



9/9/26

Some people are pet owners and some are pet parents. I'm a pet parent. And because of that, my email is going to look a little different today. Yesterday, on my baby's 13th birthday, after coming to get me for our morning walk, Toby's heart just couldn't beat any longer, and the Lord decided it was time for his little body to rest.

Instead of going through Philippians 3:1-11 today, I'm going to go through Psalm 121. But I encourage you to still go through Philippians 3. The resolve of vs. 7-11 is true for me no matter what the day looks like. And I'll be talking about it on the Chosen and Cherished podcast in a few weeks. But yesterday morning, I think the Lord was preparing my heart for what was about to happen as I started putting Psalm 121 to a melody for my grandkids.

I'm going to use Psalm 121 as my prayer to my God. I know my dog was a dog, but he brought me joy every single day of his life. He didn't have a mean bone in his body. He loved everyone. He taught me what pure devotion looks like, so that I could be more purely devoted to my Lord. Though I know my sweet boy is not grieving or in pain, I feel his loss... and so I cry out to my Abba Father for His comfort. I praise Him that a day is coming when pain and sorrow will be no more. I pray that day comes soon.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 121

"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."

O Lord, as I walked Toby in the dark yesterday morning, not knowing that it was the last time we'd walk together, I lifted up my eyes toward heaven and saw Your stars so perfectly aligned in their place. The same God who holds those stars in place is the one who holds me now. No matter what anyone else thinks about a woman crying over her dog, I know that You are still the God of all comfort who comforts me in ALL my affliction. This is just another way I get to

experience Your love.

I know You love animals. Jesus is gonna ride in on a white horse. You speak of the lion laying down with the lamb. I need You, Lord. I need Your peace and Your comfort. I know You will be here. Your word promises in Psalm 118:5, "Out of my distress I cried out to the Lord. The Lord answered me and set me free." I know that this sadness is a good thing, because it shows all the love and joy You poured out on our family for 13 years. And I know You will pour it out on us in our sadness and help us in our distress.

"He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

O Lord, no matter what I go through, please hold my feet secure so that I never walk away from You. I know You're paying attention. I know You see me. I know that whether I'm asleep or awake, You're there, not just watching me, but protecting me because You love me.

I know that all the suffering we face in this world is temporary. No suffering touches those who belong to You without also carrying with it the promise that You'll work good through it. You don't call the suffering good, but You work good through the suffering. You say in Isaiah 63:9, "In ALL our affliction, He was afflicted." And in Psalm 56:8, David writes, "You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?" It doesn't say some of my tears or only certain kinds of tears. It just says tears.

"The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night."

The Israelites would sing this psalm while they were traveling to Jerusalem for the feasts. They were singing about how You would protect them from the heat of the sun and from robbers. I wish this meant that I would never suffer. I know from too many other passages that it doesn't. But from an eternal perspective, I know that my salvation is secure and You continue to protect me from those who would want to rob my joy and my hope. Someday, I will travel to my heavenly home, and no one will be able to stop me from coming home to You when you call me home. Until then, I know that You protect my soul.

"The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore."

Jesus Himself prayed in John 17:15, on the night of His arrest, just a few hours before He was arrested, "I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one." O Lord, I know that the brokenness of this world brings a lot of suffering and pain. And the god of this world would like nothing more than to corrupt me and destroy me, but You keep me from his snare.

I will hold to the fact that when You do allow the brokenness of this world to touch me, even

though I have also been guilty of contributing to its brokenness, You still protect my soul from evil. And though I prayed almost every day for Toby's 13 years that You would keep him with us for 14 years, I also prayed that he would have good quality of life... and he did... all the way until the very end. Anytime Your answer is no, I trust that You always have a better yes.

O Lord, thank You for still being my comfort even when Your answer is no. I trust that You have a much bigger picture in mind than what my finite eyes can see. I will continue to lift my eyes to You and welcome Your comfort, love, hope, and protection. I will look forward to the day You put an end to all pain and sorrow because of Your goodness.