

Daily Devotional, May 28, 2021 In Gratitude for this New Day

Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:13-14 (NIV)

What do you do when you first wake up in the morning?

That used to be a different kind of question some 14 months ago. Back when we all followed normal routines and schedules, the morning typically consisted of hearing the alarm go off, getting up, showering, dressing, getting lunch ready, grabbing a cup of coffee and then making our way out the door to face another busy day. Mornings were routinely hectic. Most importantly, they were full of *routine*.

Saturdays were usually our days to take it a little slower. Tomorrow is Saturday, as we get up this morning, we have that day to look forward to, as I am guessing many of us are getting back to our regular schedules again. I remember how almost every day since March 13, 2020, often felt like a Saturday... an odd Saturday, but still...I would sometimes lose track of the days. There were many strange days, but they have taught me a lesson about slowing down some. It was a lesson I really needed to learn.

When the pandemic first broke out, I was working in hyper-drive, doing all that I could think of to keep our church community connected and watched over. Many phone calls & emails. Next came devotionals. Now, most mornings I get up when I'm no longer tired. It's still early, but there is no rushing around. There is time to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee, to read through a Bible chapter, to go into church on a regular schedule again. Like many of us, there are still steps to complete, and for me, there is still a little ways to go, but the schedule of doing is much more relaxed and regular again.

The psalmist writes what is called the prayer of Moses. We're not completely sure, but somehow Moses had shared this prayer with the people in the wilderness, and it was repeated among the people, and one day someone recorded it in the book of Psalms. It is a reminder that even when they did not have a home, but were left to wander in the wilderness, God was there, and God was their home. It was a reminder that they are made from the dust, and God shall one day return them to the dust, It was also a call for forgiveness and renewal, and a reminder that each new day God's unfailing love could be seen, that we might live that day with joy and gladness.

The idea of experiencing a renewed morning is something I'm learning each day in life, but this psalm also reminds me of a wonderful hymn, "How Can I keep from Singing."

In this hymn, I want to bring attention to part of the third stanza:

"I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin
I see the blue above it
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it,"

For it is in each day that we are seeing our pathway smoothed out before us, as we continue in this time of uncertainty of change, of all that we have been going through, day-by-day it gets smoother. We do not know what the future will hold, but we do know that it is our God who holds the future, and our God who holds us. May we sing and find joy with each new day, "How Can I Keep from Singing!"

Prayer: Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer, as I open my eyes today and take my first breath, may I be reminded of Your love for me. This new day is a sign of Your endless adoration. I have sinned and lived this life without gratitude, and yet You have given me a new chance this morning. My first breath is cleansed in Your grace. I will live this day with faith. Thank You for another first breath. Amen.