



# GUARD UP

Week 47 | April 22, 2025

*“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”*

**Proverbs 4:23**

We live in **dangerous times**. We are surrounded by a *world at war*, in the last days of the conflict when the **fiercest fighting** takes place. It can be so easy to *drop our guard* at times, especially on the heels of a great victory. But these are the moments to stay even **more vigilant**! While our Enemy *may be strong*, our Father has not left us defenseless. In addition to **His armor** ([Ephesians 6:13-17](#); [Week 1](#)), God has given us many other *forms of protection*. As we pray this week for our families, churches, and communities let us ask God to send and strengthen His:

## 1. GOADS ([Acts 26:14](#))

- a. **NOTE:** God’s “goads” are like **Holy Guardrails** for our lives, designed to keep us on the path that leads to life itself. These guidelines of His **can be painful** at times, but they are always designed with *our good in mind*. Goads can take on many forms: from a **subtle resistance** as we start to do something we shouldn’t, to a *verbal rebuke* from a godly friend who truly cares about us, but their purpose is always to keep us **far from evil** and *close to God*. ([Proverbs 10:17](#); [Proverbs 12:28](#); [Psalm 139:24](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, thank You for **guiding us** to Yourself before we even *realized it*. Please place strong goads in our lives this day, **strengthening them** against any *attempts at opposition*. Lead us along Your path that **leads to life**, keeping us *far from Evil* so that we don’t cause pain. And should we **wander, drift, or run off course**, Lord, *prod us painfully* until we return to Your way.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** God’s **word** serves as our primary *guide to life*. ([Ecc. 12:11](#))

## 2. HEDGES ([Job 1:10](#))

- a. **NOTE:** God’s “hedges” function as a **Holy Force-field** around our lives, serving to keep evil far from us. These **walls of protection** act as *firm boundaries* against our Enemy and dictate what he can and cannot do in our lives. Because of this, Satan’s consistent goal is to **deceive us** into leaving *the protective shield* of God’s hedge that comes as we **trust in** and **obey** His word. Our *disobedience* pulls us from this fortress of protection and **exposes us** to the full brunt of *his assaults*. ([Ps. 119:114](#); [18:2](#); [144:2](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for allowing us to **dwell in Your presence**, for allowing us to find *shelter and refuge* in Your home. Strengthen the **walls of protection** around us, Lord, firmly establishing *Your boundaries* against all Evil that wishes to come near. Keep us close by Your side. Father, and should we drift outside of Your **hedge of protection** lead us quickly back into *Your open arms*.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** Loving **submission** is the key to *experiencing* God’s protection. ([Psalm 91:14](#))

### 3. ARMIES ([Psalm 91:11](#))

- a. **NOTE:** God's *angelic armies* often serve as **Holy Body Guards** for His children, fighting on our behalf against the spiritual **forces of darkness**. These *fierce warriors* are our allies and partners in the battles we face, **waging war** for the sake of *our hearts* against the Evil One and his demons. Sometimes, though, when the fighting grows heavy, **reinforcements** are necessary to *overwhelm the Enemy* and secure our victory. ([Hebrews 1:14](#); [Daniel 10:12-13](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** "Lord Jesus, thank You for **Your angels**. Thank You for directing them to *serve, watch over, and fight for us* on a daily basis. Please send them in force this day, **strengthening** them as they *wage war* on behalf of our hearts. Send in **reinforcements**, Lord, as the *battle grows fierce* so that the victory You won on Easter is **secured and experienced** by those who *know and love You*."
    1. **REMEMBER:** God's Angels can also **oppose us** when we wander *out of His will*. ([Numbers 22:22](#))

### Questions for Reflection:

- What **word** has God given you that you have *rebelled against*?
  - His commands are always for our good! Instead of **pushing against** them, allow them to guide you to *the abundance* He has in store.
- Has a **lack of love** or a **refusal to submit** caused you to drift *out of God's protection*?
  - The shelter remains in place, turn back to Him and find your **rest under His wings**!
- Have you been **fighting** against *Angelic Opposition*?
  - The only things God tries to keep from us are those that lead to **our destruction**.