



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Entry 11-5

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RESCUE ANGELS

A tornado misses one house, when all the others are destroyed. A nine month old infant is thrown one hundred yards through the air, and hours later is found unharmed, at the base of a tree. A car is hit by a fast moving train in the night. The driver flies out of the car. Both driver and car tumble through the air and hundreds of feet away, the car is found on top of the man. The dent made by the impact of the train lands perfectly over the man and he lives. It is not the stuff of fables, or ancient Bible stories alone; angels are protecting and rescuing people. Almost every adult I know, can recount an unexplainable incident, when they, or a member of their family, should have died, but miraculously, did not. Eighty percent of the population of America claim to have some kind of faith in God. When a national catastrophe strikes and they have a near death experience, almost every time, they thank God. He has sent His angels to deliver them.

Almost Died Again

I have had so many near-death experiences that I have to stop and think to remember them all. There are more than a dozen stories that I recall where an angel must have rescued me.

I think of the time when a few friends and I were enjoying a cold weather vacation at a lakeside cabin in Canada. One evening, we went fishing on the lake in our small boat. As we travelled in the dark to a new part of the lake, we were suddenly struck by huge waves. In just seconds the water cascaded over the side of the boat and completely filled it. We capsized and found ourselves in the freezing water about a mile from shore. With every chilling wave washing over our heads, we looked to the distant shore. Only one light could be seen, but we were powerless to swim in our heavy parkas, or to move the capsized boat in that direction. The four of us were

fighting to hang on to the bottom of the boat. We were in a race against time and hypothermia was setting in. Forty-five minutes later we hit the shore at the exact place where the only visible light could be seen. The story has so many supernatural details to it. When we finally arrived at the hospital, the doctor told us that five minutes more, and all of us would have died from hypothermia. I knew the angel of the Lord had pushed our boat through the waves to the exact spot needed. He rescued us from certain death.

Rescue Angels

Scripture says, "*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and he delivers them.*" Ps. 34:7

All of us would like to see angels more frequently but evidence of their activity is everywhere. The Bible gives us many stories of angelic rescues.

Angels saved Lot's family from the violent mob that attacked them in Sodom. They pulled Lot into the house and blinded the eyes of his attackers.

The Lord told Moses and the children of Israel, as they travelled toward the Promise Land, that He had sent His angel to protect them. "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared." Ex. 23:20

An angel came and shut the lion's mouth when Daniel was thrown into the Lion's den.

"Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight." Da. 6:21-22

Elisha was protected by an army of angels. His servant was not aware of them, so Elisha asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes and he saw a multitude of fiery chariots of angels protecting them. "And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha." 1Kgs. 6:17

In the New Testament, the Apostle Peter was set free from prison on two separate occa-

sions by a rescue angel. "But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out." Acts 5:19

"The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes"... Peter followed him out of the prison." Acts 12:7

Paul and his shipmates were also rescued by an angel. The angel of the Lord saved them from a deadly storm on the Mediterranean Sea. Paul said, "Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid Paul ... God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." Acts 27:23

The angel saw to it that all 276 passengers were saved from a watery grave. Through the entire night, the angels carried them, and held each of their heads above water to keep them from drowning.

God has commanded His angels to watch over us. He says, "If you make the most high your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near

your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample on the great lion and the serpent." Ps. 91:9-13

One snowy winters day in Canada, our teenage son was driving our old clunker. He pulled out from a cross street and suddenly the cold car engine stalled, and came to an immediate stop. Although the car coming down the street was a long way off, it did not stop, and it crashed into the corner of my son's vehicle. When we arrived at the scene, we were amazed, and so was the police officer. No one was hurt or charged in the accident. The other car had folded up like an accordion; it was demolished. Our car, on the other hand, had only a tiny dent. To this day, my wife will tell you that the angel of the Lord, got in the way of the oncoming vehicle, rescued our son, and kept our car from damage.

Give thanks to the Lord for all of the times you have known, and for the times you have not known, when angels rescued you. Be strong in the faith because the angel of the Lord camps around those who fear Him. Walk with the Lord and enjoy the protection of angels. AΩ



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