**Courage to Continue**
When it seemed that it couldn't get any worse, it did! Many trials and constant complications were coming my way and life was going from bad to worse on a collision course with so much momentum that it seemingly couldn't be stopped. We have all experienced this in one form or another because becoming a single parent starts with a bang.

Courage to continue comes from recalling even the smallest of things of what God has done in the past. As we reflect back we will see His faithfulness both in our own lives and from the stories told in the Bible. Even as a new believer, evidence that God is there and was all along comes in a time of reflection.

Time after time, people have cried out to God in the most desperate of situations. The writer of Psalm 77 (either David or Asaph) wrote this, "I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and He will hear me. I sought the Lord in my day of trouble. My hands were continually lifted up all night long; I refused to be comforted."

It is in moments like these that we have a true awareness of who we are and just who God is. The writer puts it this way in verses 3-5, "I think of God; I groan; I meditate; my spirit becomes weak. You have kept me from closing my eyes; I am troubled and cannot speak. I consider days of old, years long past."

To know that we are not the only ones brings comfort that others long before us had such deep longings for mercy and penetrating questions like those in verses 6-12, "I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion? Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

Being honest with God and ourselves lands us with honoring God like verses 13-20, "Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

Encouragement for today is to recall the faithfulness of the Lord in your own life and listen to stories from others who tell of what God has done in their life. We need those reminders of God’s faithfulness to sustain us and give us courage to continue!

If we have not met, I want you to know that I walked into this church 26 years ago with a 5 year old daughter and a 2 month old son in tow. This church embraced me but bigger than that the gospel and what God did in my life changed this ordinary girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy church, the SPF ministry and this SPF newsletter. Allow yourself to get excited about what God has in store for you and your children.

Only because of Him,
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