

Thankful (4)

(1 John 5:18)

Thankful I Am protected from the Evil One

Introduction: We are currently in a sermon series I have entitled “Thankful.”

Today I want to remind us, to be thankful we are protected from the evil one! To understand what this means, we’re diving into the last few verses of 1 John, a book written to encourage believers and assure them of their identity and security in Jesus. Dr. Jerry Vines writes: “*John writes this short letter so that we might never be in the dark about matters crucial to our salvation.*” The certainty of our salvation is based on what God has said in His word, “*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* (1 Jn 5:11) We have in the word of God a firm foundation on which to build our confidence. So, when a child of God understands that our salvation and security does not depend on our feelings or on our self-effort, but rather upon what God has done in Christ; we can accept what God says about that, then the assurance comes! In our text today the Apostle John reassures us of three truths that every believer needs.

I. The Christian’s power: (v.18)

A. The Christians power expressed -But what it is saying...

1. **John is saying that believers have the power over sin.** *Not that we’re perfect, but that sin no longer has ultimate power over us.*
 - a. **Before Christ** – we had no choice.
 - b. **Being born of God reversed that trend** – now he may still occasional still sin (1 Jn. 1:8-10)
2. **Those who are born of God have been given power over sin.**
 - a. We will still sin, but we don’t make a habit of it.
 - b. Through Christ we have been delivered (Romans 8:11) The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us! *But we must exercise that power; ...*

B. The Christian’s power explained - 1 John 5:18b NKJV “...but he who has been born of God keeps himself,” (The word “himself” is not in the best manuscripts) The NIV, says, “...the one who was born of God keeps him safe.” (the better way to read it).

1. **We don’t have the power to keep ourselves** – This is a reference to the power of Christ that keeps us. It is not that we have the power over sin, but Jesus keeps us and gives us His power over sin.
 - a. We are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation... (1 Pe. 1:5)
 - b. It is Jesus who holds us in His hands (Jn. 10:28)
 - c. We reach out to Him and as we do so in love, trust and confidence, by the power of Jesus we are kept. (Jn. 17:12)
 - d. Paul testified (2 Tim 1:12)
 - e. Jude testified (Jude 24)
2. **Our power over sin and being kept from sin – resides in our Lord Jesus Christ alone!** *He is our source of power and strength...*

C. The Christian’s power exhibited – “...and the wicked one does not touch him.”

1. Thanks to the power of the Lord – The devil cannot lay hold of the child of God.

2. Thanks to the power of the Lord – we are not helpless little victims; (Rom. 8:37)
3. Thanks to the power of the Lord – The devil has no power or sway over those who are the children of God unless we give it to him (Eph. 4:27; Rom. 6:14)

II. The Christian’s position: (v.19)

A. This is about our position as God’s children.

1. **We are of God...** that is to say, we belong to God.
 - a. We know we are of God... that is the source of our spiritual life is God. *This assurance (founded for each believer on God’s testimony [5:9-13])*
 - b. Everyone who has been born once -is born into the family of the devil (I.e.) They are born to sin, (Rom. 3:23; 5:12)
 - c. And if they live their lives and die in that nature – the Bible declares they will die in their sin. (Rom. 6:23)
 - d. Those who are the children of God – were also born into sin, but through a spiritual new birth, they have received a new nature of God (replacing their sin nature). (Jn. 1:12-13; Col. 3:3) They die to sin...
 - e. Being born of God changes everything (Gal. 4:6-7) *We’re not defined by what we do, but by whose we are.*
2. **But we still live in a world under the control of the evil one.**
 - a. In our new position, we need not listen to the worldly ideas advanced by the antichrists (3:7-8) Nor do we need to succumb to worldly desires (cf. 2:15-17).
 - b. But you can be assured, the Christian who lives out their position will be going against the flow of this world (as we should)! And we will suffer persecution for it... but remember, Satan is liar, deceiver and devourer...

Whenever Satan and this world attack us, we can be sure that God gave him permission. (He did with Job, David, Paul and Peter, as well as many others (Lk. 22:31-32) But if God gave him permission, He will also give us power to overcome. (1 Cor 10:13; Phil. 4:13). Our “position” as God’s sons and daughters is rooted in our Father’s kingdom, where we are cherished and protected. Then finally John explains...

III. The Christian’s protection: (vv20-21)

A. In Christ, we’re under God’s divine protection. *Jesus is our ultimate shield and security (v.19).*

B. Christ in us gives us divine perception. *We know the Son of God has come and has given us understanding...*

C. Why does God give us spiritual eyes? So we can know the truth of God and be protected by not being fooled by the lies of the devil and this world...

D. John closes with a caution: *...keep yourselves from idols.*” In other words, don’t let anything take the place of God’s protection in your life. When we let our hearts stray to things like money, power, or even people, we’re putting our trust in things that can’t really protect us. (Ps 91:1-2)

This is the promise of protection we have in Christ.

Conclusion: As we leave today, let’s remember that our power over sin, our position in God’s family, and our protection in this world are all secure in Jesus.