



DATE	September 23, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	My Help
SERIES	The Bible has a lot to say to each of us. Different verses speak to us at different times, but often, there are a few highlighted verses we keep coming back to. Let's hear from our pastors about the verses they live by and why they're so meaningful.

In today's message we wrap up this incredible series on the scriptures that has given us not only Biblical insight, but a more personal look at what God's living Word means to our leaders. Hopefully you have benefitted from the practical application of these verses in the lives of those we look to for guidance and teaching. We end the series with Pastor David's look at the beloved Psalm 121.

1. David began with the story of his neighbor's hesitancy in asking for help to move a trampoline. Is it difficult for you to ask for help? Why or why not? What bothers you the most... Seeming weak? Concerned you will get let down? Can't count on others so you do it yourself? Discuss these questions among your group.

David made six observations about God's help taken from Psalm 121.

- a. Starts with a change in viewpoint or focus (v. 1)
- b. Is defined by answers, alternatives, or assurances from Him (v. 2)
- c. Is a steady confidence; not the absence of difficulty (v. 3)
- d. Is never inactive or unavailable (v. 4)
- e. Doesn't keep us from trouble, but keeps us from evil while we are in trouble (v. 5-7)
- f. Provides comfort, calm, and a desire for a permanent relationship (v. 8)

2. Have you asked God for help and possibly thought He failed you because the answer did not come the way you thought it should? Looking back, how did God have his hand in your situation and speak through with answers, alternatives to do something different, or in giving you assurance that you can trust Him?

3. Many times we focus so much on our problem we allow ourselves to be shaken. God's help doesn't keep us from trouble but gives us a steady confidence in the midst of it. How do Mark 4:35-41 and Matthew 14:28-31 support the important concept of keeping our eyes and viewpoint focused on God rather than our situation?

4. God wants to keep us from evil while we are in trouble because the enemy of our soul seeks to kill, steal, and destroy, according to John 10:10. God is not evil and isn't to blame for evil, but how can He use evil for His purposes? Read Genesis 50:20, Isaiah 61:3, and Romans 8:28.

5. Have you been the recipient of consequences of someone else's poor choices and suffered because of it? Share with your group as God leads and you feel comfortable.

6. Have you ever struggled with questions like Why is this happening to me? Why is God allowing this? If so, what did you do to shift your viewpoint from the mountain to the Maker?

May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to ask for help, know where to turn, and the strength to hang on!