

GOD'S HEDGE OF PROTECTION AROUND US - *Job 1:9,10*

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When we come to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, God delivers us from the power of darkness and **transfers us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love.** *Colossians 1:13. Through the Blood of Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed, or brought back to God. Colossians 1:14, 1Peter 18:19.* In the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus we are surrounded and covered with the authority of God. *Matthew 28:18, Luke 22:29, Ephesians 1:22,23.*

God covers us with His Presence and surrounds us with His favour like a shield. *Psalm 5:11,12, Psalm 91:1-4.*

Many times in God's Word it says, **"Fear not for I AM with you."** *Isaiah 43:5, Isaiah 41:10, Hebrews 13:5,6, Joshua 1:9,5, Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 43:1,2. This is the Hedge of God's Presence. We have an anointing from God and it abides on us. This anointing teaches us all things and is the truth and is no lie. Just as He has taught us we abide in Him. 1John 2:27.* The anointing is the Presence of the Holy Spirit upon us. Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, and to proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord." *Luke 4:18,19.* (The Acceptable Year of the Lord is the Year of Jubilee. This is in *Leviticus 25:8*, and following verses. In the Year of Jubilee all the slaves were set free, all debts were cancelled, everyone returned to his/her family and everyone returned to his/her inheritance. The Cross of Jesus, His resurrection and ascension and enthroning at the right hand of the Father, ushered in the Year of Jubilee for us all in this age of grace. Hallelujah, Amen.)

Disobedience to God, known or unknown, may open a way for satan to attack us. That is, a gap in the hedge of God's protection may occur. *Ecclesiasties 10:8* says, **"Whoever breaks through a hedge, a serpent may bite him."** **God's Word says, "Fear not for I am with you."** Strong and prolonged fear may open a way through the hedge of God's protection and allow satan to attack us. *Job 3:25.*

If, after we hear the Word of God, we do not follow through with faith and obedience, a gap may be formed in the hedge of God's protection, to allow a spirit of deception to influence us. *James 1:22,23,24,25.*

Where a person lacks control over his or her own spirit and feelings, as was Martha, in *Luke 10:40, 41,42*, the hedge of protection is weakened and evil spirits may be able to attack. **"If we do not have control over our own spirit, we are like a city that is broken down, and without walls."** *Proverbs 25:28.* Refuse all compulsive spiritual impressions. **Test, try and prove all teachings, prophecies and revelations.** *Acts 17:11, 1Thesalonians 5:21, Revelation 2:2.*

Jesus has commanded us to:

1. **Forgive others** their sins against us. *Luke 11:4, Mark 11:25:26, Matthew 18:21-35.*
2. **To release others from condemning judgment and bitterness.** *Matthew 7:1,2, Luke 6:37.*
3. **To pray blessing on our enemies** that persecute us. *Luke 6:27,28,35, Matthew 5:44.* Bless as in *Acts 26:18.*

In the passage *Matthew 18:21-35*, Jesus tells us that if we do not forgive others their sins against us, **that the Heavenly Father, will hand us over to the tormentors,** as explained in the parable.v34,35.

Failure to forgive others their sins against us is an act of disobedience and makes a hole in the hedge of God's protection so that evil spirits can torment or afflict us and maybe destroy us.

Recently, I heard a notable Christian leader say, "Satan has his demons and God has his demons," to explain this passage of the "tormentors", as they are described in the KJV. (*Matthew 18:34,35, 1Samuel 16:14,16,23, 1Kings 22:21,22,23*). My thought on this, is that our disobedience creates a gap in the hedge of God's protection and demons have an opportunity to attack and maybe destroys us.

I realise that *1Samuel 16:14, 16, 23*, says, "an evil spirit from the Lord"; *1Kings 22:21*, says "a spirit stood before the Lord" and volunteered to be a lying spirit in the mouths of the false prophets of the King of Israel, but I am inclined to think that disobedience to God, as Saul was disobedient, *1Samuel 15:22,23,24*, opens a way through God's hedge of protection for demons to attack us.

So in *1Samuel 16:14*, I think that the "evil spirit from the Lord", is possibly an evil spirit "allowed by the Lord." Maybe it is like *Matthew 18:34,35*, where the Lord hands us over to the tormentors.

Deliberate disobedience is rebellion, and *1Samuel 15:23* says, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft." Witchcraft is opening a door to satanic influence. Deliberate disobedience breaks down the hedge of God's protection.

God gives us grace to obey His commands. *2Corinthians 12:9,10.*

God is always at work in us to make us willing and able to know and do His will. *Philippians 2:13.*

Other Scriptures: *Ezekiel36:25-27, Hebrews 13:20,21, Deuteronomy 30:6, Psalm 57:2, Ephesians 2:10.*