

**“Provide Protection”**  
**By Brother Kenneth Ray**  
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Provide—Make available, supply, supply (someone) with something.

Protection—A person or thing that protects.

As Christians, we often refer to the warrior: Christian Soldiers, warrior for Christ, On the Battlefield, etc. We speak of our sword and our shield, pushing the enemy back, but what about the guy or gal beside you? They are providing protection for you and I.

Back in ancient times, the Romans trained and fought as one unit. The Celtic army fought as a group of individual fighters. They were fierce warriors, to be sure, but when they fought the Romans, they got defeated, badly, because they didn't fight together. All weapons that are given to you were also given for the protection of those around you. When you go out, you not go out alone.

Perhaps you've hear the term, “Cover me,” in movies. The person making the request is about to make an offensive move, and the person receiving the request is about to make a defensive move.

When I was a child in Sunday School, we used to sing, “I'm in the Lord's army.” We are in the Lord's army; we may not be in the front, we may be in the back praying, but we're in the Lord's army. If you would read the US Army's Manual for Combat, there's a section on protection, and in that section, it says, “Preserve the force so that the commander can apply maximum combat power. Is anybody here in the Navy? What is the purpose of a Navy escort ship? To make sure that the carrier gets where it going. The Gospel ship has to get through, too.

This is accomplished two ways which I would like to share:

1) God.

*Psalms 18:1-2 ... The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength...*

God is a hedge of protection. One thing that you have to remember, though, God has His own timeline. He doesn't always answer when you want Him, but He's always right on time, He will answer when you really need Him.

*Psalms 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings...*

That always reminds me of the Eagle that is America's symbol. Do you know how mother birds cover the eggs or baby birds in their nest? God wants to do that for us.

Did you ever have an older brother or maybe a bigger friend that protected you from bullies? I have one brother that the other kids called “The Hulk” because he was just big. I had another brother that used to let his mouth get him into trouble. One day my mouthy brother got somebody upset with him; I mean, this guy was ready to just pound him into powder, and he said, “Do I need to remind you who my brother is?” Do I need to remind you who God is?

2) You.

The men and women of God who not only care to make a difference, but care to make the difference. See, you can make a difference just by saying a kind word, maybe inviting somebody over for dinner, and that's good, but you need to be ready to really make the difference, as well.

There are two ways that we can see this through:

1) Study.

*2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed...*

*Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction...*

Let it take hold of you; learn not to fight and protect yourself and who protects you. In order to pass something on, first you must learn it yourself.

2) Teach.

When I was going to Electrician's school for the Air Force, one thing that happened each time we took a test was that my instructor had to take the test first and ace it (get 100%) before it could be given to us. The lessons that we have learned, the tests that we have passed or failed are all chances to teach the younger Christians and those who are seeking Christ.

*Psalms 51:13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted...*

Protect from what? Well, two things, really: Things outside the church, and things inside the church.

Outside: False doctrine, lifestyles that are harmful, relationships that burn out the Spirit of God in your life. I'm not just talking about the matter of men and women, but anything for anyone. It could be just people you hang out with, friends, family members, co-workers... really, anything that competes for your time that doesn't edify you.

Inside: "Spiritual Giants"—people who feel that they are there to correct, point out faults, or make your head spin for all the questions that they raise about things. They won't listen to anybody else, but they sure will talk; they can't learn, but they teach; they're never wrong, but you're never right. These people question everything, but they won't go to the elders; they'll talk to the young Christians and sow seeds of discord. We need to protect the young Christians from people like that. These people are loyal to men more than God, and they worry about position more than authority or responsibility.

Two reasons why we need to protect as we finish up:

1) To maintain. The Queen, Sister Christine, celebrates 28 years in the faith today. Our brothers and sisters are under attack and seek to endure. If enough time goes by and we get no protection, we get weak, or we fail. The prayer of the righteous availeth much (James 5:16) and provide protection and encourage a saint to make it another day. Maybe a verse shared, a

visit, a phone call, an encouraging word... These little things help maintain unity in a body of believers.

2) Gratitude. Because someone took out the time for you to share the Gospel and he life change that came from it. It means so much for you that it is important to do the same for someone else who needs the same life-changing message. Are they not worthy of being protected or shielded from this world and know that there is a better one to come.

Let me go back to something I started with: Preserve the force so that the commander can apply maximum combat power. Preserve the saints so that Jesus can apply maximum combat power. That's the work of God. Defeat Satan and be the escorts of the Gospel Ship which must reach its destination. Put ordinance on target, pin down the enemy, so that the saints get safe passage through troubled and dangerous waters.