

Keep The Faith!

ESV 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Peter says our **inheritance is eternal** and **in heaven**—it cannot spoil, decay or wither away (will not lose its freshness, brilliance or brightness).

Peter says it's **reserved in heaven** for us!

Have you ever made a **reservation**?

Once made it means there is a place for you that no one else can claim.

Reserved here means “*guarded and carefully attended!*”

This can only be in heaven because earth cannot maintain any atmosphere, climate or condition that Satan cannot enter and contaminate.

Earth is always changing going from season to season, with people places and things constantly changing.

GWN Matthew 6:19 "Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal.

20 Instead, store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust don't destroy and thieves don't break in and steal.

The earth is in a fallen state, in constant flux its atmosphere is toxic to all life here—for all life suffers sickness, disease, misfortune and physical death.

Our faith should not be limited to earthly matters because that limits our faith to a world that is fading away. (tweet)

Our faith should be used to endure and overcome this world as we wait for the next!

Our faith should be in our eternal inheritance and not just an earthly one!

The only thing God guarantees is heavenly! We have **reservations in heaven!**

- Jesus told us everything on earth—for the saved and unsaved, whether child of God or not is susceptible to **moths, rust and thieves.**

It doesn't matter if you're an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher!

It doesn't matter if you're anointed in business, finance or governments—we ALL must contend with **moths, rust and thieves** while here on earth!

So, when a moth gets their hands on something of ours it doesn't mean we don't have faith!

When rust shows up on your shiny new car it doesn't mean you didn't have the faith to pray it away!

It just means you're on earth, this was not reserved for you and is not part of your eternal inheritance!

It doesn't mean you don't have faith because you lost your job, your house or your marriage—it just means you live on earth, a fallen world.

➤ **Full of Moths, Rust and Thieves!**

MOTHS

ASV Job 4:19 How much more them that dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before the moth!

Our existence on earth is compared to “clothes moths” whose larva are very fragile, but slowly and secretly eat away clothing until the garments are full of holes.

Moths have **four stages** of development: the egg, larva, caterpillar and the adult. Each eats a different part of the plant until nothing is left (Joel 1:4).

They remind us that everything earthly at any stage of life is temporary!

RUST

KJV James 5:3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Rust is **corrosion and corruption!** **Corrosion is caused by oxygen**, when iron and oxygen interact it causes rust.

The very thing we need for life on earth is also what helps to ruin it!

Corrosion is usually associate with wealth (gold and silver) e.g. **Matt 6:19**

Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal.

Thieves are those who steal with stealth!

They steal slowly and secretly just like moths and rust!

But notice Jesus says they **breakthrough** and steal! Breakthrough literally means to “dig through” a wall!

To dig through a wall in secret it must be done in the dark at night!

The thing is by the time **moths, rust and thieves** are recognized it's already too late

So, what is the remedy for living in a fallen world that is slowly passing away?

- Just as we protect our clothing, cars and buildings from moths, rust and thieves, we must **protect and keep the faith!**

I know it's getting harder to walk in love, forgiveness and humility—but **KEEP THE FAITH!**

We must **Guard The Faith!** From liars, thieves and ungodly people!

Keep reading our bibles, coming to church, worshipping God and serving others!

KJV 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

*8 Henceforth there is **laid up** (reserved) for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

The believer's valuables are in heaven where they are preserved and reserved!

Our reservation in heaven is protected and guaranteed when we protect the Faith!