



Ransom Notes

Peeking Through the Clouds

A friend sent me this gorgeous cloud shot, suggesting that perhaps I could use it as part of a Ransom Note. I quickly responded I would love to and thanked him.

For several weeks the image has brightened my day, but no miracle subject floated forward. Then today my eyes refocused. It's not the clouds that make this photo so gorgeous. In fact, the upper portion even hints of forth coming storms.

No, not the cloud, but the holes in the cloud, allowing the blue to shine through. Those holes, in my imagination, represented openings to allow the eyes of God to peek through. Now what?

My mind scrambled to realign, focusing on God's eyes, rather than the fluffy, storm cloud. Just imagine for a moment that God is peeking through the opening, tracking our every step. Is that good news, or a troubling thought? Remember when we were in school, how often we just knew that the teacher had eyes in the back of her/his head, catching us misbehaving or daydreaming? I think, even parents, sometimes had that same skill.

But hold it just a moment. A song in Psalm 121 describes the author looking up to the mountains, acknowledging his help comes from the Lord. Then the beautiful third and fourth verses follow. "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 chapter ends with verse eight. "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

How great is our Lord? He is our Father, but unlike our earthly parents, He is forever, and ever, and ever watching and caring for his children. He has not left us alone. Psalm 40 even reminds us that He hears our cries, lifts us out of a slimy pit of despair, and plops our feet on firm ground, and puts a hymn of praise in our mouth. That is quite a promise, when life gets a bit tricky for us.

It is so easy to think no one really cares as you struggle to meet tough family responsibilities, new daily challenges at work or school, or tough health issues. Children's author, Madeleine L'Engle, shared a special thought worth remembering. "Maybe you have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light." So pick up your imaginary telescope and aim it at the blue hole. Yes, I can see God blinking at me with his "all seeing eyes." This cloud is not all storm. As we refocus, the bright white areas reflect the sun shining through.

As we struggle with life, try to focus on one problem at a time. Balance the problem solving aspect also with daily attempts to find at least one positive thought or blessing you received that day. Jot the positive down in a tiny log or diary. Then share that joy with the Lord, as you thank him for your daily blessing. Remember that He has you in his sight.

Finally, just as you switch off your light, tv, or cellphone for the night, glance once more at this cloud.

Imagine God is winking at you,
or maybe even shedding a little tear on your behalf.

He does watch over us.

We just need to remember to look and reach out our hand for help.
Let Him grab hold, and then return his wink.

