
BEACON 25TH MARCH 2020

LIFT UP YOUR EYES !



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Psalm 121 1

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. indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

WHAT IS AFFIRMATION??

Well the dictionary explains affirmations as these words: assertion, confirmation , certification declaration ratification, stamp of approval. and this got me thinking where does my affirmation come from?

Well it used to come from my work, and as most of you don't know what I do i thought I'd try to explain.

Ever seen the Olympics opening ceremony? a concert? a big flashy tv show. My job is basically to do design and operate the lighting , video and various other bits of equipment for these. I've been very blessed to work with some of the most recognisable names in the game, and do some of the biggest shows.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?”

Where did my affirmation come from? Ask me that question a few years ago and the answer most certainly would have been my work. It was the wrong place. It was in people that I sort my stamp of approval, in the jobs I'd done. But did this satisfy me? Did it make me feel secure? No. It didn't.

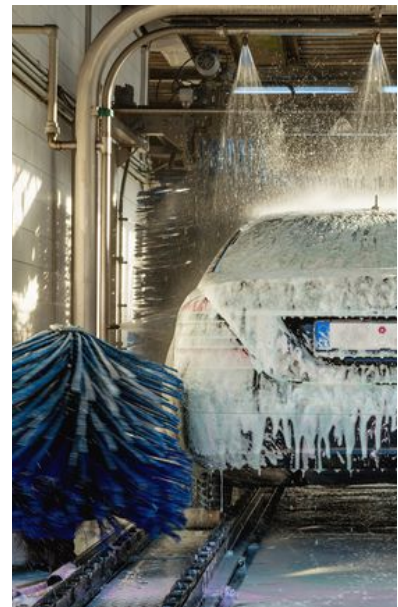
Where should it come from ?

Psalm 121 // would have been sung as Israel approached "the hill of the Lord" to worship Him (Psalm 15:1; 24:3). But.. mountains on which Israel met with God was not the only possible object of their attention. "The hills" — many nations worshiped their false gods // appeared as alluring havens of hope, or intimidating causes of concern. Either way, the psalmist's appraisal of his situation reflects the place in which we all find ourselves. Our help comes only from the hill of the Lord — the Lord who made all the hills (Psalm 121:2). All other hills we see before us in life can neither rescue us nor destroy us.

When we are looking for the Hill of the Lord, it stands clear above any other hill, any other worry, any anxiety

I needed to get the car washed the other day and for the first time ever, I went into one of these car washes where you pop your front tire on a little track and then let go of the steering wheel and off you go, hoping and trusting you'll come out clean and without any scratches.

Now within the first minute of being in this car wash, and like an idiot I had selected the extra foamy wash, I couldn't see anything. There was nothing to see, all the windows were foamed up. Now the car went in dirty, the car went through some uncertain times, and I had to trust that I was going to come out the other side clean. So we need to look, not at the foam and where it is, but trusting that we are always going to be on the track, on the journey. God's journey for our lives. Knowing we came into this Christian dirty but we will come out clean thanks to Jesus.



Sometimes we find ourselves in despair. We live in a fallen world. By the end of all our stories — were it not for a cross, and a cross stood on a particular hill, two thousand years ago. Jesus climbed that hill and took on the greatest obstacle humanity has ever faced — the just wrath of God because of our sin. Christ suffered for our sins, "the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

"the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God"

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1)

We need to have a trust and a hope at the base of Calvary’s hill, that Jesus our Lord and Saviour has got us in His hands.

Let’s not worry but instead Lift our Eyes to the Hills, because thats where God is, and thats where our true help comes from .

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are”



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