

31 May 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

**A Weekly Word of Encouragement: God's keeping presence**

Psalm 121 – a favourite psalm of many; a traveller's psalm: read it reflectively.

Life is beset with trouble. We need help. We look for help. But where?

The mountains are symbols of earthly strength, majesty, security, and stability; but nothing in this creation can give us the help we need. Help is found in the Creator, not the creation. What is God's help? His attentive presence. He is the LORD (the personal name of God) – not distant, but present every step of our journey to accompany, preserve and rule us. Always attentive, always watching, always keeping, always present.

Our journey in life will have difficulties – stumbling, sun-stroke, moon struck (the attacks of the evil one: v.3, 5-7). But difficulties, if handled rightly, with God's help can make us wiser, happier, and stronger.

The big mistake in the midst of our daily challenges is to think that God has given up on us. God's interest does not wax and wane in response to our spiritual temperature. The God who created the universe (and has accomplished our eternal salvation) is the same LORD who watches over our daily trials and tribulations. He is vigilant, present, and working in the big things and the little things in your life – and always will be.

**Prayer:**

Lord, my life is filled with pressures that drain me of all strength, and I am tempted to forget Your presence, and search for relief and security elsewhere. I need the refreshment and assurance that only Your presence can give. Grant me grace to know You more as my ever-present Sustainer and Refresher. Amen.

**Remember:**

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another, and know that I am only a phone call away:  
0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert