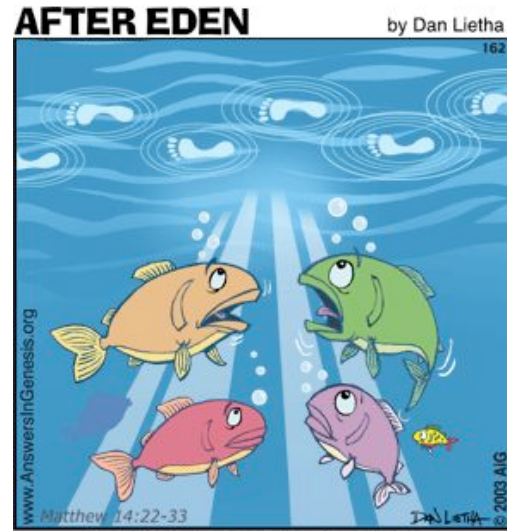


A Merry Heart



The Creator of the universe goes for a walk.

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My Son the Surgeon

This older Jewish man was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renown surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to receive the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son. "Yes Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me.. your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."



For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20

God, Our Keeper

By Pattie DeLea

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help? My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD *is* your keeper; The LORD *is* your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore. Psalm 121

The definition of keeper is: one that keeps, protector, custodian, curator, a reserving or preserving for future use, means by which something is supported, provision, custody, charge, fortress, castle (strongest & securest part of), one whose job is to keep or tend, for an indefinitely long time, to fulfill, be faithful to, maintain in good, orderly, fitting condition, to be at one's disposal to help, to save, reserve, to stay or remain, to retain possession of.

There are four other verses that give us our responsibility. First, we must fear the Lord-not in terms of "be afraid" but more in terms of respect and have a deep reverence for Him. "Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues." Psalm 31: 19-20

Second, we must keep our minds focused on God if we desire peace. We must trust in the Lord always, knowing that He is a good God and is always for us, no matter the circumstance we may face. "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose* mind *is* stayed *on* You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, *is* everlasting strength." Isaiah 26: 3-4

Third, we must refuse worry and anxiety, no matter what happens. Several years back, I went through a most difficult time and the first thing God said in my spirit was "do not panic". I took that advice and it was not instant, but the Holy Spirit totally led me in how to handle the problem over the next few months. Praise God. I have since adopted this in any situation that I'm afraid or want to panic. It works. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

Fourth, we must be doers of God's word. This is a given, normal for Christians. But, as you meditate the Scriptures and get more revelation, you must consistently put into practice in daily living the greater understanding you receive from the Holy Spirit. The obedience is continual. "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth." Revelation 3:10

Power in the Blood

By Ray DeLea

Would you be free from your burden of sin? There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.

Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r in the blood of the Lamb.

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r in the precious blood of the Lamb.

By L.E. Jones in 1899

The blood that Jesus shed for me, way back on Calvary; The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.

It reaches to the highest mountain, it flows to the lowest valley;

The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.

By Andrae Crouch 1962

I love these classic hymns. They are still anointed, proclaiming a truth that was heaven sent, there is POWER IN THE BLOOD. Not just any blood, but the blood of Jesus. The Scriptures declare several things about the blood of Yeshua. It has power to overcome the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:11). It has power to make martyrs white (Revelation 7:14). It bears witness on the earth (1 John 5:8). It has redemptive power (Ephesians 1:7). It has cleansing power (1 John 1:7). It sanctifies (Hebrews 13:12). It provides justification (Romans 5:9).

With Passover just behind us it is fitting to remind ourselves of the importance of the blood that captured the heart of the Father. In Exodus 12:23 God told His people that when He saw the blood upon the upper door post and the two side posts of the entrance to the house, He would halt over the entrance and not permit the destroyer to enter. But, in order for this to happen, His people would first have to find a lamb without blemish (innocent) and keep it (or befriend it) for several days and then slaughter it. The act of keeping the innocent lamb with the family served to develop a level of intimacy that otherwise would not exist. It made the killing of the lamb much more personal and emotional.

When you consider that the sacrifice of a lamb so captured the heart of the Father that He promised to halt death from passing into the houses of His chosen people, how much more would the sacrifice of The Lamb of God capture the heart of the Father. God so loved mankind that He wanted to restore complete fellowship. He needed a person of faith. He found such a person in Abraham. Abraham so trusted and loved the LORD God that he unknowingly nurtured a lamb, Isaac. Abraham loved the lamb; and, I'm certain, was very much emotionally attached to him considering he was a gift from God in his and Sarah's old age.

So when the LORD told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son, the love of his life, I don't believe it was at all an easy command to obey. According to Hebrews 11:19, the Spirit of God impressed upon Abraham that if the LORD could give him a son from Sarah's dried up womb, He could certainly raise him up from the ashes. Abraham's obedience in not withholding his only son, opened the door for the LORD to not withhold His only Son.

In Egypt the sacrifice of a lamb halted death at the door of God's people, but with Abraham, the willingness to sacrifice a lamb resulted in a blessing that would endure through all generations. When the Father sacrificed His Lamb, He did something even more wonderful for all who would accept the sacrifice. He gave eternal life and made available all that heaven had to offer. There truly is "wonder working power" in the blood of His Lamb. Power to cleanse and impart new life. Power to heal and redeem. Power to defeat the enemy. Power to grant access to the presence of the Father and restore an intimacy lost in the Garden of Eden. Can you imagine the emotion of the Father when He had to make the sacrifice? Now, can you imagine the emotion of the Father at the eternal rewards of the sacrifice? Unlike the blood of a lamb, this blood of His Lamb will never lose its power.

