. They wasted and squandered their time, effort, resources, and money on earthly, human things. But, it will be clear to them that they made a huge mistake.

Jesus, once I get into eternity, it will be very obvious to me what really mattered during my earthly life. Just as soon as I see how it all worked, I will realize everything I *should* have done. But, that is not what I want for my eternity. As a matter of fact, that isn't what I want for my life here. Help me see that now is when I can take advantage of those things that You have made available for me to use to invest in Your eternal Kingdom. You are giving me a lot of Scriptures that tell me how to best prepare for eternity.

Chapter Eight

How Does Protecting Others Produce Benefits In Eternity

Heavenly Rewards

Eph 6:7 (NIV) Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord <u>will reward everyone for whatever good he does</u>, whether he is slave or free. Since Jesus is taking personal what you do to and for others, this verse helps you properly view your relationships with people. He wants you to do everything **as if you were serving** Him**, not men.** This helps you evaluate your treatment of all those around you.

Jesus, help me not just see *people* that I am protecting. Help me upgrade my protection based on the fact that I am actually doing it to and for You. Help me not just see a person, who may or may not deserve or appreciate my protection, help me do it because I love You. Show me how to do all these things, while asking myself what I would do, if it were You in that situation. Let me not decide who deserves my care and realize that, if You gave me the assignment, then I am doing it as if they were You.

Col 3:23-24 (NIV) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <u>since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward</u>. It is *the Lord Christ* you are serving. Just like Jesus is going to say in our final exam: **"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."** All of these verses are pointing you to Who you are actually doing this to. This assists you in helping and protecting people with a lot of love.

Jesus, You don't just see me doing these things *for* You, You see them, as me doing them *to* You. Let this difference in view help me demonstrate my love for You in more ways of worship. Let me be able to show You how much I love and appreciate You, as I serve and protect others. Show me how to spend my day in constant worship and demonstrations of love to You, as I look for and get involved in service and protection of those around me.

Mat 6:19 (NIV) Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. The temporal and fragile aspects of our earthly investments should be obvious to us. But, it is vital that you understand that the changes in the activities of your day don't have to change that much. A lot of the things you are doing now just have to be changed to a new purpose. While you are doing what you are doing, you will be looking for opportunities to serve and protect.

Mat 6:20 (NIV) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Jesus, help me allow You to turn my earthly activities into a way to be out where the hurting people are. Help me not just focus on my earthly assignment. Show me that I will still get my job done; but, my main focus will be on ways to share You and Your principles with those I am working with. Rather than just thinking about how to do my job, I will be looking for ways to turn it into a service *to* You.

Mat 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. This is a huge principle! It is an attitude that is motivating your day. If your goal, your purpose, and your focus is to improve your earthly life, then your treasure will be earthly; and, your investments will be earthly. But, if you allow Jesus to turn all these earthly things you are doing during your day into tools for helping and protecting people, then your treasure is heavenly; and, your investment will be stored up in the heavenly realm.

Jesus, help my whole purpose, goal, and reason for doing what I do, be to serve and protect people. Change my treasure into being people rather than things. Help me live my life based on what will enhance my eternal life rather than what will enhance my earthly life. Give me great wisdom and understanding of what life and eternity are all about. Lay a foundation in my motives that spiritually influences all that I do. Help me not be confused, as to why I am here on this planet.

This Is How You Hug Jesus

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) "Love the Lord your God with all your *heart* and with all your *soul* and with all your *mind* and with all your *strength*." The second is this: "Love your neighbor *as yourself*." <u>There is no commandment greater than these</u>.

Your major way of increasing your love relationship with Jesus has been: Going to church and Christian meetings, reading and studying your Bible and good Christian literature, praying and listening to God, listening to good Christian music and sermons. You are now adding the dimension of building a love relationship with others. This aspect of love becomes a physical way of showing Jesus how much you love Him.

Jesus, help me see that this is a way for me to worship and praise You all day long. As I do these things, as to You and not to men, I can let my heart go in love and appreciation for all You have done for me. I can serve and protect others, as my way of demonstrating, in a physical way, how much I am glad You did these things for me. Let this turn my day into a day of actively showing You what all I appreciate, in the way You protected and blessed me.

Rom 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--<u>this is your spiritual act of worship</u>. You are turning the activities of your body into **spiritual acts of worship** rather than letting it spend its time getting its needs and drives met. You are taking control over the motivations, purposes, and goals of your life. They are no longer dominated by the physical needs and comfort of your body. Your whole day is worshipping and serving Jesus.

Jesus, help me see that I will be still working on a job, buying groceries, getting clothes, and living in a house. Reveal to me that I am doing these things, while concentrating on how I can do them and demonstrate my love to You. As You teach me how to go about my day, with new goals, purposes, and plans, show me how to identify the opportunities You are putting before me to serve and protect others. Let my daily, physical activities become **spiritual acts of worship.**

Here's What Jesus Likes

How To Protect Others

Mat 7:12 (NIV) So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for <u>this sums up the Law and the Prophets</u>. As you are going about your day, you have a clear picture of what you want, what you need, what you want to accomplish, and what will make you happy. As you then take all those things and bring them before Jesus, you can allow Him to turn them into ways to produce win/win situations. How could you do things that would fulfill *your* day *and* bring the same fulfillment into the day of those around you?

Jesus, help me understand that my day not only belongs to me, it belongs to those You want me to serve and protect. Help me see that I am surrounded by people I "work with." Show me that there are ways for me to bring these people into my life. Give me revelations, wisdom, love, and focus concerning how I can serve and protect, while doing those things I typically have to do during my day. Reveal to me that You can turn my day into a day that gets incredible, powerful things done that I am not yet doing now.

Mat 22:37-40 (NIV) Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. <u>All the Law and the Prophets</u> hang on these two commandments." Matthew 7:12 **"for this sums up the Law and the Prophets"** is given the same weight as the greatest and second greatest commandments. That is an amazing fact. Why would Jesus put doing to others what you would want them doing to you in the same category as loving God with all you are?

Jesus, help me see that everything I do or don't do to others is what I do or don't do to You. All this relationship I have been building with God ultimately dies if it doesn't manifest itself through me into the lives of others. Help me get my eyes off of just myself. Help me use my wants, needs, and desires to help me understand others. Help me love my neighbor *as myself.* Show me that win/win ways of living don't neglect me. They take me and help me understand what others want and need. Help me constantly respond to that.

I Can If I Want To

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God *has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He *has* given us.

The wonderful thing is, you can count on the fact that a true love from God, for God, will show up in your relationships with others. Will this happen because you have become such a loving and wonderful person? No. It will happen because you have put your complete trust in God and His love. **2 Cor 9:8 (NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, *so that* in all things at all times, <u>having all that you need</u>, you *will* abound in every good work.** Jesus is doing this in and through you.

Jesus, help me understand that I will never arrive at the place where I will do all God requires. My life will have to remain in God's undeserved favor (grace). Show me that I love God with all my being because of His grace and the love He gave me. His Holy Spirit is producing that love in and through me toward Him. I will love my neighbor, as myself, by means of that same grace through the same Holy Spirit. Help me understand that, if I don't accept this, I will end up in pride and feelings of superiority over other people. I will serve and protect them as their superior.

With Romans 5:5, you are faced with the fact that you must aim God's love at these people. This too must happen through a cooperative work with Jesus. Once again, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are gentle. They aren't going to force you to love God; and, they aren't going to force you to love others. But, the fact that you don't *need* to be forced to love God is your evidence that you are able to love others. However, loving others is a whole different issue from loving God.

People aren't as much fun to love as loving God is.

Jesus, teach me that God loves me back in a far greater manifestation of love than I give to Him. God deserves my love. God blesses, meets my needs, fills me with His presence, protects, and transforms me. People don't have any of that to offer. They often hate me, mistreat me, reject me, ignore me, sin against me, and refuse to love me back. How in the world am I going to love them? I know I have God's love installed in my heart by the Holy Spirit. But, having love and giving love are two different things.

Jesus, teach me that God and the things of God only make things possible for me. They don't automatically make things happen in me. I can always resist them, if I want to. Help me always keep in mind that God's love is like that. I *can* love people; but, I don't *have to*. So, how do I love people with the love God has put in my heart? Teach me how to open my heart and allow God's love to start flowing through me into the lives of other people. I want to love, serve, and protect others, as if they were You.

Chapter Nine

I Can't Look

John 4:35 (NIV) Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?" I tell you, <u>open your eyes and look at the fields</u>! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.

Jesus, help me to **open** my **eyes and look at the fields!** Help me understand that this has to be a conscious decision. I have to be willing to allow You to show me the hurts, the pain, and the needs of the people around me. Since You won't force me to look, I ask You to empower me to use my God-given free will to look. Help me not want to shield myself from what they are going through. Help me give You all my problems, pains, and difficulties, so I have room for the needs of others.

This harvest, that Jesus is talking about, consists of those who desperately want and need Jesus and what He has to offer. Jesus is saying that the harvest is ready for harvesting. In other words, people are ready to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. New and untrained Christians are also ready to learn how to live the victorious Christian life. Plus, trainees (disciples) are ready to learn how to go out and help hurting and needy people. But, the problem is, you need to open your eyes, so you can see these people. Jesus won't force you to look.

Jesus, I can so focus on the things of my day, I can narrow my day's calendar down to where I only have room for me in it. I can set my goals where I only see where I want to go. Help me see that Your plans, schedules, and goals will create interruptions in my well-planned day. Heal me from the rigidity of a life orchestrated around me. Help me loosen up my calendar, my schedule, and my agenda. Show me how to get all my work done, my needs met, and my goals reached while including many interruptions in my day.

We All Have Full Schedules

Luke 10:30 (NIV) In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. This is an obvious need. It wouldn't take someone with major spiritual discernment to realize this person needed help right away. But, who has the time, concern, and willingness to interrupt their busy day and help?

Jesus, many people's needs are completely hidden from me. When I ask them how they are doing, they say, "fine." Help me, with great wisdom and love, to go beyond the normal exchanges of greetings. Help me see beyond the typical smile and positive tone. Show me that many are suffering, but, they assume that no one really cares how they are doing. Since most people won't have needs as obvious as the man in this illustration, give me great spiritual abilities to see beyond the obvious.

Luke 10:31 (NIV) A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. This is a person, whose whole life is to be devoted to the needs of people. He is supposed to be sensitive and open to any pain or suffering a person is going through. He is being supported financially and is being given ample time, so he can be free to address any needs that come his way. But, he has filled his ministry with things that no longer look like Jesus' ministry.

Jesus, even if You financed me and gave me all the time in the world to do Your ministry, I can see that I could fill it up with other things. Even if you prosper me and help me have more free time and more extra money, I can find other things to use it on. Help me look over my life, schedule, day, and budget and see if there are ways I can reinvest my time, effort, and money. Help me not be like this priest and miss the opportunities You give me to serve, protect, and help the needy.

Luke 10:32 (NIV) So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. This is a man that all his family and relatives have been set aside to serve people's needs. They have purified, dedicated, been trained, and have been a major part of the work of God. He has been surrounded from birth with God's work being his only profession. Yet, he still doesn't realize or believe that this dying man is his responsibility. He has already filled his schedule and committed his financial resources to other things.

Jesus, help me look at these two men, who are supposed to be completely dedicated to You. Help me see where they have taken their lives. Show me where I have filled my time and my budget with things that I need to adjust. Help me start accepting a new way of looking at where I want to spend my time, effort, and resources. Help me change my thinking about what I want to do with my life, spend my day, and fulfill my purpose. Let me become a person who is ready and available for any interruptions You send my way.

Luke 10:33 (NIV) But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. Did this man have plans? Was he already busy? Was this going to be an inconvenience? Sure! You will hardly ever have a time when you couldn't be doing something else that you consider really important. But, when he looked that this dying man, his look was different from the look of the other two men. They saw what this Samaritan saw. But, when he looked, **he took pity on him.**

Jesus, help me understand that it isn't enough for me to start seeing the needs and problems of other people. Let God's love, that the Holy Spirit poured into my heart, be yielded to, so I can take pity on them. Help me let this love empower me to involve myself in the lives of other people. Let this love empower me to be willing to invest time, effort, and resources in needy people. Let this love become my major motivation for why I do what I do, all during my day.

Once you open your eyes and see how ready people are, it will affect your heart. Jesus is saying: "Look at the fields." He wants you to let the situation touch your emotions. Seeing things as they are will pull you into love for those you see hurting and hungry for spiritual growth. As long as your eyes are looking at the things of this world, you will not let your love from God go. With your eyes focused on other things, your love for people will have no place to go.

Open The Floodgates

John 7:38 (NIV) Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. Jesus, teach me that I am the container for God's streams of living water. I believed, so I could be saved. But, help me see that one of the reasons God saved me was, so I would give His provisions of life to others. I may not see myself as being that important. I may see others, as being the only ones who really qualify for this transforming work. But, show me that this Scripture says: **"Whoever believes in Me ...."**

Let Jesus Flow In And Through You

John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

This Scripture says the same basic thing as what you just saw in John 7:38. You have to accept the words, **"Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing."** as a fact. These two Scriptures are Truth. The mighty work that God has done in your life, up to now, has been to help you be able and willing to pass it on. Now let Jesus show you those things that interfere with you being willing to let God's love flow through you to others.

Jesus, help me not just read verses like these two that are out of the book of John. Help me believe them and allow these prayers I am praying over them to install them in my life. Help me not just get information; empower me to get transformation. Help me read them again, since You have installed them in me, so I can fully understand what You have done in me, to me, for me, with me, and through me. Help me start living on the basis of the fact that You have given them to me, so I can join You and let them flow through me from You.

Can't I Just Pray For Them?

Mat 25:35-36 (NIV) For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.

Sometimes you can just want to do the basic minimums. As you look at all the people who need your protection and help, then you look at your limited resources, you can feel like the only option available to you is to just pray from them. And, prayer is an awesome and powerful thing. But, the Bible addresses us just praying and not getting involved in the physical needs of those around us. **James 2:15-16 (NIV) Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," <u>but does nothing about his physical needs</u>, what good is it?**

Jesus, help me not look at this situation from a human perspective. Help me pray and allow You to give me Your wisdom and solutions, so I can move forward in this assignment. Help me understand that, if I approach this from human reasoning, it will be overwhelming. But, I now come to You for the wisdom, power, and resources that only You can provide. Help me always obey the Bible from the stand point of what You are capable of doing rather than what I am able to do.

As was just discussed, Jesus wants you to open your eyes and see the suffering. But, there are several things you need to discuss with Him about it.

1. Jesus, I am starting to hurt for these suffering people.
2. It is going to cost me money to feed, house, clothe, nurse, and visit them in prisons.
3. It's going to take up a lot of my time to meet all these needs.
4. Jesus, I only have so much energy in my day. I am going to be used up offering all this help.
5. I will have to give up resources and opportunities that I would have used for myself.
6. Jesus, the needs are far greater than I am capable of providing for. I am starting to feel overwhelmed by the greatness of the situation.
7. I sometimes become confused, as to how much to give and how much to keep for myself.
8. Jesus, sometimes I become frustrated that more people don't help out.

With this and many other potential problems, are you willing to open this door to service? A major part of all the other aspects of spiritual growth (sanctification) have been working on your character, so as to get you ready for this question. The help you need, so you can make the right decision, is still in God. While it is true these are scary problems, you have to also look at something else at the same time. When looking at the harvest field, you have to be looking at the principles of God.

Rom 8:18 (NIV) *I consider* that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Jesus, as I look at the sacrifices, help me look at the blessings. You used this principle, so as to enable Yourself to go to the cross. **Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, <u>Who for the joy set before Him</u> endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** Help me allow all the blessings and joy inspire me to make the necessary sacrifices.

Conclusion

This is the second book in **The Protection Series**. The first book is called: **Protection For Others.** This second book is called: **Protection Through Relationships.** The third book is called: **Protection Through Jesus.** And the fourth book is called: **Protection Through Love.** These all deal with protecting those who can't protect themselves.

There is a series called: **The Prevention Series.** Jesus uses it to teach you how to use the full armor of God to be protected yourself. If you haven't gone through that series, it would be good for you to know how to protect yourself through the full armor of God.

A Prayer For You To Always Pray For Yourself And Others
Jesus' people are praying Ephesians 1:17-23 for you. It contains such vital requests before God that it has been converted into a prayer for you and those around you. As others pray it for you, please join them by praying this modified prayer for yourself and your friends.

I *keep asking* that the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may *give me* the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *so that* I may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened *in order that* I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for me, who believes. Jesus, help me see, know, and understand the hope, the riches, and this power.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. Jesus, I ask that I would receive a full revelation and vision into all this power that is available to me; and, I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It would be good for you to pray this prayer for yourself and those around you regularly.