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I Will Keep You

Anna Bennett

Southern Adventist University, annabennett@southern.edu

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“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.”
Isaiah 42:6

I Will Keep You

Do you ever feel like God is far off? Perhaps you’re so caught up in the chaos and busyness of the day to day tasks that God seems barely reachable, let alone recognizable. Perhaps you’ve been asking for something specific for quite some time but don’t seem to be able to hear God’s response, if He’s even speaking.

While I was reading in Exodus today as a part of my unrushed time with God, something stood out to me: “The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation,” Exodus 34:5-7.

God came down.

The Almighty King of the Universe, victorious and righteous, who holds all authority in heaven and on earth - this big and awesome God comes down to be face to face with Moses and to reveal His beautiful character as a reminder and a promise.

While He is “big enough” to hold the world in the palm of His hand and cause the planets to run their course and holds the stars in their place within the galaxies, He is also a personal God, highly interested in the most intimate details of our lives, our thoughts, and our emotions.

What great comfort is there in knowing just as Isaiah records:

He is our God;
He has called us,
He holds us,
He keeps us.

Just to make sure we have a good picture of this, listen to what one commentator says as he dives into these two words “hold” and “keep” specifically:
“and will hold thine hand: denoting his presence with him, and nearness unto him; his favour and affection for him; his counsel and direction of him; the support and assistance he gave him; and the strength he received from him as man, to go through his work:

and will keep thee; as the apple of his eye, being dear unto him; from being hurt by his enemies till the time came to be delivered into their hands; and from miscarrying in his work; and from the power of the grave, so as to be long detained in it," (Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible).

For whatever reason, it may feel like God is somewhere far off, but I pray these words over you today:

Father God, as we strive to make Jesus the Main Thing in our personal lives and on this campus, I pray that You will not only hold us in your comforting hand, but come down and pour Your Spirit out, that You would dwell in us and in our midst and bring Your glorious presence right up next to our faces, that we would be able to behold You, become changed by You, and walk with you hand in hand through each situation and circumstance we navigate today. May we know You intimately, oh God, and may we be fully known by You, is our prayer, in Your name, amen.

-Anna Bennett