

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
25th May 2021**

READINGS

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.
He will not let your foot slip--
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you--
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm--
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:10-14



REFLECTION

Quite a few years ago I walked the West Highland Way with a colleague as part of his retirement wish-list. This was my first long distance walk, but not my last.

I mention this because I was looking for photographs for an illustration for the online service recently when I came across the photos from our West Highland Way walk, and the photos made me think about the walk all over again.

There are parts of the West Highland Way where you cannot see too far in front of you, even on a clear day, because the Way goes over hills and into glens, and the path ahead is hidden from view most of the time. And as a result, you end up with a limited horizon.

Of course, when you get to the top of a climb,
You can look and see the glorious view,
You can look back and see what you have achieved,
And you can look forward and see where you are going,
And get a fix on your bearings.

I'll let you on a secret,
There were some occasions where I told my colleague that I wanted to sit down and take in the view. After all, it would be a shame to waste the opportunity to see such glorious sights.
But that was a bit of a lie to be honest.
Don't get me wrong, the view was wonderful,
But in all truthfulness, I just wanted to sit down because I was really tired!
And there were certainly times on that walk when I was glad that my horizon was limited. I was glad that all I had to do was put one foot in front of the other, because if I had been able to see what lay ahead, I might not have been willing to go on!

So, it is in our faith.

For the truth is we cannot see the whole picture of what God is doing with our lives. It's difficult to know what lies ahead. Instead, we live with a limited horizon. We have to trust God for what lies beyond. And, like my walk, that's no bad thing, because, if we knew the answer before we began, would we bother doing anything?

We are called to trust God. To trust God for what lies beyond the horizon, and to keep going in faith.

There will always be times when we get a chance to look back and see what has been achieved, a chance to get a new viewpoint, a chance to rest before moving on.

So let us look to the hills. Let us look to our God. Let us trust God, and let us go on in our faith trusting in God's goodness.

PRAYER

Lord God,
You call us to journey in faith with you,
You call us to follow you,
You promise us your companionship and your guidance.

Lord,
We are not too sure where we are going,
Or what lies ahead,
But we trust in you,
And we will follow your way.

Loving Lord,
Show us that way,
Show us how to be your people.

In Jesus name we offer our prayers,
Amen.

