

## The Apple of God's Eye

Psalm 17:8

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Perhaps our lesson title strikes you as odd, maybe contrived. Could someone ask to be the apple of God's eye? David did. He asked Jehovah in a prayer we know of as the 17th Psalm. Verse eight reads:

Keep me as the apple of the eye;  
Hide me in the shadow of Thy wings,...

David goes on in the next few verses to identify the reason he made such a request of God. He is concerned about those he calls his "deadly enemies." They surround him. They have closed their unfeeling hearts and set their eyes to cast him down to the ground. Speaking of his enemy he says, "He is like a lion who is eager to tear,.." Consequently, David seeks protection from the Lord. "Hide me in the shadow of Thy wings," he begs. Surely he could feel safe from those who desired his harm if he could but be found close to God, safely under cover of those heavenly wings which are stretched to shelter all those who long to be in the safety of the Savior's care.

But what was David asking when he said, "Keep me as the apple of the eye"? If I say to you, "You are the apple of my eye," admiration and affection are suggested. Perhaps the same is involved in David's request, but scholars say that the words in the original Hebrew literally mean, "Keep me as the pupil, the daughter of the eye" or "the little man of the eye." Such a thought develops from a very close relationship with the Almighty. Have you ever noticed the reflection of yourself in someone else's eye, actually in the pupil? One of Webster's definitions of the word "pupil" is "the tiny image of yourself seen in the eye of another." You have to be very close. And so it is with God. To be kept as the pupil, the daughter or little man of Jehovah's eye is to be so close to God as to be reflected in the Divine pupil. Isn't that a wonderful thought! It is possible to be so close to God as to be reflected in Him and, of course, in so doing, to take on His very image.

There is a similar thought in Moses' song given in Deuteronomy 32:10 where He recounts the way in which God cared for his people as represented by Jacob. Moses said:

He found him a desert land,  
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;  
He encircled him, He cared for him,  
He guarded him as the pupil of the eye.

There is probably no more precious part of the anatomy than the eye. Sight is very dear to each of us, and so with God in a figurative sense. He guards His people as the precious pupil of the eye. Worthy of praises is our wonderful God!