

# Experiencing the Immanence of God

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1. In Psalm 121:1 the Psalmist recognizes a basic truth: We all need help. In verse 2 the Psalmist says his help comes from the only One who is truly able to help: “the Lord.”
    - a. How do you know God is *able* to be your help?
    - b. How is God described in the following verses?
 

Psalm 18:30 —	Proverbs 30:5 —
Psalm 46:1 —	Isaiah 12:2 —
Psalm 91:2 —	
    - c. How do the following verses describe those who trust in the Lord?
 

Psalm 21:7 —	Proverbs 28:25 —
Psalm 32:10 —	Proverbs 29:25 —
Psalm 125:1 —	Jeremiah 17:7 —
Proverbs 16:20 —	
    - d. Where does your help come from?
  2. Psalm 121:3 say, “He will not allow your foot to be moved.” Think about the significance this verse would have for pilgrims traveling up to Jerusalem to worship. The roads of ancient Israel were not like our roads today; they were muddy, they had potholes and rocks, it could be very dangerous to walk on them, it would be very easy to slip or to lose your footing. Just like those roads in ancient Israel this life can be a dangerous journey to travel.
    - a. How does Psalm 119:165 characterize those who love God’s Law (Word)?
    - b. How does Proverbs 13:15 describe the road (way) of the sinful (unfaithful)?
  3. “Bishop Bashford, in one of his Episcopal tours in China, was one night compelled to sleep outdoors, under the trees, though the hotel keeper warned him about marauders. Being watchful and wakeful awhile, he thought of the words of the Psalmist and then said to the Lord, ‘There is no use both of us being awake,’ so he slept the sleep of the just.” Bishop Bashford was living out the truth of Psalm 121:3-4.
    - a. Is there ever a time when God’s care for you lapses?
    - b. How should you react to the truth that God is always watchful never asleep on the job?
  4. The same Hebrew word (shamar) is translated “keeps,” “keeper” and “preserve.”
    - a. Count how many times the Psalmist uses this Hebrew word.
    - b. What point do you think he is trying to make?
  5. The word pictures of Psalm 121 paint a very intimate picture; according to verses 5 and 6, how “near” is God?
    - a. If you cannot feel God’s presence does it indicate that He is not near?
    - b. What does Hebrews 13:5 say?
    - c. According to verse 8, how long will God be with you?
  6. Why is it hard to feel God’s presence?
    - a. What are some of the dangers of living by experience?
    - b. What are the dangers of having a disconnected view of God?
  7. How can you “draw near to God” this week?
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## Read: Joshua 1:1-18

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### Monday

v. 1,2 — How might Joshua have reacted to the death of Moses? The normal reaction might have been one of despair or fear. Do you think Joshua might have been afraid to be saddled with the responsibility he saw Moses wrestle with? Think about how often the children of Israel rebelled against Moses and God, how often they complained, how many sinful people Joshua was put in charge of! But Joshua had not only witnessed the ugly side of Moses' ministry; what else had he observed?

### Tuesday

v. 1-6 — The book of Joshua begins with God beginning to fulfill the promises He made to Abraham; it was time for the Children of Israel to possess the Promised Land. What assurances did God give Joshua as they began to undertake this monumental task? It must have been awesomely reassuring to Joshua to know that God Himself would be with them as they fought (v. 5b). If you are a child of God you have that same assurance today (see Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20).

### Wednesday

v. 7,8 — God told Joshua that to live according to His Word was going to take great courage. Anyone that desires to live according to God's word today is going to need a lot of that, too. So many elements in our culture and society run contrary to the clear precepts in God's Word and it can be uncomfortable to choose the way of righteousness. It takes courage to live according to God's Word but the reality is it takes more "courage" (perhaps foolish bravado) to live *contrary* to God's Word (Ps. 1:6).

### Thursday

v. 9 — Verse 9 echoes the truth of verse 5: "God is with you wherever you go." Joshua could be confident (of good courage) because he knew he was doing God's will ("Have I not commanded you?") That is one of the supreme blessings of living by the Word of God: You know you are in the center of God's will. We can have that same confidence today by living according to the principals found in the Bible (II Tim. 2:15).

### Friday

v. 10-15 — Joshua was always quick to obey the commands of God, you get the sense that as soon as God finished speaking to Joshua he jumped into action. He may have been waiting to hear from God or he may have simply developed a lifestyle of obedience to the Word of God. Notice there is no hesitation in Joshua's words, no holding back anything God had communicated to him. Joshua was clearly a man of action and a man of obedience; in fact it is impossible to be obedient *without* taking action. Are there any areas of your life where you need to emulate Joshua? Remember these words: "For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (Jas. 1:23-25).

### Saturday

Acts 14:23-28 — The people agreed to do all Joshua commanded them. Do you think he was encouraged when they said, "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you"? Remembering their bickering and rebellion against Moses, he might have been thinking, "Oh great!" Even the congregation of Israel reminded Joshua to "be strong and of good courage," a theme that is repeated throughout the Book of Joshua. Joshua would lead the children of Israel in victory after victory and just as God had promised, no one could stand before them. Joshua was strong and Joshua was a man of great courage—but only because of his faith in the great God of Israel.

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