

7 *Shew thy marvelous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.*  
8 ¶ *Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, (Psalm 17:7-8)*

There are times when the child of God is painfully aware of his enemies. He knows well that God truly and surely saves all who put their trust and confidence in Him; but there are times when he feels especially threatened, when his emotions and fears obscure the truth from his eyes of faith. At such times he cries to the Lord for tokens of assurance, for certain manifestations of God's power and love that will keep him from the terrors that assail his soul.

He wants God to *show* His lovingkindness. He knows it in his mind. The Bible speaks of it. He has experienced it in the past. But now he wants to be able to see it, feel it, heart it, taste it, sense it. God has many ways of demonstrating such lovingkindness to His children. He is often pleased to do so, and we should not hesitate to ask Him.

Secondly, he wants to be *kept*. And what a request this is! He wants to be kept as the "apple of the eye." This is an expression meaning the eyeball itself. The eyeball is the most protected part of the body that is exposed. It must be exposed in order to perform its function. So must we. We are to be the light of the world, a witness to a world lying in darkness. We cannot be covered as a "light under a bushel." But like the eyeball, we are ever in the presence of destructive, hostile forces. The Creator has provided a marvelous reflex system that instantly covers the eye at the least threat. Our God does so garrison us, His children, as the apple of His Own eye. He will protect and shield us as a part of His own body.

Thirdly, he wants to be *hidden*. "Hide me under the shadow of thy wings." The imagery here is as a hen calls her chicks under her wings when danger of any kind threatens. In actual fact, God seldom literally hides His children from hostile factions in the world as He once did Elijah. But He does cover us with the invisible shield of Himself so that the assaults, the darts and arrows of the enemy cannot reach us. what unspeakable joy and comfort to know that he who pierces us must first pierce God Himself!

-C.M.