



A BLUEPRINT FOR AMAZING GRACE

Ephesians 2:8 – 10, Psalm 121

March 5, 2023

Jon Field, Lead Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Psalm 121 (NIV) *A song of ascents.*

- 1 *I lift up my eyes to the mountains — 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.*

God is watching over us with amazing grace:

- **Even in the uncertainty**

— *Psalm 121:1 (NIV)*

— *Psalm 121:2 (NIV)*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8 – 9 (ESV)

“Sorrow, I guess, and disappointment in letting down the teammates that are there on the field of battle with you. I get choked up thinking about it, putting myself back in that situation.” — Scott Norwood, Buffalo Bills

“I know that I have never felt more loved than I do right now.” — Scott Norwood, Buffalo Bills

Grace: *“God’s amazing goodness freely given to undeserving people.”*

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved ... — Ephesians 2:4 – 5 (ESV)

“We are uncertain of the next step; but we are certain of God.” — Oswald Chambers

— *Psalm 121:3 (NIV)*

- **Even in the heat**

— *Psalm 121:5 – 6 (NIV)*

For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. — Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. — Acts 4:33 (ESV)



“Philip Yancy asks, ‘Is it absurd to believe that one human being, a tiny dot on a tiny planet, can make a difference in the history of the universe?’ It’s not. In fact, that’s exactly how God deigned His Kingdom. He heals and matures people in order to bring His grace to others who are broken. He uses their gifts, passions, and healing heart to reveal the glory of Jesus.” — The Cure

- **Even in the darkness**

— *Psalm 121:6 (NIV)*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

— *Romans 8:35 – 37 (ESV)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share your favorite song of all time (any song, not just the churchy ones) and your favorite hymn if you have one.
- Read Psalm 121. We are told God is “watching over us” five times in the Psalm. Discuss some of the settings that we are reminded that God is “watching over” us and why it is significant.
- Read Ephesians 2:8 – 9. Why is God’s grace a “gift” and not a “result of works”? What does that mean?
- What key truth did you take away from the teaching this Sunday?
- The song “Amazing Grace,” written by John Newton, is the most commonly known Christian hymn. Look up the words to the song and share which part is the most significant to you and why.
- If we are saved by grace, that means we are justified, sanctified and glorified by grace. Discuss what each of those parts of our salvation represent and why that makes God’s grace all the more amazing.
- Pastor Jon defined grace as “God’s amazing goodness freely given to undeserving people.” What are some other ways to define or describe God’s grace given through Jesus Christ?
- God is watching over us with His amazing grace even in the uncertainty, even in the heat and even in the darkness. Which one of those experiences of God’s grace is the most important to you right now and why?