

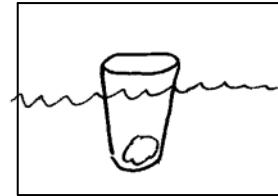
A Demonstration of the Lord Protecting Us

Nothing at all could harm people whom the Lord is protecting, not even if the whole of hell were surrounding them, both from without and from within.

(Arcana Coelestia 968)

Materials:

a clear glass
a cotton ball
a bowl or bucket of water
dirt or food coloring

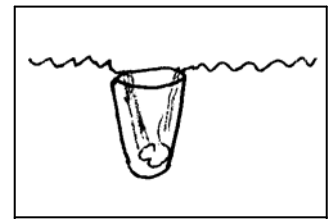


Procedure:

1. Pretend that the cotton ball is a person.
2. Put the cotton ball in the glass. The glass is clear—we can see through it. This illustrates the way the Lord protects us without our being aware of His help.
3. Partly fill a bowl or bucket with water. Give the water a “muddy” quality by adding some dirt or drops of food coloring (use several colors). The water pictures the falsities that the evil spirits in hell want to use against us.
4. Lower the clear glass part way down into the water, being careful not to let the water run into it. Notice that the glass protects the cotton ball, keeping it dry. (Take the cotton ball out of the glass and let the children touch it.) Repeat the process of lowering the glass into the water and touching the dry cotton ball. The Lord wants to keep us safe from the influence of the evil spirits just as the glass keeps the muddy water away from the cotton ball.

NOTE: With younger children, stop here. With older kids, continue the demonstration.

5. What happens when we turn from the Lord, choosing to do evil and embrace falsities? It is harder for the Lord to protect us when we turn from Him.
6. Lower the glass into the water again, but this time let the water flow over the rim of the glass. When the muddy water runs into the glass, the cotton ball gets wet. (Take the cotton ball out of the glass and let the children touch it.) Repeat the process of lowering the glass into the water. When we open our minds to falsities and our hearts to evil, then we make it hard for the Lord and His angels to protect us.
7. *Optional:* Show that the Lord can rescue us, even when we make poor choices. Lift the soggy cotton ball out of the water, rinse it in clear water, and set it near a sunny window to dry.



When evil is done from an evil heart, it discards all protection from the Lord, and infernal spirits rush upon the one who does the evil, and inflict punishment.

(Heaven and Hell 550)