

The Psalms

Songs to Keep Your Life in Tune



Our Security in a World of Insecurity

Psalm 121:1-8



Message Guide | November 8, 2020

Our Security in a World of Insecurity

Today's Message (08 November 2020) / Psalm 121:1-8

As we lift our eyes and see the challenges before us, never forget that our help comes from the Lord, whose compassion and character form the foundations of our faith.

We use locks, watchdogs, and security systems to secure our homes when we are away or asleep. But does that really guarantee safety? How do you feel secure in a world that always poses a threat to your security?

The church revived by the Reformation saw Psalm 121 as a testimony of God's providence. *The Heidelberg Catechism* answers the question "What does it mean to believe in God?" beautifully: "I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father... We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love" (Question 26 and 28).

So how can we find the assurance of security from God, according to Psalm 121?

GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. Why is it dangerous for people to say they "look to the Lord" but do not intentionally seek His Word?
2. Give at least one good reason why we should fear sin more than suffering. Explain why.
3. Does being a Christian guarantee that we will live a trouble-free life? Why not?
4. Pray together as a family/group, and ask the Lord to watch over each of you, and should anyone go through difficult or dangerous times, to trust that God will never leave or abandon His child.

1. LOOK TO GOD ALONE (vv. 1-2)

- When the psalmist said, "I lift up my eyes to the hills" (v. 1), he was looking exclusively to God, Maker of heaven and earth. By looking to God, we look away from all other sources of strength.
- Only by looking into the Bible can we truly look to the Lord with the eyes of faith and be guided about life. If we are to know God's strength, we must hear and heed God's Word. His Word is the all-sufficient source of grace for pilgrims on life's journey, an unlimited reservoir of spiritual energy for all who receive His truth.

2. LET GOD LOOK OUT FOR YOU (vv. 3-8)

- What does the Lord do on behalf of those who trust in Him?

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- ✓ He enables us to stand, and not stumble (vv. 3-4, Jude 1:24). An ounce of sin can harm us more than a ton of suffering.
 - We stand in grace (Romans 5:2).
 - We stand in the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1).
 - We stand in courage and strength (1 Corinthians 16:13).
 - We stand in faith (2 Corinthians 1:24).
 - We stand in Christian liberty (Galatians 5:1).
 - We stand in Christian unity (Philippians 1:27).
 - We stand in the Lord (Philippians 4:1).
 - Ultimately: we stand perfect and complete in the will of God (Colossians 4:12).
- ✓ He preserves us in our troubles and daily hardships (vv. 5–7). Sin can harden our hearts so we lose everything, but suffering when handled rightly, can make us wiser, deeper, and more joyful. We have far more reason to be afraid of sin than suffering!
- ✓ He keeps our souls from death (v. 8).
- Lean fully upon the Lord. We must rely upon the superabundant grace of God's Spirit in every demand of life (Ephesians 3:20). Only as we recognize our own weakness does God's power fill and flood our souls. Let us learn to cast our burdens upon Him.

Final Thoughts:

As we lift our eyes and see the challenges before us, never forget that our help comes from the Lord, whose compassion and character form the foundations of our faith. Those who belong to the Lord are safe in His care.

Our mountains may be great, but our Maker is greater. Our problems may seem overwhelming, but His protection is ever available. Our hurts are inevitable, but His help is inexhaustible. He is our security in a world of insecurity. ■

The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Migs Orleans

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 1 Corinthians 12:21-26, ESV

The Apostle Paul puts it in plain and simple terms - we exist together, and we need each other. Care is meant to be given and received. It was true then, and it is true now. In homes, it is the members of the family. In social circles, these are your friends both old and new. In our local church family, it is us: we worship together, we grow together, and we can certainly serve together.

This is a lesson the Lord has taught and continues to teach me even more, as this season of crisis continues: church ministry is teamwork. The presence of a Worship Pastor in the Worship Ministry is not enough, nor is the involvement of

seasoned ministry workers who are His gifts to the church. A system may be in place, and a structure may be laid out - but without those who see the need to care for the body of Christ, we do not even suffer together: we just suffer.

The worship leader may master his songs and spiels, but that is not enough. He needs co-servants: backstage to know what mic to use, onstage to lead with him, in the sound booth to make sure the team is actually heard, and in the video room to make sure the lyrics are flashed and the stage is lit. These co-servants, and many more, so much more—are needed.

We may have the message of salvation to deliver, but we are in great need of messengers to properly communicate. You may not necessarily be the person on-screen, but we certainly need you—because we care for you. Hope you can prayerfully consider as we work towards forming a much bigger Communications Ministry Team. If you would like to get in touch with us as early as now, take note of this number (0917-541-1127) and email address (miguel.orleans@gcf.org.ph). Blessed Sunday, church family! ■

CHURCH UPDATES

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GCFreservation>. Pre-registration is open every week from Wednesday (5:00pm) to Saturday (11:59pm) or upon full booking, whichever comes first.

ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit election.gcf.org.ph for information and updates, or email election@gcf.org.ph for specific queries

BELONGING (Midweek Series): *Accountability and Community*

November 11 (Wed), 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at [@GCFKidsLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/GCFKidsLIFE)

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

J616A GROWTH GROUP (MIX: COUPLES, YOUNG ADULTS, MARRIED, SINGLE)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom, with Elder Ed & Sis Betty Trono

GCF SMALL GROUP TRAINING AND PRECEPT PHILIPPINES

An Inductive Bible Study on Mark 7-13

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)
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- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)
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CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit www.gcf.org.ph/give for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to finance@gcf.org.ph so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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