

SECURING YOUR HEDGE OF PROTECTION



Davidson Goodnews

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*Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are
taken from the King James Version of the Bible*

Table of Content

1. The Hedge of Righteousness
2. The Faith Hedge
3. The Hedge of the Centre of God's Will
4. The Hedge of God's Instruction per Time
5. The Hedge of Divine Placement
6. The Fatherly Hedge
7. The Hedge of Consecration
8. The Word Hedge
9. The Hedge of Angels
10. The Hedge of the Spirit
11. The Hedge of Spiritual Laws
12. The Hedge of Blessings

Introduction

When the devil attempted to attack Job, his complaint to God as to why he could not do anything devastating to Job was that there was a hedge of protection around Job. The same thing we see that made Elisha the prophet impregnable. When the enemies besieged him, he was at rest and easily crushed them by commanding them to be blind because his hedge around him was in place.

In this book we shall be examining what ours hedges are as Christians and how to secure them and restore broken hedges.

SECURING YOUR HEDGE OF PROTECTION

Why are the arrows getting through to me? Why did the enemy succeed to wreak havoc in my life though I am prayerful? Why is the enemy's hand heavy against me as though God can't protect and defend his own? Why is my life turning upside down? This among several others may be some of the bugging questions on the sincere mind of someone reading this book. My answer among other possible answers is this: Have you considered checking your hedge or rebuilding a broken one?

I believe we have more than one hedge of protection and we are secured by each of these hedges at different fronts. Let me put it this way: a house with doors and windows

and roof though fenced round, will not secure the dwellers if the doors, windows and roof remain penetrable. Rain, arrows and flying and creeping creatures can still harm the inhabitants of the house. To stay safe they must maintain all round security. This is so scriptural; for instance, though we have the Holy Ghost, we still need angelic ministrations; though we have angelic protection, we still need the shield of faith. Let me think of our fence or hedge of protection, for instance, as square or hexagonal, each of the sides is itself a hedge and they all put together make up the one hedge of protection. One must have to ensure that each aspects or sides of his hedge stands strong to avoid vulnerability. Each aspect of this overall hedge I shall call

in this book a hedge, eg, the hedge of righteousness which you should understand as the righteousness dimension or side of your hedge of protection, because if a fence collapses, it doesn't necessarily need to collapse all round before invaders can penetrate it. A collapse at one part is enough for an intruder. A broken hedge at any point gives the serpent access, *...and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him* according to Ecclesiastes 10:8.

Your spiritual hedge in God doesn't just break. It doesn't break over time. The enemy can't break it. It breaks only if you break it. But if you have broken it, expect the serpent (which is Satan) to bite you in that aspect of your life where you have a broken hedge. This gives reason why many

Christians are destroyed or cut off. The following chapters treat of these hedges that you and I must secure to enjoy maximum protection through life.

Chapter 1

The Hedge of Righteousness

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 7:1

Righteousness secures exemption before God. Double check whether your righteousness level is dropping. Sin opens the door to affliction and evil. Look out for little sins: they are footings to the devil to wreak havoc in your home, health, finance, etc. So long the garment of filthiness of sin was upon Joshua, neither his high priestly anointing nor the presence of an angel, could bar the devil's resistance to his life

(Zach 3:1-4). You break the hedge of protection over your business so long you continue in cheating, lying, false measures, not paying workers their rightful wage, etc. You break the hedge of protection around your health through sin. Destruction operating in the realm of the spirit through sin are what manifest in the physical realm as sicknesses and diseases. Beware of sin, there is more to it than meets the eyes. When you build your righteousness, you build your hedge of protection.

Chapter 2

The Faith Hedge

The strong faith of the three Hebrew boys secured their immunity against the fire of the King (Daniel 3). Faith in God is a strong defence that is impenetrable to all the darts of the devil. Any time you shift into fear, you make room for Satan. Many have given themselves to information that destroyed their hedge of faith and thereby destroyed themselves. The spirit of faith is our strong hedge of protection. Ask God for the spirit of faith and build your faith strong. Where faith is in force Satan's arrows are quenched. By faith Peter enjoyed protection from the drowning power of the sea and so could walk upon it. But when he began to

observe the rage of the threatening sea, and allowed fearful thoughts to creep into his heart, his faith hedge collapsed and he began to sink (Mt 14:28:31).

Doubts puncture the faith hedge. Some Christians entertain fears and doubts about their health, life, business, career, marriage, and even their salvation. They do not know they are submitting to the possibility of what they fear. What you greatly fear may eventually come to you. Fear attracts evil.

Faith not only repels evil, it is a barrier to it.
Keep a mental picture of your protection in your mind and faith in God will enforce it.

If you have broken your hedge through fear, ask God for mercy and exercise your authority as a christian by rebuking fear and the evil going on in your life using

appropriate scriptures. After that, begin to build your faith by consistently feeding on the word of faith and making positive confessions. Positive confession of faith is very vital to your well being. Even the Bible teaches us so. It says when men say there is a casting down, you should say there is a lifting up (Job 22:29). In Joel 3:10 it says, let the weak say I am Strong. Build a strong deep-rooted faith in God: your faith is your protection.

Chapter 3

The Hedge of the Centre of God's Will

You are in the greatest protection possible when you are at the centre of God's will.

When you are at the centre of God's will, he abides with you. The truth is that God clears the road before he sends a man. He puts things in place before he commissions you.

Most battles and evils that befall many Christians are simply unwarranted: they simply did not seek God's will, so they are on their own without any divine backing.

You are not safe at the centre of your own will. Your walls of protection fail if you are not in God's will. And if you survive it, just

thank God for his mercy. The highest of all blessings is that God is with you. If he is not, you are extremely vulnerable. Seek God's will for your life to avoid vulnerability and undue crises. And when you have found it stick with it at all costs -- that is where your safety and security is. David said in Psalms 119:67,

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

You too can do the same: seek mercy from the Lord now and retract your steps. Find out where you have missed it and go back if possible. We necessarily suffer undue afflictions when we go astray.

Chapter 4

The Hedge of God's Instructions Per Time

Only God knows the way things are in the realm of the spirit, so if he says do it this way, do it exactly. If he says run, run. If he says don't go, don't go. Enquire from God before taking major steps. Be sensitive to his signals and instructions. God never suggests, he sees definitely before he commands.

Many have got into trouble undefended because they didn't do things the way God directed. We must be careful to heed what God is saying per time. God's defence is in his guidance. God's general word will not

overrule his specific word in a given circumstance; on the contrary, his specific word is the wisdom of the application of the general word. For instance, the Holy Spirit commissioned Apostle Paul to preach the gospel, but forbade him and his companion from preaching in a certain city. (Act 16:7). It was to their advantage that they had the Holy Spirit directing their steps. It is most dangerous to go beyond God's leading. Wait for his instructions per time -- you are indestructible following his leading.

Chapter 5

The Hedge of Divine Placement

*And no man taketh this honour unto himself,
but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

Hebrews 5:4

*They shall run like mighty men; they shall
climb the wall like men of war; and they shall
march every one on his ways, and they shall
not break their ranks: Joel 2:7*

It is important you find your place in life: it is in your place that you are safe. Stay where God has placed you. Never think you will enjoy divine backing in someone else's

place or assignment. God will never back you on what he never commisioned you with. What God designed you for, he equips you to do. Outside what God designed and equipped you for, you are in your weakness not your strength, and that is vulnerability. All graces, anointing and gifts that you are endowed with by God are for his assignment for your life. No matter how strong you are, you are weak in someone else's call. You may not see your weakness, but it is there lying unnoticed, and God will not supply you grace and help when you are confronted with the challenges associated with that assignment. What could be more risky? Therefore, locate your calling and stay in it. In it you are strong. It is safety; it is your hedge!

Chapter 6

Fatherly Hedge

Spiritual fatherhood plays a great role in spiritual coverage. Just the same way a child comes under the coverage of his biological father, so is spiritual fatherhood. And just the same way you don't choose your biological father, so you don't choose your spiritual father. He is someone higher than you that God sends your way to father you. Yes, God is your father quite alright, but he also allows for human spiritual fatherhood. Usually you learn from him and partake of his grace and the anointing on his life.

Elisha had Elijah for a father (2 Kings 2:12). Now think for a moment, who would have readily sought to confront Elisha without

recognizing Elijah's authority over him? It is obvious therefore that under a spiritual father, you come under a level of spiritual defence. So long the enemies that besieged Dothan could not conquer Elisha, his servant could not be captured though he feared and was not as strong in faith or as anointed as his master (2Kings 6). We are not all equal in the realm of the spirit. There are those who are higher than we are in Christ. Who are higher than us in grace, have higher spiritual ranking, higher command and dominion. They have had higher encounters with God. They have paid the price to get to such heights in God. Some of these men are spiritual giants and spiritual generals. Simply put, God sends someone he has raised higher than you to

raise you and stand towards you in fatherly authority. These men have trodden the path you want to tread. The Bible is very clear that the less is blessed by the better (Heb 7:7). Mark was Peter's spiritual son. Timothy and Titus had Paul for a spiritual father. Joshua was fathered by Moses, and God told Joshua: as I was with Moses, so will I be with thee (Joshua 1:5). A disconnect from your spiritual father exposes you to unnecessary crises in life.

And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. Numbers 12:14

Chapter 7

The Hedge of Consecration

There are those who live unprincipled lives. They have no guiding moral rules. In other words, no consecration. The unfortunate case of Samson teaches anyone who cares to learn not to break their consecrations. That you die cheaply and end miserably when you break your consecrations is too obvious from Samson's story and that of the young prophet from Judah (1Kings13). Never you live loose and reckless life. Set up and stick with your guiding principles of life and your consecrations to God: they constitute your

defence. Many have been destroyed trying to unwind and be like others. Your principles are your walls; they constitute your impregnability.

Chapter 8

The Word Hedge

Many despise words of mouth. Words of mouth may be common but not empty and not without spiritual effect. God himself uses words: he created the world with it. You too can build your world with it. Words build spiritual defence or tear it down in the realm of the spirit; whichever way you want it. Wrong and careless words can create a platform for your enemies to operate. Life and death are in the power of the tongue--the Bible is very clear about this (Prov 18:21). Words have capacity to bring things to bear in the spiritual realm. You build walls of protection by them. It is all about what you say. A man ask his wife what she

would do should he be reported dead. The wife responded that she would die along with him. And so it was. When the news came that the man has died in a road accident, she hurried in alarm to go to the scene and on her way met with her own death. Watch your tongue. In the spiritual realm what you say is very significant. In Psalms 91:2, the Psalmist says: I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress..., and consequent upon that, he affirms: surely he will deliver me from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence. Friend, what you say culminates in your spiritual security. Don't speak words of vulnerability, they make you vulnerable. Furthermore, be careful with your words: don't expose your secrets. Doing that is

simply giving your enemies road map to get you down. It is giving your enemies hints to destroy you. What could be more dangerous? After Samson let out his secret to an agent of his enemies, he died miserably. Be careful!

Chapter 9

The Hedge of Angels

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. Psalms 34:7

Your protective hedge of angels as an heir of salvation (one redeemed) does not just operate without your doing anything. It answers to certain spiritual principles, viz:

1. godliness.

Angels don't just hover around any Tom, Dick and Harry: they are sent by God to watch and deliver the godly. They minister for the redeemed who maintain a godfearing walk with God. So check your walk with God and ensure you are living in

the fear of God, avoiding the ways of sinners and corruption.

2. Holiness

Holiness is key: angels are holy. The Bible calls them God's holy angels (Mt 25:31). They are messengers of holiness, so holiness helps secure their operations in your life. Therefore, avoid filthiness and worldliness. You must keep your holiness to stay under angelic defence.

3. Refuge in God

Psalm 91:9-11 reveal that angels act as keepers to those who have made only God their refuge and their habitation.

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation...he shall give his angels charge

over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psalms 91:9-11

So ensure that you are dwelling in God alone, that you have not added anything else to him and that only in God you put your trust for protection.

4. Prayerfulness

Only the prayerful secure divine protection. Angels are not static walls; they are mobile spirit beings. Your being always in touch with God is what keeps them active in your life. Elisha was a mighty man of prayer. He had learnt prayer from his master, Elijah.

Elisha was so confident of his active angelic defence that he was not perturbed when his enemies besieged the city where he was. He prayed to God to blind his enemies and God blinded them. Obviously by the intervention

of the attendant angels that filled the mountain round about him (2Kings 6:17-18). Jesus said if he had wanted to, he would have prayed the Father and 12 legions of angels would have been dispatched in his favour (Mt 26:53).

Chapter 10

The Hedge of the Spirit

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. Isaiah 59:19

You can't talk about the hedge of the believer without talking about the Holy Spirit. He must be allowed full operations in your life, not grieved, not quenched, to enjoy his protection. He is called the Spirit of the Lord, and so must take no place below Lordship. He must be Lord over your life and your will. It was when the Spirit of the

Lord left Saul that an evil spirit had the dominion to torment him (1Sam 16:14).

The Holy Spirit is the anointing that secures the anointed. The anointing is God's commissioning on a divine task which guarantees the security of the one sent. God enforces a touch-not over the one he has sent. Therefore, secure God's anointing before going on his assignment.

He suffered no man to do them wrong; yea he reproved kings for their sake; saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. Psalms 105:15

You must constantly fellowship with the Spirit to maintain and grow in the anointing. The anointing is God's power that protects his servants. Be mindful about the anointing: don't be foolish or careless about

the way you treat the anointing. It is your timeless hedge.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. Psalms 89:20-22

Chapter 11

The Hedge of Spiritual laws

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Proverbs 6:27

Obeying spiritual laws keeps you spiritually safe. Breaking spiritual laws is a very simple way to jeopardize your safety. When you break spiritual laws you give room to destruction. Spiritual laws are established and can't be broken. You don't go against them and not suffer the consequences. For instance, the law of sowing and reaping -- you can't sow evil and not reap evil. As a woman, breaking ranks in your home and usurping authority over your husband

makes you spiritually vulnerable to Satan's attacks. Your husband is your head, even as God is the head of Christ and Christ is the head of the Church. Don't break spiritual laws by challenging a genuine and anointed servant of God; that was what opened the door to the leprosy of Miriam, the sister of Moses, and God was very reluctant to heal her though she was a prophetess. Don't touch the unclean thing -- Just to name a few.

Chapter 12

The hedge of Blessings

And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. Numbers 22:12

The Blessings on the children of Israel prevented Balaam's curse. The Bible is clear: whom the Lord has blessed, no man can curse. But blessings are secured at different fronts mostly by our obedience and good actions. Pronouncements of blessings are spiritual programmings; in the realm of the spirit, they speak against and shield from evils. Imagine the prophetic blessing over the sons of Joseph. Their grandfather Jacob,

a man of great encounters and covenants hanging over his life declared that the very Angel that led him and delivered him all his life go with the lads. The lads never had that special divine backing before, but after a special blessing enjoyed it for free. Go for Blessings. Let the tongue of those higher than you bless you. Reuben's sin that brought parental curse upon him, opening the gates of hell against him that he be unstable and not excel. Bible commentators revealed that the tribe of Reuben lived below below capacity; had more premature deaths, they dying more in war and in judgmental plagues than the other tribes of Israel, and the people were getting more depopulated. Moses obviously saw this and feared their future extinction. And so by a

prophetic blessing before his demise, he barred the forces of darkness ravaging the tribe consequent upon the deserved curse on their ancestor, Rueben: "Let Reuben live and not die; and let not his men be few."

Deut 33:6

Blessings create hedge of exemption from evils. Go for blessings like Jacob desired of the angel. Let men of God bless you. Let your parents bless you. Let the poor bless you. Let children bless you. Let the elderly bless you. Let your community bless you. Let God bless you. Blessings are stronger than curses.