

I'm a Kept Man

Scripture:

John 17:11-24 “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to you. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

I. I'm kept in the Father's name. (vs. 11)

A. Think of the names of God. Each name has power in it and we are kept by those names.

- Elohim (God)
- Jehovah/Yahweh (the self-existent one: **I AM**)
- Jehovah-jireh (the Lord will provide)
- Jehovah-rapha (the Lord who heals)
- Jehovah-nissi (the Lord our banner)
- Jehovah-Shalom (the Lord our peace)
- Jehovah-ra-ah (the Lord my shepherd)
- Jehovah-tsidkenu (the Lord our righteousness)
- Jehovah-shammad (the Lord is present)
- Jehovah-Elohim (the Lord God)
- Jehovah Sabaoth (the Lord of hosts)
- El Elyon (the most high God)
- Adonai (our master)
- El Shaddai (Almighty God, the strength giver)
- El Olam (everlasting God)

B. God's word to his people is that He will be with them in all places they find themselves.

Genesis 28:15 “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

II. I am kept in safety. (vs. 12)

Psalms 121:1-8 “I will lift up my eyes to the hills— from whence comes my help? ²My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. ³He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The

LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. ⁸ The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”

III. He keeps me joyful. (vs. 13)

- A. Joy comes to the child of God as he stays in His presence.
Psalm 16:11 *“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*
- B. Even when hard times come, we can depend on God to return joy to us at the proper season.
Psalm 30:5 *“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”*
- C. Joy comes with answered prayer.
John 16:24 *“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”*

IV. I am kept from the snare of the devil. (vs. 15)

Luke 22:31 *“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

- A. We belong to the Lord and He will not allow anyone to take His possessions.
John 10:28-30 *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”*
- B. It’s true that we will be tempted but we have the promise that He will never leave us to face the tempter alone.
Hebrews 13:5-6 *“For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*

V. I am kept in a process of sanctification. (vs. 17)

- A. God’s word has the power to bring sanctification to my life.
- B. As I look into the Word of God, the Holy Spirit brings conviction regarding areas of my life that need adjustment.
Ephesians 5:25-27 *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*
 - 1. Christ gave Himself for our sanctification.
 - 2. Christ will have a pure Church when He returns.
 - 3. For us not to be kept in sanctification would not only hurt us, but hurt Christ as well.

VI. I am kept in active service for Christ Jesus. (vs. 18)

Mark 16:15-18 *“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

- A. We have power to carry out His call to active duty if we only accept it.

- B. God loves the world too much to allow people to continue to go to hell without effort being made to rescue them.
- C. We don't need a lot of special training to be called to active duty for the Lord.
I Corinthians 1:27-29 "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹that no flesh should glory in His presence."

VII. I am kept in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ. (vs. 20-21)

- A. God is working to bring about a great unity of true believers.
John 10:16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."
 - 1. God brings people from all walks of life and every conceivable background into one body.
 - 2. God is not intimidated by the differences that occur in the flesh. In the spirit He makes us all one.
- B. If we truly remain in Christ, all difference can be worked out without coming to separation.
Ephesians 2:14-17 "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near."
- C. There is strength in unity.
Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."