

## **STOP THAT THIEF!**

*1 Peter 5:8* Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

There was a time in England when a campaign was underway to help people stay alert to the fact there were thieves just waiting to seize an opportunity. Posters were seen in many places, "Watch out, there's a thief about", showing a graphic of a thief on the run. I can still see it in my mind's eye. We know it pays off to be watchful and take precautions such as locking doors and windows, especially in high density areas.

In the same way, as believers we need to be ever alert to catch the thief who would come in the guise of a simple thought. A thought of doubt or fear which is often his form of entry. So subtle is it that we can quickly own the thought not realising the source of it. Yet with a mind that is continually being renewed to God's way of thinking so that our thoughts are replaced with His word, we can quickly recognise the thief, disown the thought and reject it.

A few years ago while shopping in a local grocery store I heard a woman cry out, "My purse, someone has stolen my purse!" She had unwisely left it in her shopping cart and presumably turned aside for a few moments to select an item on her list. A thief seized the opportunity and her purse was gone. Thoughts too can come quickly to steal our faith, our joy and peace.

It is only within the boundaries of our obedience to God's word that we are completely safe. He has made every provision for our security. It is found in paying attention to and obeying the instructions He gives us. When we do, we will stop the thoughts that try to threaten us, dead in their tracks, and instead replace them with what God has to say concerning our lives. In this way our hearts will enjoy His peace.

One of my favourite scriptures is, "Whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." (*Proverbs 1:33*) I have found it to be true. Choose to listen to Him at all times and you will dwell in this place of safety.

---

Do not be discouraged if you have tried and failed to rise above the voice of fear. With each new day I offer mercy and strength, a new beginning and every reason to move forward with fresh hope in Me. Come out of the shadows, the regrets of yesterday and leave the past behind. They will only hinder you from moving forward. Embrace each blessing that awaits you today. The assurance of My constant presence, the enabling of My Spirit and the joy of knowing your need is met in Me.