

Little Child

A quiet street near us was a great shortcut to a nearby shopping mall. One day I was driving through on the shortcut street and as I rounded the corner I was surprised to see a small child of about 2 years old walking alone down the yellow centerline line in the middle of the road. The toddler was obviously new to walking and had escaped the safety of his home and was checking out the big new world outside. He really had no clue that where he was standing was potentially a very dangerous place. He could have easily been hurt or killed by an inattentive or speeding motorist.

I stopped my car in the middle of the street to block any other cars that might be coming and tried to figure out where his home was. In a moment I heard the distraught voice of his babysitter from a house several doors away and I shouted that he was fine and out there with me. The embarrassed and grateful sitter thanked me, collected the lad in his arms and in only a moment they had disappeared back into the house.

Later I reflected on how we go through life like little toddlers walking down a dangerous road oblivious to the dangers that lie on either side of that yellow line. How many times had I held my children and grandchildren's hands to keep them from falling and make their steps sure? Apart from the guidance of our Heavenly Father and his protection, there are dangers beyond that we know not. We need to ask God to guide our steps, to make them firm and to give us His protection.

PS 37:23-24 (NIV) If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

Richard Lewis
Pathway Christian Church
Riverside, CA