

Psalm 121 (NIV84)

A song of ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip- he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD watches over you- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm- he will watch over your life;
- 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

A family that belongs to my church have a son who was in the military. When he was deployed to the Middle East, he was in our thoughts and prayers.

However, it wasn't until my own son's deployment to the Middle East that I fully appreciated the constant temptation in a parent's life to give way to worry.

But the Lord does not want us to worry and, indeed, we have no reason to worry. Whether it is the lives of loved ones near or far, or one's own life, we have the Lord's promise that "he will watch over your life."

Are you feeling restless? Are you losing sleep for worry? Lift up your eyes to where your help comes from; it "comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." He's got this! He's got you! Sleep in peace.

Resting in Christ with you,  
Pastor Golm

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July 10

Afraid for the Safety of Loved Ones?

Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Genesis 21:17

Are you worried over the safety of absent loved ones? Afraid that the hand of the Lord may be shortened so that he will be unable to protect them and preserve them? Afraid that the temptations of the world, of Christless and wicked companionship, will be too much for them, and they will be overcome by sin and unbelief?

Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, once felt that way. She had despaired completely of God's ability to preserve her only son. But into the depths of her despair came the clear and reassuring voice from heaven: "Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is."

Similarly, we may be sure that God has heard the voice of our absent loved ones where they are. Our Savior is their Savior. His promise: "Lo, I am with you always" embraces both them and us. To them he says, as he does to us: "I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

It goes without saying that we ourselves are to pray for our absent loved ones. The Scriptures urge us to "pray for one another", and assure us that "the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much". We are to "pray without ceasing"-not that we are to spend our entire life on our knees, but that the line of communication between us and our Lord is to be kept open constantly.

Our absent loved ones who have been placed in the Savior's arms in Holy Baptism may be absent from us, but they are never absent from the watchful eye and loving care of him who assures both them and us: "I will not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands." Let us, then, with firmest confidence commit our loved ones into the Savior's keeping.

Holy Father, in Thy mercy Hear our anxious prayer; Keep our loved ones who are absent 'Neath Thy care.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)