

Theme: God desires for our prayers to be filled with the confidence that He is our Helper in times of trouble, and that we would pray words of blessing over others.

## I. Intro – A Psalm of Confidence & Blessing

- A. We have looked at UnCommon prayers in difficult times
- B. These Psalms are full of honest anguish, struggle, doubt
- C. But the Psalms also contain prayers of great confidence
- D. Today we will consider UnCommon Confidence

## II. Psalms for Pilgrims On the Way

### A. Psalm one of group for pilgrims on way to Jerusalem

- 1. The heading - A song of ascents  
A song of ascents. Psalms 121:0
  - a. Psalm 120-134
  - b. Used by pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem
  - c. Ascent - because had to go through mountains
- 2. Pilgrimage terminology  
He will not let your **foot slip** Psalms 121:3  
  
The Lord watches over you — the Lord is your **shade** at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the **sun** will not **harm** you by day, nor the **moon** by night. Psalms 121:5–6  
  
the Lord will watch over **your coming and going** both now and forevermore. Psalms 121:8

### B. But pilgrimage became a metaphor for life

- 1. Life is a journey we are all traveling

- 2. So the Psalms came to be used for pilgrimage of life

## III. Help On the Journey of Life?

### A. The question - where do I find help?

- 1. He looks to the hills - where is his help?  
I **lift up my eyes to the hills** — where does my help come from? Psalms 121:1
  - a. Hills could be bad - hard/dangerous - where is help?
  - b. Probably good - hills protect - but Who is true help?
- 2. This is probably a rhetorical question for believers  
I lift up my eyes to the hills — **where does my help come from?** Psalms 121:1

### B. The answer - our Covenant God is our Helper

- 1. Help from the Creator  
My help comes from the Lord, the **Maker of heaven and earth**. Psalms 121:2
  - a. This speaks of God as Creator of everything
  - b. This speaks of God's Power - He is able to help
- 2. Help from our Covenant LORD  
My help comes from **the Lord**, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalms 121:2
  - a. YHWH - covenant Name - (v2; 5 (2x), 7, 8)
  - b. Also He Who watches over Israel (v4)

## IV. Kept by Our Covenant God

### A. The potential danger - my foot slips

- He **will not let your foot slip** — he who watches over you will not slumber; Psalms 121:3

1. This fits with the pilgrimage setting
2. Danger is not bad things - but me falling down/away

## B. The LORD keeps/guards/watches over us

### 1. Keep/guard/watch - 6 times - שָׁמַר

He will not let your foot slip — he who **watches over** you will not slumber; <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who **watches over** Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The Lord **watches over** you — the Lord is your shade at your right hand; Psalms 121:3–5

The Lord will **keep** you from all harm — he will **watch over** your life; <sup>8</sup> the Lord will **watch over** your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalms 121:7–8

- a. Same word as used in Numbers 6 blessing  
The Lord bless you and **keep** you; Numbers 6:24
- b. Blessing that God will watch over and protect us

### 2. Kept at all times - day/night - by ever vigilant God

The Lord **watches over you** — the Lord is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you **by day**, nor the moon **by night**. Psalms 121:5–6

- a. This is a merism - day and night = all times
- b. God never sleeps - even if it seems like He is!  
He will not let your foot slip — **he who watches over you will not slumber**; <sup>4</sup> indeed, **he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep**. Psalm 121:3–4

### 3. Kept in all situations

The Lord will **keep you from all harm** — he will **watch over your life**; Psalms 121:7

- a. All harm - every type of thing that might make us fall
- b. Our life - any and every situation - God is keeping us

c. God sees and keeps us everywhere!

### 4. Kept in all activities

the Lord will **watch over your coming and going** both now and forevermore. Psalms 121:8

- a. Coming and going - pilgrimage metaphor
- b. God keeps us in every activity in life
- c. God keeps us as we come into the world & as we exit!

### 5. Kept in life - and death - for now and eternity

the Lord will **watch over** your coming and going **both now and forevermore**. Psalms 121:8

- a. Both now and forevermore - all of our life
- b. This includes kept in life - and death!
- c. He will keep us for now and eternity!

## C. Kept by Jesus - no matter what!

I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand**. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand**. John 10:28–29

1. Never perish - eternal life; kept through death
2. Kept safe in hand of Jesus and the Father!
3. We will be kept by Jesus through all the trials of life  
**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?** <sup>36</sup> As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither

the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>  
neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of  
God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Rom 8:35–39

4. This is being kept my friends!

## V. Applying the Word

A. Are you one of God's covenant people?

1. The LORD - the covenant God - does this
2. This promise is for the people of God - not everyone
3. Are you in covenant with God through Christ?

B. Do we see, believe & claim these great covenant promises?

1. As previous Psalms have shown, life is difficult
2. This can be confusing and challenging to our faith
3. We need to meditate on, pray, and claim these promises
4. Parents - pray blessings over your children

C. Baby dedication - a covenant blessing

1. Luke and Noelle will be dedicating Levinia
2. In these we lay claim to God's promises
3. Today, Luke will also speak a blessing over Levinia

## Benediction

May the LORD watch over you, and may He be your Shade and Shelter at your right hand.

May the LORD keep you from all harm, watching over your life;

May the LORD watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.

Through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

## UnCommon Honesty In Prayer

Psalm 121

March 24, 2013

Baby dedication & blessing for Levinia Haverhals

Psalm 121:5-8 Paraphrase