

11 15 2011 VICE GRIP

I have carpal tunnel syndrome. I have elected to forego surgery and simply bear it. As such, there is stiffness & pain at times. The condition my bowling. I have trouble making a fist & with my GRIP. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

When you don't want to lose something, you close your fist, embracing the item with the strongest GRIP you can possibly muster. It would take force to pry your hand open to take the item from you.

Still, it is possible for someone else to utilize enough force, enough strength to take that item away from you. There is always someone stronger. Of course, it would not take much for me to lose my GRIP. Even shaking hands can cause pain with the Carpal Tunnel condition.

While my physical GRIP lacks strength, I am working hard to maintain my GRIP on my faith in Jesus Christ. It is a daily challenge, a daily battle. Satan works hard to pry that GRIP open & succeeds at times.

Fortunately, I take comfort in knowing that the GRIP of Jesus Christ is a VICE GRIP. Even the strongest man or force cannot force His hand open. No one can take anything away from the Lord!

The VICE GRIP of the Lord is on full display in John 10:22-30. The Shepherd knows His sheep. He will not let go. That is comforting to know in a world of sin & confusion.

It was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem in the cold of winter. Jesus walked into the temple. The Jews quickly surrounded Him & asked Him to declare Himself as the Christ. Jesus answered, verse 25:

"I told you & you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

My sheep hear My voice & I know them & they follow Me. & I give them eternal life & they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; & no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I & My Father are one."

The Jews were so hostile to Jesus & His claim that they took up stones & wanted to stone Him. Jesus would escape out of their hand. They wanted proof from Jesus. Of course, they didn't believe Him so they could not hear the truth. Jesus is the way, the truth & the life, John 14:6.

They were looking in all the wrong places for a Messiah they had conjured up in their minds. He did not look or act as Jesus did. They wanted a Savior on their own terms, not based on truth that might change in their own lives.

This is a comforting passage. While we will sin & fall short, while we will suffer on earth, we cannot be taken or harmed by Satan if we are in Christ. His GRIP is a VICE GRIP. Earth is Satan's residence. Heaven is the residence of the Lord & His sheep.

Jesus performed many miracles that should have been great evidence, solid proof of His deity. Those miracles only served to rattle & scare the religious leaders of the day, rather than convince or convert them. They held on to their earthly convictions with their strongest GRIP.

God has clearly chosen his sheep & it is they who believe & follow Him in obedience. The security of the sheep of the shepherd, Jesus, rests solely in Him. He is the good shepherd who will lead properly & to the proper place. He has the power to protect them. He will not allow the wolves or thieves of this world to infiltrate, penetrate or steal his sheep from His VICE GRIP.

God is in control. You cannot steal from Him. This passage of scripture is a strong tower for all believers, knowing that God is in total control & that we are secure in His VICE GRIP. Jesus is totally committed to protecting His flock. It's a GRIP we can all trust in.

For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for VICE GRIP. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I'm Ken Trahan. God bless you!

