

December 24, 2021

The Gifts of Christ: We have the Protection of God.

Ps. 121:1-8, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - He Who watches over you will not slumber: indeed, He Who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." (NIV)

Many years ago, I had gone to a conference in St. Louis, Missouri. I had never been there and I was looking forward to seeing some of the sights. I had a rental car and so, not knowing exactly where I was going, I began driving around the city. I saw the Gateway Arch, the old Busch Memorial Stadium where the St. Louis Cardinals played, and an epic view of the Mississippi River. I was enjoying the tour until I realized that I didn't exactly know where I was. I had crossed over the river and found myself in a 'shady' area of East St. Louis. As I was driving down a street, looking for a way to get back to my hotel, a number of people approached my car at stop signs, asking for handouts. I remember this passage immediately came to mind as I began praying for safe passage back to where I needed to be.

I can just imagine those that would travel along the dusty roads heading to Jerusalem, would probably feel the same way that I did. In those days, robbers would hide along the roadside and wait to attack and rob innocent people headed to the Holy City. Jesus told of one such story in His parable of the Good Samaritan.

As I was praying that day, I was encouraged by the words of this Psalm as they poured over me. My help always comes from the Lord. He will not let my foot slip. He is never sleeping when I need Him. He is watching over me because He loves me. And as I prayed and quoted this Psalm, a peace began to wash over me and I knew that I was surrounded by the protection of the Most High God. The last line of this Psalm is a statement that He will watch over us today and every day. He will never leave us or forsake us; forevermore!

Dear LORD, thank You Lord that You are ever watching over Your children. We need Your protection as we are prone to stray. You are always watching over us. That's why You came on that day in Bethlehem, to protect us from the evil in this world. Thank You Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen