

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Introduction:

1. This song was written by Mrs. C. D. Martin and copyrighted in 1966.
2. The song originated from a period of prolonged illness.
3. Civilla Martin wrote: "Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bed-ridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" was the outcome of that experience.
4. The song presents three aspects of facing heartache and suffering in this life:

I. Reassurance

Stanza 1

Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come,
 Why should my heart be lonely, And long for heav'n and home,
 When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He;
 His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

- A. The questions asked are reminders that discouragement is real, even for children of God.
 1. The children became discouraged when they spied out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:33).
 2. As a result, they became unbelievers (Deuteronomy 1:32; Hebrews 3:19).
- B. In times of discouragement, the Christian needs reassurance.
 1. From Heaven (cf. Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43)
 2. From Scripture (Acts 20:32; Colossians 2:7; Jude 20)
 3. From brethren (Hebrews 10:24; 13:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- C. Interestingly, singing can play a role in one's reassurance (Colossians 3:16).
- D. The knowledge of one's fellowship with the Savior helps in defeating discouragement.

II. Resources

Stanza 2

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
 And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears,
 Tho by the path He leadeth, But one step I may see;
 His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

- A. In times of discouragement, the Christian has resources to help.
- B. The examples of the faithful give courage (Hebrews 12:1).
- C. The example of Jesus provides perspective (Hebrews 12:2-4).
- D. The love of God grants motivation (Hebrews 12:5-6).
- E. The blessing from Heaven supply perseverance (Hebrews 12:22-24).
- F. The knowledge of God's goodness and faithfulness enable the Christian to endure any discouragement.

III. Rejoicing

Stanza 3

Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,
 When song gives place to sighing, When hope within me dies,
 I draw the closer to Him; From care He sets me free;
 His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

- A. The word "rejoice" is found some 64 times in the New Testament; "joy" is found 73 times; "glad" is found 36 times; and "happy" is found 6 times.
- B. Though the early church faced difficulties and discouragement, they remained a people of rejoicing! (Cf. Acts 2:46; 16:25)
- C. Remembering the care of the Savior should cause one to draw closer to Him, even in times of trouble (John 14:1, 27).
- D. The Christian can rejoice at all times! (Cf. Philippians 4:4)

Conclusion: Chorus

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
 For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

- 1. God sees us in suffering.
- 2. God sees us in sickness.
- 3. God sees us in sorrow.
- 4. God sees us in sin.
- 5. God sees and He cares!