

Dover

Daily

DEVOTIONALS

Growing
Together in
God's Word!

During the second Sunday of Lent, we focused on Psalm 121, which is known as a Psalm of Ascent. This Psalm reminds us that God is always present and takes care of us. It encourages us to look beyond our present troubles and trust in God, who is our Maker and eternal helper. As we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross, we must acknowledge our dependence on God's care. In this Psalm, we learn about looking up to the hills, recognizing our weaknesses, finding comfort in God's sovereignty, and paying close attention to our needs. This Lenten season, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's Word, drawing closer to Him and emerging with renewed faith and joy as we look forward to Easter.

Monday: I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2, ESV)

Devotional:

Lent is a period of spiritual reflection, during which we contemplate the significance of Christ's journey to the cross and how it relates to our own spiritual journey. As we reflect on Christ's trust in the Father when facing Golgotha, we are reminded of our own call to trust in God's provision and guidance, especially during our darkest moments. This season of Lent invites us to think deeply about our dependence on God and how he cares for us, even in the toughest of times. It is a time for introspection, prayer, and self-denial, as we seek to grow closer to God and to live our lives in accordance with his will. Ultimately, the goal of Lent is to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter, when we rejoice in the triumph of Christ over sin and death, and the hope of eternal life that he offers to all who believe in him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What "hills" are you currently facing in your life, and how can you shift your focus to God's sovereignty and care in the midst of these challenges?

2. How does Jesus' journey to the cross inspire you to trust in God's plan for your life, even when the path seems difficult or uncertain?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we journey through this Lenten season, help us to lift our eyes to the hills and remember that our help comes from You, the Maker of heaven and earth. In the face of challenges and uncertainties, grant us the faith to trust in Your provision and care. Like Jesus, who trusted in Your will on His way to the cross, may we also find strength and comfort in Your unfailing love. Guide us through our own journeys, and help us to see every obstacle as an opportunity to draw closer to You. Amen.

Tuesday: He Watches Over You

"He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber." (Psalm 121:3, ESV)

Devotional:

The promise of God's attentive watch over our lives offers comfort and assurance. In an increasingly unstable and uncertain world, the truth that "He who watches over you will not slumber" anchors our souls. This Lenten season, we are reminded that our security does not lie in our circumstances or in the transient things of this world but in the steadfast love and protection of our Creator.

Jesus' unwavering trust in the Father, even as He walked the path to Calvary, exemplifies the depth of trust we are called to embody. In our journey through life, we will face trials and tribulations, but the assurance of God's presence and protection enables us to move forward with confidence. As we reflect on the ways God has upheld us in the past, our faith is strengthened for the challenges that lie ahead.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the assurance that God watches over you and will not let your foot slip impact your daily life and decisions?
2. In what ways can you cultivate a deeper trust in God's protection and care, especially during times of trial?

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for Your promise to watch over us and not let our foot slip. In a world of uncertainty, Your faithfulness provides a firm foundation for our lives. Help us to trust in Your

protection and care, following the example of Jesus, who trusted in Your will even to the cross. Strengthen our faith and guide our steps, that we may walk in Your ways with confidence and peace. Amen.

Wednesday: The God Who Keeps Israel

"Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." (Psalm 121:4, ESV)

Devotional:

Psalm 121:4 presents a profound truth about the nature of God's vigilant care over His people. This verse assures us of God's continuous watchfulness, a comforting reminder that, unlike humans, God never tires or takes a break from His protective oversight. In our human experience, exhaustion and sleep are necessary for rejuvenation, but God transcends these physical limitations, offering unwavering protection at all times. This divine attribute of constant vigilance speaks volumes about God's commitment to our wellbeing, reinforcing the notion that we are never outside the sphere of His care.

The life of Jesus Christ in human form, as described in the Gospels, reveals the beautiful mystery of the divine made flesh. While remaining fully divine, Christ experienced hunger, weariness, and even sleep, thus embodying the fullness of human experience. This paradox does not contradict the nature of God, but rather deepens our understanding of His empathy and solidarity with us. Through Christ, we see that God's love is both transcendent and immanent, offering a model of divine love that is beyond human understanding yet intimately acquainted with the fabric of human life. Jesus' incarnation shows us that God's care is not distant or detached, but rather personal and deeply involved in the details of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the knowledge that God "neither slumbers nor sleeps" in His watchfulness over us impact your faith, especially during times of difficulty or uncertainty?
2. In what ways does the incarnation of Christ—His experiencing weariness and sleep—enhance your understanding of God's empathy towards human vulnerability?

Prayer:

Gracious Lord, we are profoundly thankful for Your ceaseless vigilance over our lives. You, who neither slumber nor sleep, offer us a sanctuary of peace and protection that knows no bounds. Teach us to rest in the comfort of Your watchful care, trusting that even in our weakest moments, You are intimately present with us. Help us to grasp the depth of Your love and empathy, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ, who embraced our human condition to draw us

closer to Your heart. May this understanding deepen our faith and reliance on You, knowing that Your care for us is both vigilant and tender. In the name of Jesus, who bridged heaven and earth, we pray. Amen.

Thursday: The Lord is Your Keeper

"The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night." (Psalm 121:5-6, ESV)

Devotional:

The imagery of God as our shade and protector is particularly poignant during Lent as we reflect on the trials and sufferings of Christ. This season reminds us that God's presence is a continuous source of comfort and protection, even in the most challenging circumstances. The assurance that "the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night" speaks to God's comprehensive care over every aspect of our lives.

As we journey through our own "deserts" and face our own "nights," the promise of God's unwavering protection invites us to trust in Him more deeply. This trust is not naive optimism but a grounded hope that stems from God's proven faithfulness. It challenges us to look beyond our immediate circumstances and see the larger narrative of God's redemptive work in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the promise of God's protection and presence influence your response to challenges and uncertainties?
2. What "desert" or "night" are you currently facing, and how can the assurance of God's care encourage you in this season?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being our keeper and our shade, protecting us from harm day and night. As we walk through the deserts and endure the nights of our lives, remind us of Your constant presence and care. Help us to trust in Your protection, knowing that You are with us in every trial. May this Lenten season deepen our faith and our reliance on You, our faithful Protector and Guide. Amen.

Friday: From This Time Forth and Forevermore

"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore."
(Psalm 121:8, ESV)

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4, ESV)

Devotional:

Psalm 121:8 provides a comforting promise of God's constant protection over our lives. This verse assures us that the Lord is committed to safeguarding our every move, whether we're embarking on new journeys or returning to familiar places. It reminds us that we're under the watchful eyes of the Almighty, both in the present and for eternity.

James 1:2-4 encourages us to find joy in the face of trials, knowing that they're necessary for our spiritual growth and endurance. This passage reminds us that God won't let us face trials that we can't handle and that He'll provide a way out through perseverance. This doesn't mean that the trial will disappear, but it equips us to face it with faith and character, which ultimately makes us stronger.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the promise that the Lord will keep your going out and your coming in influence your perspective on facing daily challenges and opportunities?
2. Reflecting on the assurance that God provides a way to endure trials, how can you cultivate a mindset of joy and trust in God's faithfulness during difficult times?

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Your promise to protect us in our coming and going, now and forevermore. In the midst of life's trials, help us to remember that You watch over every aspect of our journey. Teach us to find joy in challenges, trusting in Your faithfulness to provide the strength we need to endure. May our hearts be anchored in the peace and assurance of Your constant care, and may we emerge from every trial with a deeper faith and stronger character. Guide us with Your wisdom and love so that we may navigate life's complexities under the shelter of Your wings. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Saturday: All Things Work Together For Good

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be

conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:28-32, ESV)

Devotional:

Life is full of ups and downs, but Romans 8:28-32 remind us that God always has our best interests at heart. These verses say that no matter what happens, God is in control and working everything together for good. It's a comforting thought that helps us keep our faith strong even when things seem tough.

We can trust God because He loves us so much that He even gave His own Son for us. This shows us how much He cares about us and our struggles. We can be sure that He will take care of us and provide for us when we need it.

Romans 8 also tell us that God's ultimate plan for us is to become more like His Son, Jesus Christ. As we grow in our faith, we become more like Jesus and are better able to handle whatever life throws our way. With these verses in mind, we can face life with hope and peace, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflect on a time when you witnessed God working through a challenging situation for your good. How did that experience strengthen your faith in the promise of Romans 8:28-32?
2. Considering the ultimate sacrifice of God giving His Son for us, how does this shape your understanding of God's willingness to provide for and protect you in your current circumstances?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance that, in Your sovereign grace, all things work together for our good and Your glory. Help us to cling to this promise, especially in moments of doubt and despair, knowing that You are always vigilant, always acting on our behalf. Teach us to see Your hand at work in every aspect of our lives, trusting that You who did not spare Your own Son will graciously give us all we need. May this truth anchor our hearts in peace and fill us with enduring hope, as we navigate the challenges of this life. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.