

Psalm 121: Confidence in God

This psalm has meant much to me, in several crises of my life, when I have found God's reassurances were real and trustworthy.

The psalmist asks himself, **Where does my help come from?** It's a deep cry of the human heart, a deep sense of need which he knew he himself couldn't meet! But the man **could** say, **My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

It comes from **the LORD** – who had rescued his people from slavery in Egypt. Now the man sees himself as **part** of God's people, with his **own** personal trust. And **the LORD**, is none other than **the Creator, the Maker of heaven and earth.** Therefore there is none to compare with **Him**, there is nothing **He** cannot do.

The man **knows** he is one of God's people, whom God always guards! *The LORD is your guardian. He neither slumbers nor sleeps!*

What help do we need? The man feels **he** is in danger of his foot slipping. **We can so easily lose our footing on the walk of life.**

When we are bereaved, we know that sad things do happen to us. How do we react? Do we look at such things as meaningless and random, as the worldly do? Or, like our psalmist, do **we** regard everything as being in God's hands, who alone preserves our life, and keeps us from every evil thing?

What is it exactly that God promises his people? He promises **His constant presence with us.** *The LORD is ever watchful over you. He neither slumbers nor sleeps.*

He will act to keep us from evil. *He will not let your foot slip. He will keep you from harm. Surely that means he will keep us from any misfortune that is not for our blessing.* *He will watch over your coming and your going, both now and for evermore.*

King David wrote these words, **God fulfils his purpose for me** (Psalm 57:2) – **He is fulfilling and will fulfil his good purpose for me.**

Paul wrote, *We know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him.** ... [Nothing] in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Rom 8:28,39)

I took the words of Psalm 121, applied them to my own life and rested on them. Does that mean that I could have confidence that **God would do all that I might desire?** **No**, of course not – **for I am short-sighted as to what is in my best interest** – let alone what God **purposes** for my life, or is in the best interest of **all** his people.

Other Scriptures taught me that **the Lord knows what he is doing!** Such as:

Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men. (Lam 3:31-33) **My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.** (2 Cor 12:9)

Looking still at this psalm, let us realise that the phrase: *your coming and your going, **covers all the circumstances of our life,*** our everyday working life, and all the things that bring us anxiety. **God's people are not to live fearful, anxious lives; but trusting, praising ones,** confident even in times of trouble and distress. (Matt 6:32-34)

If *the LORD keeps our coming in and our going out, both NOW and for EVERMORE* – that means He has guarded us, and watched over us from our birth – and will do, to our own death – *“from life's first cry to final breath”.* But *EVERMORE means **beyond, for ever,*** into the eternity we shall share with Him and all God's people. **He will bring us to his eternal kingdom.** That is why we can be confident that Richard is there, right now!

And we have Jesus' own words to make us even more confident. At the beginning, I read his words, *I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.* (John 11:25-26)

Jesus speaks these words to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, who had died. She had greeted Jesus with sad words, *Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.* Jesus replies, *Your brother will rise again.* Martha takes those, I think, as conventional words of condolence. *I know he will rise again at the last day.*

It's then that Jesus says these wonderful words, ***I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*** And Jesus adds, *Do you believe this?*

Jesus assures us ***his words are true,*** because he raises Lazarus back to life, there and then, but ***even more by his own death and his own resurrection*** – not just back to ***this*** life, but to live as our Saviour now and ***forever.*** He is alive today and evermore!

It was to be ***our Saviour*** that Jesus died, that awful death on the cross. He died the death ***our*** sins deserve, ***taking our place.*** What extraordinary love! He did it so that ***we*** might be forgiven, and have eternal life. ***To have that,*** we must ***ask*** him, and entrust ourselves ***to him, forever.***

May each of us know ***the truth*** of Jesus's words – and know the great love and compassion God has for ***each one of us.*** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*