

## **Series: 'I'm the Wall' Week 1: God's Protection 08-03-14**

Exciting First Church of God, Pastor Peter Smith

### **I'm the Wall: new sermon series:**

- Our Teens will be reaching out to their friends this year with a message of abstinence from alcohol, drugs and smoking
- There is a great parallel in the Bible about God being a wall around us and in turn us being a wall around others
- Consider with me in August that God has called you and I to 'Be the Wall' spiritually to the people in our communities and our families
- I pray that we would grow in the grace and strength of our Lord!

### **Some famous walls:**

#### **Great Wall of China**

- Stretches 2,150 miles plus 2,195 miles of branches
- It's up to 39' tall , 15-30' thick at the base and 12' thick at the top
- It's enormous!!!

#### **Bin Laden's Compound**

- Had 12-18' walls
- Topped with barbed wire

#### **The Jerusalem Wall**

- 39' tall
- 8' thick
- The average telephone pole is 20' tall

### **Walls:**

- Protect
- Conceal
- Defend
- Keep things out and keep things in
- In Bible days they protected cities
- And the Bible uses this image of our God protecting us. Let's read together from Job 1:1-12

### **Read Job 1:1-12, CEV**

Many years ago, a man named Job lived in the land of Uz. He was a truly good person, who respected God and refused to do evil. Job had seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred pair of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and a large number of servants. He was the richest person in the East.

Job's sons took turns having feasts in their homes, and they always invited their three sisters to join in the eating and drinking. After each feast, Job would send for his children and perform a ceremony, as a way of asking God to forgive them of any wrongs they may have done. He would get up early the next morning and offer a sacrifice for each of them, just in case they had sinned or silently cursed God.

One day, when the angels[b] had gathered around the Lord, and Satan was there with them, the Lord asked, "Satan, where have you been?" Satan replied, "I have been going all over the earth." Then the Lord asked, "What do you think of my servant Job? No one on earth is like him—he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil." "Why shouldn't he respect you?" Satan remarked.

**"You are like a wall protecting not only him, but his entire family and all his property. You make him successful in whatever he does, and his flocks and herds are everywhere.** Try taking away everything he owns, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord replied, "All right, Satan, do what you want with anything that belongs to him, but don't harm Job." Then Satan left."

**What is this 'wall' or 'hedge' in some translations?**

**1<sup>st</sup>: The idea is that of protection**

"You are like a wall protecting not only him, but his entire family and all his property."

- To build a defense around a house or a farm. Whether it's a thorn bush or a wall of pointed sticks, it encloses your property and keeps harm away.
- God did this to Job. The idea is that God circled him to protect him.
- God promises this in your life, too!
- For Job, sickness, poverty, even death wouldn't be allowed to touch him, nor his kids or possessions

## 2<sup>nd</sup> idea: The idea of **blessing**

“you make him successful in whatever he does, and his flocks and herds are everywhere”

- He lived under God’s care
- He counted on God’s provision
- He was *blessed*
- Be careful here: not just with riches, but with all that comes from knowing God!
- In fact, Job’s fear of God brought this blessing

“He was a truly good person, who respected God and refused to do evil.”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> idea: A Biblical Principle **for us**, too

- That of protection, of blessing, of God’s care to those who are saved and belong to God

### What does this hedge / wall look like?

#### 1. God’s Wall: His **Personal** Protection

- Psalm 44:3 “For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them.”
- Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

#### 2. God’s Wall: **Angels**

- Psalm 34:7  
“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”

#### 3. God’s Wall: **Our Faith**

The Armor of God (Eph 6:10-18) Be strong *how?* *Apply God's truth ourselves!*

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."  
-Eph. 6:10-11, NIV

Put on the:

- Belt of truth
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Feet in the gospel of peace
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation
- Sword of the Spirit (Bible)

### **Who can ask for and expect God's Wall?**

- God's people: saved, forgiven, belonging to God

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."  
-1 Cor. 6:19-20, NLT

- Not the unsaved, the unrighteous, 'sinners'  
"Sinners won't have an excuse on the day of judgment, and they won't have a place with the people of God. The Lord protects everyone who follows him, but the wicked follow a road that leads to ruin."  
-Psalm 1:5-6, CEV

### **I'm Blessed!**

- **Unsaved people say, "I'm blessed!"** which goes against Biblical teaching
- **Christians living in sin say, "I'm blessed!"** which also goes against God's ways

- Jesus, when accused of casting out evil spirits by the power of Satan said,

“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?”

- Wouldn't it follow that God can't bless the opposite of what He is, what His character stands for? How can He bless sinfulness in our lives?!

- Sowing and Reaping Principle from Scripture

### **Back to God's Wall!**

1. God placed it
2. Job lived in it, expected it
3. Job also became a wall for others

“Job's sons took turns having feasts in their homes, and they always invited their three sisters to join in the eating and drinking. After each feast, Job would send for his children and perform a ceremony, as a way of asking God to forgive them of any wrongs they may have done. He would get up early the next morning and offer a sacrifice for each of them, just in case they had sinned or silently cursed God.”  
-Job 1:4-5

The Gospel message to all of us is to “Love God, Love People and to Make Disciples”

- Which means what we have received from God we need to share!
- God places a wall around us, we should do the same:
  - Our families
  - Our neighbors
  - Our co-workers
  - Our friends
  - Even strangers in our communities: **VBS!**
  - And we will consider ways to do this in the next 4 Sundays

**But it comes down to ‘our wall’, ‘my wall’ first.**

- 1. Are you saved?**
- 2. If you are saved, are you living in sin?**

**3. Repent and become a Wall!**

**4. If you are living in un-confessed sin, you cannot count expect God to bless your life. Our rebelliousness keeps God's blessings away. Will you repent and get right with God today?**