

Thanking God for His Mercies that are New Every Morning

One of my favorite hymns is "Great is Thy Faithfulness". That great song has sustained so many Christians through times of distress, loss and struggle. The hymn is written based on Lamentations 3:22-23 which says, "*The Lord's loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*"

This passage from the Old Testament (and the great hymn) reminds me that God has mercy for His children every single day. Now, I know that some days come and they do not feel merciful. Sometimes, even Christians, are hurt, lied about, betrayed, diagnosed, injured and attacked. And yet, even on those days, God has new mercies for us.

Where is God's mercy when I am sick?

Even in times of illness, God gives mercy. Our sicknesses remind us that our life is in God's hands, not ours. It causes us to re-evaluate our life and rethink what really matters. It stirs our hearts to love the simple things in life: faith and family. Indeed, God rains down His mercies even on those days.

Where is God's mercy when I have lost a loved one?

It may just be that we sense God's mercy the most in the days of our deepest pain. Death and loss reminds us that this life is not what really matters. Heaven and eternity far outweigh earth and the here-and-now. Even in days of sadness, God pours down His mercy by reminding us that "here we have no lasting city, but we seek a city which is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). It is painful to be "reminded" of how short life on earth is, but it is a mercy of God to incline our hearts away from the temporary and towards the eternal.

Where is God's mercy when my friends betray me and my foes attack me?

This is a tough one, isn't it?! It is never fun to see your friends turn on you or your enemies try to injure you. And yet, the Bible is still true...God's mercies are new EVERY morning (without exception). When people try to hurt you (emotionally or physically), it reminds us that God is more than enough. It is true that one of God's sweetest gifts in our lives are family and friends, but it is also true that in Christ, we have a friend that sticks closer than a brother. I can tell you in my life that each time I ever have to deal with someone saying something unkind to me or even worse, saying something untrue about me, it causes me to stop and think, "where is God's mercy in this?". And without fail, God brings to my heart the words of Joseph, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...". God has a plan, even through days of adversity and that plan is to get us to rely on Him, to trust in Him and to build our hope upon Him. We can talk about that and read about that truth, but it seems that we LEARN that truth the hard way...and when we do truly LEARN that truth, it is indeed a great mercy of God.

I know that some in our community are struggling with sickness, death of a loved one and various other trials. Let me just encourage you to "consider it pure joy" (James 1:2-3) when you face those days because you will not face them alone. God will walk right beside you and will surround you with mercies that are new every single morning. Great is His faithfulness!

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