

### **Daily Devotional, April 23, 2020 Waiting On The Lord**

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Lamentations 3:22-26*

The writer of Lamentations, the prophet, Jeremiah, had endured the total destruction of Jerusalem and experienced first-hand the horrid brutality of a powerful conqueror, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The temple had been destroyed along with all the palaces and fine homes of the city. The people had experienced famine and starvation. The promised Day of the Lord had come, and the devastation was complete. Israel was vanquished! And in the midst of that suffering, the prophet dares to write, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases..."

Out of the turmoil came words that have brought hope to countless suffering believers. Some of my favorite and most hopeful verses, they contain a great truth, one that we continue to experience in our times of lament and challenge. Ugly hard times have and will continue to come to us. Death and disease seem to stalk us at every turn, but they're temporary visitors. The pain is here for today but tomorrow will bring the mercies of the Lord.

God's faithfulness never comes to an end. Even if everything we've held dear is taken from us, God's steadfast love never ceases. When the darkness passes, the morning light will dawn and we will know once more that we are loved and cherished, and daily signs of that love will give peace and our tears will be replaced by shouts of joy.

When I read these words, I realize that they speak to my surrendering of self. Surrender is a daily battle that I have with myself, through the habits I have created or possibly it is the evil one, trying to misguide me; either way, I am in a constant state of surrender.

My first thought as I read Lamentations 3:22 "*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,*" is to thank God. To thank God for this great love and also for never breaking the promise to love me, not ever. God helps me each day, to keep me focused on Him, to have the ability to work hard at providing for my household, to find compassion and forgiveness for those who hurt me, and to understand that God is standing by and has everything under His control. It is God who gives me the strength, the love in my heart, the abundance to share, and it is God who is giving me the insight of His Word.

In Lamentations 3:23 we read, "They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Every single morning, I thank God. In the morning sunrise, while knowing the day is brand new, no mistakes have yet been made, no tears shed, and the incredible possibilities of what the day might bring, I revel in the fact that I am alive. Add to that the fact that God loves the new day even more. He must! To renew all of His love and compassion for us, makes it a great and perfect love!

As we continue to read, in Lamentations 3:24 reveals, "*I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him."*" This is where I find my surrender. I will wait for the Lord. God provides what we need. God provides *exactly* what each individual needs, and God knows what *I* need. And as much as I may desire something in particular, I want God's will for me ahead of any idea I might have. I believe. I have faith. I carry my cross (I may struggle with it, but I carry it). I will wait for the Lord.

Lamentations 3:25 then continues, "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;" I have felt God's presence my entire life, even during times when I turned my back and ignored Him completely. I'm pretty confident God never once turned His back on me. I'm sure it must be the same for all of us, because God says this is true and I trust God not to lie. My hope is in the Lord. And every single time I look for God, God is there. Every time.

Finally, Lamentations 3:26 tells us, "*it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*" I generally use the NIV (New International Version) of the Bible in my studies, but I also like to check The Message Bible

to gain a more contemporary understanding. So, in The Message, Lamentations 3:26 says, *"It's a good thing to quietly hope, quietly hope for help from God."* Here again, my surrender comes to mind. To wait quietly, and patiently. To hope, to pray, to talk it over with the Lord, whatever it may be. Nothing is too big or small. God wants us to wait on Him.

These words of scripture have been very impactful to me and I hope that they will be for you as well. My surrender to God has changed much of how I go about things. I pray that you will use these verses to meditate on, and to allow them to open new paths to peace, patience and understanding of God's ways for you.

Have a blessed day full of hope and joy!

***Prayer: Lord, I trust in Your loving care. You are a good Father. I will put my hope in You. I believe the promise in Your Word to send me fresh mercy each new day. Although I can't see past today, I trust in Your great love to never fail me. Give me Your grace to face this day. I cast my burdens on You, knowing You will carry me. Give me courage and strength to meet the days ahead. Amen.***