

**“Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye”**  
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Psalm 17:8 (ESV)

*Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings*

God cares for us and protects us. He’s the adult bird, and we are the chicks—hidden under His wings to protect us.

But what does it mean to be the “apple of His eye”? I knew it meant He loves us and treasures us, but why the “apple”?

I had to look it up. The “apple of your eye” is a figurative description of the pupil—round in shape sort of like an apple. Your eyelids reflexively protect your eye from getting poked, faster than you can think about needing protection, as quick as the blink of an eye. That’s how we can think of how our God protects us. Before we even know we need protection from our sin that separates us from Him and would lead to death forever, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again to new life. So now the “apples” of God’s eye have eternal life through God’s “blink of an eye” plan of salvation in Jesus.

The Good News Translation says it this way:

*I pray to you, O God, because you answer me;  
so turn to me and listen to my words.  
Reveal your wonderful love and save me;  
at your side I am safe from my enemies.  
Protect me as you would your very eyes;*

Compline gives this prayer a plaintive tune as we go to sleep, confident in God’s care and love:

*Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
listen to my cry.  
Keep me as the apple of Your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of Your wings.  
In righteousness I shall see You;  
when I awake Your presence will give me joy.*