

# Prayer protects from chance

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God constantly guides us in the best path. God is good and has only good in mind for His children. “For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalms 100:5) This eternal truth protects us from chance negative encounters.

Chance claims that bad things happen, and there is nothing anyone can do to stop them. But God governs His creation through the law of good not through chance. Chance would deny the government of God. The law of God protects us from chance.

So to reduce the influence of chance on our lives, we can cultivate the ability to listen for God’s thoughts which protect and guide us safely. This is an essential element of prayer. As we’ve discussed before, prayer is turning to God (tuning in), listening for His thoughts, obeying them immediately, and gratitude to God for His guidance. Prayer protects from chance.

Years ago my mother was shopping in a department store. She was about to step onto the escalator to go up to the next floor when the thought came to her to not get on the escalator but to backup several feet away from it.

For many years Mother had cultivated the ability to listen for God’s angel messages. God’s thoughts come to us not just in church or when we are quietly studying at home. God speaks to us constantly and especially when there is a specific need.

Mother had learned to distinguish between her own thoughts and God’s thoughts. God’s thoughts are not impelled by just what we think is right (that is often self-righteousness). Neither are God’s thoughts impelled by what we want or don’t want (that is often selfishness).

God sees righteousness not as personal but as impartial. What is right for one is right and just for all. The unselfish divine Mind does not have favorites but loves equally one and all. So Mother had practiced putting aside her own personal will and learned to listen for God's will.

She had also learned that we must be receptive to God's timing. Sometimes we want to do something right now. We expect God to answer our desires on our time schedule. We resist waiting or doing something differently because it is not what we have in mind. This is not being receptive to God. It is nothing less than human will's demanding. Spiritual growth comes from a willingness to conform to God's schedule rather than insist on ours. Working on God's schedule includes being receptive to Him all the time, not just when we feel like it.

So when Mother heard the command to step back from the elevator, she did so. She knew it was God speaking to her through her human consciousness. She put aside her plans and any time schedule saying she needed to hurry. She didn't question God's guidance or complain that it wasn't convenient. She simply stepped back ten feet or so and waited for what to do next.

She told me it wasn't 30 seconds and a huge plate glass window crashed down onto the empty escalator. It shattered and pieces of glass flew everywhere. Nothing touched her and there were no other customers nearby.

Workmen were struggling with the heavy glass several floors above. It had slipped. They'd lost control of it, and it had fallen to where my mother would have been. A chance accident. But Mother was protected by the law of God which does warn and protect each one of His children.

Let us know that the law of God protects from chance and cultivate the ability to prayerfully listen for God's guidance at all times.

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