

God Sees! God Cares! God Holds!

We live in a world where, I would speculate, a great percentage of our populace feel like a very tiny cog in a massive wheel that just keeps rolling out of control. Unlike many in my peer group, and definitely in my children's, I do not share the enjoyment of riding incredibly wild rides at amusement parks. The word "amuse" comes from the old French, from *a-* (expressing causal effect) + *muser*: "*stare stupidly*." Breaking down the root of the word, it means "to act stupidly." I fly often and I have been on two emergency landings and missed a flight that crashed on which I was scheduled. But even though I fly through inclement weather and take some minor risks, I can justify it by saying I have a purpose, i.e. to preach and teach the Word of God when I arrive at my location. However, to strap yourself into an experience of unnatural G-forces, to be turned upside down and slung from side to side like a rag doll, just for the thrill of it, borders on the true meaning of amusement (to act stupidly). What I think most of us will agree with, whether or not you share my sentiments about rides, is that most of us are unnerved and very uncomfortable when placed in an environment when we are out of control. And many of us feel like this about the direction of our life. Am I talking to someone like that today? Do you feel strapped into your assigned seat and you don't like your ride nor do you appreciate all the twists and turns and you end up exactly where you left off? You have gone nowhere and the ride was uncomfortable. Henry

David Thoreau made a statement with which I agree: “How sad to come to the end of your life only to discover you never lived.”

How do we cope in a world gone as mad as bedbugs in hot ashes? Let us consider and give thought to the God Who is never out of control. I would suggest we rest in three wonderful truths: 1. We are never, ever out of God's sight: “...*I will guide thee with mine eye*” (Psalm 32:8), 2. God's care: “...*for he careth for you*” (I Peter 5:7) or 3. God's hand: “...*neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*” (John 10:28).

1. We are never out of God's sight!

The Lord says, “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye*” (Psalm 32:8). How sweet to know this truth. God saw us before we were born. He says in Jeremiah 1:5, “*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee....*” In the New Testament Paul said, “*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace*” (Galatians 1:15). God sees us now. The Bible says, “*Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy*” (Psalm 33:18). We find in Psalm 139:3, “*Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.*” God sees us when this life is through. The Psalmist said, “*Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me*

to glory” (Psalm 73:24). Again the Bible says, “*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:7).

When the Devil threatens you like a lion and the world stalks you as a wolf, God is there, seeing you and ready to take your defense. The brokenhearted mother cried, “... *Thou God seest me...*” (Genesis 16:13). The Psalmist rejoiced, “*Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance*” (Psalm 32:7).

Take comfort when you feel passed over, for the Lord sees you. When you did not receive recognition for something good that you have done (and to make matters worse, someone else took the credit), God saw that! When your deeds are misinterpreted and misunderstood, the Lord saw your heart.

We live not for this world and the pats on the back that never come or the worldly recognition for all the good you may do in this lifetime. To encourage your heart, consider these words in the final chapter of the Bible, Jesus said, “*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*” (Revelation 22:12). One day, He Who has seen it all and kept record, shall make all things right! Thanks be to God.

2. We are never out of God’s care.

Unthinkable atrocities have been committed for unthinkable and indefensible reasons. A rather trivial atrocity at a place where mass murders and cruelties were committed illustrates this. At one of the concentration camps run by the Nazis during World War II, a prisoner suffering from thirst saw a long frozen ice cycle hanging outside his barred window. As he carefully reached through the bars to take this perceived treasure to slake his thirst, a guard cruelly knocked the ice cycle to the ground and stomped it as the prisoner cried and asked, “Why, why why?” The guard said, “Here there are no reasons.” And much of the cruelties that I have witnessed, read or been informed of also have no reasons. In a depraved society, one of the harshest realities is that many of our citizens just don’t care. Regularly, eyewitnesses of preventable crimes give this for their reason, “I didn’t want to get involved.” I am reminded of the words of Lamentation, which read, “*Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me...*” (Lamentations 1:12).

I am pleased to re-inform the children of God that God cares for you and is already involved! God declares, “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you*” (I Peter 5:7). The unchanging and unmovable God tells us to “*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved*” (Psalm 55:22). Yes, God sees and God cares!

(3) We are never out of God’s hand.

The comfort being spoken of is restricted to God's children. This is one reason we try to persuade others to become Christians. Besides an eternity in Heaven, we reap the benefits on earth, such as protection and provision. Jesus said, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand*" (John 10:27-29).

God who sees our dilemmas, our hurts and conundrums is not going to sit by and let a person who is seeking His help flounder in his miseries. I remember like yesterday being effortlessly pulled up into the air by my father. I can remember his grip, firm, but not crushing, as he lifted me off of his shoes on which I was standing and into the air. He was not gasping for air, he was not straining. I moved past his waist, passed his chest and then eye to eye. I see it now in my memory, his smiling eyes. Are you feeling like you are on a roller coaster and out of control? The truth is you and I may be. But God is never out of control. See Him in your mind's eyes, lifting you out of the quagmire. He is not winded nor strained. There is no problem stronger than His grip. As one uncouth, but "right-on" hillbilly preacher said one day, "His grip don't slip!" I say Amen! "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand*" (Psalm 37:4,5). "*The LORD upholdeth all*

that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down”
(Psalm 145:14). We are never out of God’s hand!

-Pastor Pope-