

4. WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR SECURITY?

Meaning: Security is something that you trust to protect you from loss and danger

Christianity Today: A well-known psychiatrist was recently asked what he had found to be the basic problem troubling the majority of his patients. His reply was: “Insecurity.”

Questions to think:

- ⇒ Why do we seek security?
- ⇒ Why are we always looking for help outside ourselves?
- ⇒ Why can't we be self-sufficient?

i. GOD IS OUR SECURITY.

❖ **Psalm 18:2**, “The LORD is **my rock** and **my fortress** and **my deliverer** [MY SECURITY], **my God, my rock**, in whom I take refuge [FEEL SECURE], **my shield**, and the horn of **my salvation, my stronghold.**” [8 times “my”]

ii. GOD HAS CREATED US WITH A DESIRE TO FIND OUR SECURITY IN HIM.

Note: God has created us as insufficient creatures (only God is self-sufficient) so that we would find our sufficiency only in Him.

❖ **Psalm 121:1-2**, I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Note: One of the most delightful things in God's sight is to hear a helpless child crying out to Him for help.

But where are we often tempted to find our security?

Paul David Tripp: We're all in search of security. I don't know if you've thought about this, but there are only two places to look for hope. **You can search for it horizontally**, thinking that something in creation will give you the security, peace, and inner sense of well-being that you seek, or **you can seek it vertically**, entrusting your life into the loving hands of your Creator.

BROKEN CISTERNS:

⇒ **SEEKING SECURITY IN JOB** (money, we value job because it fetches money)

John worked hard all his life to become a software engineer. He desired to earn much to keep his life comfortable. He carefully planned his career and finally got a job which he dreamed all his life. After a few months, the company's economy went into bankruptcy. Consequently, John lost his job and was back on the street. He couldn't find a suitable job for more than a year. He was completely shattered and lived in insecurity.

⇒ **SEEKING SECURITY IN PEOPLE**

Sneha longed for affection all her life. She couldn't find it in her parents who themselves had dysfunctional marriage. She dreamt of marrying a man who would love her and keep her secure. She found a handsome man who she thought was the person of her dreams. After she got married, her dreams were shattered. He was not the person she expected. She again fell into insecurity.

Martha lost her husband to an accident when she was young. She thought of living the rest of her life only for the gift of her marriage that her husband gave her, that is her only son Steve. She labored with her hands, provided good education for her son, and found satisfaction in his upbringing. One day, she got a phone call that her son Steve met a serious accident on his way to college and died on the spot. She was utterly shattered and found no hope to live anymore.

⇒ **SEEKING SECURITY IN HEALTH** (in ourselves and health paralyses self-dependence)

Rajiv is a hardworking man. He despised depending on anyone. He wanted to have a business for himself so that he can be his own boss and need not work under anyone. As he worked towards this dream, he started suffering from constant headaches. When he went to the doctor, he was diagnosed with brain cancer. Rajiv was shattered, fear gripped his heart, and he felt completely hopeless.

Paul David Tripp: When the thing you have been trusting (whether you knew it or not) is laid to waste, you don't suffer just the loss of that thing; you also suffer the loss of the identity and security that it provided.

Summary of broken cisterns: Seeking security in job (money & possessions), people, and health.

FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS:

⇒ God

FINDING SECURITY IN GOD INSTEAD OF IN MONEY:

- ❖ **Hebrews 13:5a**, Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have...
- ❖ **1 Timothy 6:6-9**, But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (IF GOD GIVES RICHES, PRAISE GOD, BUT DON'T PURSUE RICHES)

Tim Chester: Our culture says that wealth, possessions, shopping are the route to satisfaction and fulfillment. But it's a lie. Advertising tells us that possessions bring satisfaction, fulfillment and identity. But Jesus says, "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15). The Bible comments contentment. We are encouraged to enjoy the good things God has given us without wanting more (1 Tim. 6:17).

- ❖ **Hebrews 13:5**, Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, FOR HE HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

In other words, God's Word says, "Do not love money, material comforts, and possessions. Keep your hearts away from these attachments. These doesn't satisfy you. Be content with what you have. Do not be greedy for more. What you need is Me. Your sufficiency is in Me. More than earthly treasures, I am the infinite and eternal treasure of your life. I will never leave you nor forsake you. Come and find rest in Me."

Note: Covetousness exposes that you desire created things more than the Creator. Contentment reveals that you desire the Creator more than created things.

FINDING SECURITY IN GOD INSTEAD OF IN PEOPLE:

Three things to know about people:

1. They **won't always stay** with you. They are mortal beings.

Tim Keller: A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.

2. They **won't always be helpful** to you. They are finite beings.
3. They **won't always be the same** with you. They are flickering beings.

AND YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THEM...

Jeremiah 17:5-6, Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength [SOURCE OF SECURITY, BROKEN CISTERN], whose heart turns away from the Lord (FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS, IDOLIZE OTHERS). He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Three things to know about GOD:

1. He will **always stay** with you. He is eternal and immortal. (I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR FORSAKE YOU)
2. He will **always be your helper**. He is almighty and infinite. (CALL UPON ME IN THE DAY OF YOUR TROUBLE)
3. He will **never change**. He is unchanging and trustworthy. (HE IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW)

Jeremiah 17:7-8, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord (SOURCE OF SECURITY). He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

❖ **Psalm 46:1-3**, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

D.L. Moody: “Trust in yourself, and you are doomed to disappointment; trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you; trust in money, and you may have it

taken from you; trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast it; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.”

FINDING SECURITY IN GOD INSTEAD OF IN HEALTH:

Paul David Tripp and Timothy Lane in “How People Change”: Physical suffering is made much harder if health has been a source of security and well-being. In a fallen world our bodies are always wasting away. It is not wise to place our hope in them.

Note: Pray for health but don’t be shattered by sickness.

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:2,** For in this tent we groan, **longing to put on our heavenly dwelling...**
- ❖ **Philippians 3:20-21,** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body...**

ILLUSTRATION OF JOB: I ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ⁸ And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” ⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him **[SECURITY]** and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has **[SECURITY]**, and he will curse you to your face.” ¹² And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. ¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, “*The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.*” ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “*The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.*” ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “*The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.*”

[LOSS OF POSSESSIONS] ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” **[LOSS OF DEAR ONES]** ²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” ²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. **[WHERE DID JOB FIND HIS SECURITY?]**

2 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ³ And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.” ⁴ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” **[LOSS OF HEALTH]** ⁶ And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”^[a] In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

[WHERE DID JOB FIND HIS SECURITY?]

Conclusion: Hold all things loosely on earth—spouse, children, parents, friends, job, possessions, body—for nothing here is forever yours. Naked we had come and naked shall we go. Cling to Christ Jesus firmly, for He is our eternal life and everlasting refuge. We have been created by Him and for Him. We are His and He is ours forever.