

Chapter 47: *Keep An Eye On Me*

Life Application Verses:

Psalm 121: 7-8. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; ⁸the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (NIV)

Our granddaughter (7) and grandson (19 months) came to spend Friday night with us recently, at Taterpop (my grandfather name) and Nana’s house. They love for me to get out the air mattress and for us to ‘camp out’ in the living room (Kotabear sleeps on the mattress and Santiago in his little man bed.) I’ll blow up the mattress and place a quilt over it so that it sleeps like a Sealy Serta! She’ll sleep on the mattress and I will sleep on the sofa or my recliner so I can keep an eye on her. We’ll watch *Nick Jr* or *Disney Junior*, talk about whatever she wants to talk about, and eventually fall asleep (Nana and Santiago have already gone to bed by this time in the process. 😊). On this occasion, just as she was stretching and yawning, I got down on the floor to scratch her back as she closed her eyes. Then in that little sweet angelic voice, she said something so precious, I nearly cried from the innocence *and* worry of this little child. In a voice so soft and loving, she whispered: “Keep an eye on me, Taterpop.” I kissed her on the cheek and whispered back to her, “I will angel. And God and Jesus will be keeping an eye on you too!” In just a matter of minutes, she was fast asleep. I was awake for a little while after she said this, but I kept thinking about those words. Then it dawned on me: “Is this how I should be towards my God?” Isn’t this interaction between myself and my granddaughter the same relationship that I should seek and have with God, e.g., ‘keep an eye on me, God.’

If I were to live the Life Application Verses like my granddaughter’s trust in me, would my life be more aligned towards Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good? IN other words, if I lived my life every day in Prayer before God as: “Keep an eye on me, Lord”, would my life be different? When I read these words in Psalm 121: 7-8, it says to me—in response to my request of ‘keep an eye on me, Lord’--- ‘The lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.’ This promise from God

is precisely what we need to remember in our lives. We need to look up to Heaven and repeat those precious words, ‘Keep an eye on my, Lord.’

If you think back to an earlier chapter or the Prologue, you’ll remember that the purpose in this book was to discuss issues and matters for the ordinary Christians in this world. It wasn’t about those who are the Scholars of Hebrew, it was about the *ordinary* of us who are just trying to do what is right in the sight of God, share our Faith in Jesus Christ, pay our bills, and be a helper to our neighbors, families, and those less fortunate. IT’s about us being Heavenly Minded towards God in how we prepare our minds and hearts for life and service; it’s about translating that Heavenly Mindedness into Earthly Good to live our lives the very best we can in helping others, remaining Faithful to God, and being a Witness to Lost Souls whenever and wherever we may encounter them. With that said, ***I want God to keep an eye on me.*** Not hold my hand and guide me around as if I were 2 years old again, but keep an eye on me and nudge me when I stray from the right path. Just as it says in Isaiah 30: 21 (NIV): “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” Or stated in the vernacular, ‘*Keep An Eye On Me, Lord!*’ Is this too simple a premise for us grown-ups? Gee...I sure hope not! At heart, I am still a young man, running track, doing pole vaults, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound (well, maybe short tiny buildings), and able to stay up for 24 hours plus and still have energy to go those extra miles. In reality, the shell that hovers around that ‘young man at heart’ is able to look at the tall buildings and wonder how to get over them—more apropos these days, get around them! (Keep that secret quiet!)

These ‘buildings’ are problems at work, the need to work longer hours but the body says no more of that, and the stamina that just ain’t what it used to be. The eyesight is not as keen as it was, the ears hear more selectively now—or so I tell myself to avoid the truth that my hearing is not 20-20 (oh, wait, that’s my eyesight). I am at the stage in my life when asking God to keep an eye on me is to me what I am to my granddaughter when she asked Taterpop to keep an eye on her. It is unconditional trust and chases the worry away. I say without reservation, Oh Lord, PLEASE keep an eye on me. Keep my feet from stumbling and make me a Faithful servant for You; keep an eye on me when I am so tired I need to just fall in my recliner, yet my wife needs me; keep an eye on me when I make a poor decision that will interfere with

my Prayer life; keep an eye on me when I am stubborn and need nudging (not NUDGING, Father God); keep an eye on me when I tell a half-truth to avoid the consequences of telling the whole truth for convenience and self-preservation; keep an eye on me when a driver causes me to swerve and avoid a near collision and I am tempted to interpret my anger in such a way that You won't be pleased with the outcome; keep an eye on me when my boss lies about something and I am ready to tell him to 'take this job and sho... well, you know the rest'; keep an eye on me when I know best and go against something that I know is Truth in Your Word; and, Please keep an eye on me when I confuse Heavenly Minded wisdom for failing to do what I know is Earthly Good. Lord God, KEEP AN EYE ON ME!

This world is a scary place to many of us. We're grown adults and we have control of our futures, right?! We fear nothing because we are Christians. We know where we are going and God only needs to be there when we have trouble...NOT! My granddaughter taught me something when she asked Taterpop to keep an eye on her. The lesson was that in her world, she needs her Mommy and Daddy and Taterpop and Nana and baby brother Santiago to feel safe, loved, and wanted. She wanted Taterpop to keep an eye on her so that she could sleep in peace knowing that she would not be abandoned, alone, or unloved. For me, keeping an eye on her was about sharing my love with this precious child so that she had peace-of-mind and heart. I cannot imagine the children in this cruel world that are not loved or cared for as we care for our granddaughter, grandson, and their Daddy and Mommy—our own precious daughter (of whom we cared for just as we care for our precious granddaughter & grandson and still care for and love). I cannot imagine the many children in this world who have no one to keep an eye on them because no one cares. But God will keep an eye on them and He does so every moment in time. God, Please keep an eye on them!

What do the Life Application Verses mean to us ordinary Christians? To reiterate, "The LORD will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." These verses tell us that we are not alone nor are we ever alone in His caring for us. If we have truly accepted the Gift of Jesus Christ as our very personal savior and only hope in this lost world, and we have been as Jesus instructed Nicodemus, 'Born Again', our lives are in full view of God. Remember this little rhyme:

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Child's bedtime prayer - 18th century

Is this bedtime prayer not the precise definition of, “Lord, keep an eye on me?” When we lay our heads down to sleep, aren’t we relying on God to protect us? And if we should not awake, do we not desire above all else that God will take our very Souls to Heaven to be with Him so that we might sing Praises of “Worthy is the Lamb” that was slain? I think we as ordinary Christians desire this security in Christ Jesus with our very being!

When my granddaughter asked me to keep an eye on her, she was speaking from the need to know that Taterpop would be there if she had a bad dream or woke up and he was there for comfort, security, and love. As an adult, I want these same things in my relationship with God. I want to know that if I am hurting from losing someone very close to me, He will be there to provide comfort; I want to know that even in this anti-God, hate-Christian-world, that God will offer me security of Eternal Life that none other can offer; and, I want to know that God loves me, as He has stated in John 3: 16. I want God to keep an eye on me when:

- I am trying to make a decision about my life or when I am making decisions about family;
- Someone ‘does me wrong’ and my initial reaction is to ‘get revenge’;
- I make a poor choice about a situation and I need Holy Intervention to follow Isaiah 30: 21;
- I stop reading/studying my Bible or my prayer life hits rock-bottom;
- My wife needs me and I am too busy with other things;
- He sends me a lost soul and I am unsure how to be a Witness for Jesus to this person;
- I hit a golf ball in the water and my initial reaction is to throw the club in after it;
- I have a bill to pay and my checking account is less than the amount of the bill;
- I feel all others have abandoned me and I am alone and depressed;
- Reading The Word of God and what I do in life is not in sync;
- My child is rebellious and my solution is for him/her to hurry up and get out on their own;
- My parents need me and I don’t have any time to devote to them;
- I am asked to serve on a committee at my church and I am ‘way too busy for it’;
- My skin color gives me the illusion that God is a respecter of ‘it’, instead of my Soul;
- My neighbor is gravely ill, yet I don’t even know his or her name;
- I think in terms of ‘me’ to the exclusion of ‘them’ when it relates to my family;
- I get a speeding ticket, and as soon as the officer leaves, I consider cussing that ‘little’ citation;
- ...ever I need it, all the time, and as a continuum on my Life’s time line.

Life is a short thing, in case you have not discovered that fact. It's here today, and gone in the twinkling of an eye. But while we are here, I want God to keep an eye on me and give me appropriate corrective action. I'd rather be corrected by God now than to be carefree about His presence in my life. When my granddaughter asked me to keep an eye on her, it gave her comfort in a big ole world where so many times, things don't always make sense. Below is an iPhone app named, "*Watch Over Me.*" It has the following characteristics (unfortunately, service shut down 31 August 2016 due to funding limitations; converted to open source coding, hopefully to continue):

When An Emergency Is Triggered, *Watch Over Me* Does 3 Things



Alerts Your Loved Ones

Your loved ones are notified via email, SMS or Facebook when you shake your phone or fail to check in safely. They're also provided with the information they will need to make sure you're safe.



Track Your Location

The app tracks your location every minute from the moment you tell it to until you tell it to stop, or your phone runs out of juice. If you don't check in safely, the app sends your location to your loved ones so they know where to find you.



Turn On Your Camera

If you shake your phone to trigger an emergency, *Watch Over Me* turns your smartphone's camera on to record a 10-second video. This snippet is then sent to your loved ones so they can figure out what's going on.

- Please follow up with this open-source app, as it has enormous potential for our children, particularly, and our families in all regards.

Neat app, huh? Well, keeping an eye on me is another way to say, watch over me. Imagine if our lives had this type of app? For those of us who are just ordinary Christians, don't we have that app—it's named The Holy Bible. Here's how it works in comparison to the app, *Watch Over Me*. The Holy Bible, App Feature #1: Love is the Link that Binds; App Feature #2: Never Leave You Nor Forsake You; and, App Feature #3: 'I see You.....' How does this equate to 'keep an eye on me?' First, 'Love is the Link that Binds' us to God and to each other. The love I have for my granddaughter (and family) binds me to her in terms of her well-being, safety, and character development. Second, the aspect of 'Never Leave You Nor Forsake You' is the assurance that Jesus will not leave us in our time of need or of desires and God knows our 'GPS location' at all times. And, thirdly, 'I see You.....' is the Truth that God never loses sight of us even when we are rebellious or unworthy of His consideration. He sees us in our humility, prayer life, giving, sacrifice, love to family, and all aspects of our lives.

When my granddaughter asked Taterpop to, 'Keep an eye on her', it was a most beautiful request. It created a memory in my heart that will be there for the rest of my days. Her precious voice reminds me that my own voice should sound so sweet before the Throne of Grace and Mercy and that in obedience before God, I should seek to remember my own request before the Lord: "Keep an eye on me, God."

A Question of Curiosity:

When we are Saved by Grace, we enter into the Watchful Eyes of Heaven. As we begin to understand that God is keeping an eye on us, should we do any less for our family members and friends and the lost? Keep an eye on them, and when they have need, answer the call...this is not a True or False question...there is only one Correct answer. Read Lincoln's words below...

"If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what's said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference." *President Abraham Lincoln*

What Abraham Lincoln said in this quote causes me to think that Mr. Lincoln was thinking about God watching over him as he made decisions that impacted the greatest nation to have ever been conceived. I can imagine him having just read Psalm 121: 7-8 when he made this statement.

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“No matter how old you are, it's comforting to know that you are a child of God. You belong to a loving, protective Father. God, who is everywhere, keeps watch over you and is always ready to listen when you want to talk with him.” ~ Jack Zavada ~

Psalm 121:1-8, NIV: “I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

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My Prayer For You:

Heavenly Father, you have given me and the family a Blessing in our Granddaughter (and Grandson). She is a Voice like that for which I would look for from Heaven. I pray that there are many families who look to You for these Blessings and that when they are recognized, they will Honor them and give You the Honor for the very lives of these Blessings. Keep an eye on us, Lord, and stir in us the Spirit to do more for You, give more in Your service, and be more like Jesus. It is my prayer that we will look to the Heavens as a reminder that You ARE there and You are as real to us as the wind that blows across our face. Keep an eye on us, O God, because when we are tempted to get –out-of-sight, out-of-mind, no good thing comes from that attitude or our actions. Remind us that in Christ Jesus, we are in Your Will and that when You keep an eye on us, our path is made straight. I pray the following Holy Scripture: Isaiah 30: 21 (NIV): “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it’.” As you watch over us, be that voice we hear that guides us on the path to Heavenly Mindedness so that our Earthly Good is not about us, but about Honoring You for Your Goodness to each of us who have accepted Christ Jesus. Keep An Eye On Me, Lord, because I am a sinner saved by Grace and I never again desire to be Out-of-Your-Sight. It is my prayer for anyone reading this that they will realize what these words truly mean to them personally. You ARE our God, and Your Love is more powerful than the mightiest of winds. In Jesus, Amen.



**Eye of God Photo
The Helix Nebula
NGC 7293**

GOD WATCHES ME