

# 1 Peter 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

## Analysis

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This verse shifts from the inheritance's security to the believer's security, providing divine assurance of perseverance. "Who are kept" (tous phrouroumenous, τοὺς φρουρουμένους) employs military terminology—phroureō means to guard with military garrison, protect with armed force. The present passive participle indicates continuous action: believers are continuously being guarded by God. The agent is specified: "by the power of God" (en dynamei theou, ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ)—not human willpower, church membership, or religious performance, but divine omnipotence maintains believers' security. The means is "through faith" (dia pisteōs, διὰ πίστεως)—faith is the instrument, not the ground. God's keeping power operates through sustaining believers' faith, not independently of it. The goal is "unto salvation" (eis sōtērian, εἰς σωτηρίαν)—not merely past justification but future glorification, complete deliverance from sin's presence. This salvation is "ready to be revealed" (hetoimēn apokalypthēnai, ἐτοίμην ἀποκαλυφθῆναι)—already prepared, awaiting disclosure at Christ's return. The phrase "in the last time" (en kairō eschatō, ἐν καιρῷ ἐσχάτῳ) indicates eschatological consummation. This presents the Reformed doctrine of perseverance: truly regenerate believers certainly persevere to final salvation because God's power preserves them through faith He sustains.

## Historical Context

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Written to believers facing severe persecution with real temptation to apostasy, this verse provided crucial assurance. Would their faith survive torture, family

rejection, economic ruin, potential martyrdom? Peter assures them: God's power, not their strength, secures salvation. The military imagery (guarded by garrison) resonated in Roman-occupied territories where garrisons represented ultimate security. Just as Roman soldiers protected strategic positions, God's power guards believers unto salvation. This countered both presumption (salvation depends on divine power, not mere human effort) and despair (weakness and failure don't disqualify believers from God's keeping power). The phrase "through faith" maintained balance: perseverance isn't automatic (faith remains active) but certain (God sustains that faith). Early Christian martyrs endured horrific persecution precisely because they believed God's power would preserve them to the end.

## **Related Passages**

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does knowing that God's power (not your effort) keeps you secure unto salvation affect your assurance during spiritual struggles or seasons of weak faith?
2. What role does faith play in God's keeping power, and how can you cultivate faith that perseveres through trials?

## Interlinear Text

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τοὺς ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ φρουρουμένους διὰ πίστεως  
**Who by the power of God are kept through faith**  
G3588 G1722 G1411 G2316 G5432 G1223 G4102

εἰς σωτηρίαν ἐτοίμην ἀποκαλυφθῆναι ἐν καιρῷ ἐσχάτῳ  
**unto salvation ready to be revealed by time the last**  
G1519 G4991 G2092 G601 G1722 G2540 G2078

## Additional Cross-References

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**Philippians 1:6** (Parallel theme): Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Ephesians 2:8** (Salvation): For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

**Job 19:25** (Parallel theme): For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

**Hebrews 9:28** (Salvation): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

**1 Peter 1:13** (Parallel theme): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**Jude 1:1** (References God): Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

**John 17:15** (Parallel theme): I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

**Galatians 2:20** (Faith): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**2 Timothy 3:15** (Salvation): And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**Isaiah 51:6** (Salvation): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

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