

## HEAVENLY INSURANCE

Most everyone in our culture has insurance. We may have car insurance, house insurance, life insurance, health insurance, or even mortgage insurance. The insurance companies use symbols of one sort or another to represent their business and to instill confidence in those who might purchase a policy from them. If we see a large rock we think of Prudential, a fireman's hat reminds us of Fireman's Fund, a pair of hands is used by Allstate and an umbrella is the symbol of Travelers Insurance.

In many ways the Kingdom of God and our daily walk with Him is like insurance. We could think of it as

Insurance that is eternal. (He will never leave us nor forsake us.)

Insurance with a paid up premium (Jesus paid it all)

Insurance with dividends, right now. (I came that you might have abundant life.)

There are spiritual applications related to the symbols used by modern day insurance companies that would help remind us of the great security we have in our relationship with God.

- Rock: Long before Prudential existed, the Rock of our salvation was the symbolism used in the Bible for the security we have in God.
- Fireman: Many times we Christians are accused of treating our religion as nothing more than fire insurance. Even when we realize that our relationship with God is more; there should always be a realization that Hell is real and the fire is never quenched. Because of this reality we are to lead others to salvation and in so doing to "snatch them out of the fire."
- Hands: We sing, "He's got the whole world in His hands." Sometimes it is easier to conceptualize that God created the universe and watches over all of creation that it is to grasp the idea that "He's got you and me, brother, in His hands" and His benefits are for the "here and now" as well as for eternity. (See John 10:27-29)
- Umbrella: In Psalms 91:1 we see, "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Picture, if you will, a father and his little daughter walking along in the rain. The daddy is carrying a large umbrella which keeps the rain off them. As long as the little girl stays next to her dad and goes where he goes and when he goes (does not run ahead nor lag behind), then she doesn't get wet. However, she has the freedom to skip on ahead or to wander off to the side; but if she does, she will get wet.

In a similar way we interact with our Heavenly Father. When we are walking in His will, we enjoy the protection of His umbrella. We can choose to do our own thing, but we should not be surprised if we emerge from such experiences "all wet."

Sometimes we think that God will protect us regardless of what we do. We make our plans and start out to implement them and then ask God to bless what we have decided to do. This action may be like the little girl running off to the side to play and then yelling for her dad to bring the big umbrella. If she is in danger and needs to be rescued, then her dad will go there. If there is not imminent danger, he may simply call her back; but, in the meantime, she gets wet.

What should the daughter do if she wants to take a side trip. The most obvious action would be to ask first and get confirmation that her dad is going to go in that direction before running out from the protection that he provides. However, a better alternative is to realize that "our thing" we want to do is not nearly as exciting as what our Father already has planned for us. It is far better to learn where He is going and to trust Him. We will then be so excited about what He wants to do that we will never leave His side.