

Good News Daily

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Sunday, February 21

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 *“So obey the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with fountains and springs that gush out in the valleys and hills. It is a land of wheat and barley; of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; of olive oil and honey. It is a land where food is plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills. When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”* (vv.6-10 NLT)

Last August, I had the opportunity to choose to obey what God was asking me to do. My job could no longer afford to pay my salary. I was blessed with a boss who would have done anything she had to do to keep paying me. However, I felt led by the Lord to leave the job.

It made no sense to leave. I had no other income, very little savings, and lots of bills. I also had medical issues which required me to have health insurance. Leaving my job meant no income and no health insurance.

Just like God promised and provided the Israelites with abundant provisions, He did the same for me. I was accepted as a patient at Grace Medical Home. And even though I am still without a job, He has provided for me financially since August of last year. Sometimes, what God asks us to do is scary and makes no sense to us. But He always has a plan and when we are obedient to His plan, He will always provide!

Psalms 63, 98; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; Mark 2:18-22

Monday, February 22

Hebrews 2:11-18 *That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.* (vv.17-18 *The Message*)

When I became a Christian eighteen years ago, I left behind a sordid past filled with teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, drug addiction, and numerous failed attempts to turn my life around.

While my new Christian friends embraced the “new” me, people who had known me all my life had serious doubts that I had changed. I admit, I had my own doubts whether the changes would actually stick this time or not.

I was convinced that nobody could possibly understand how much it hurt to see the doubt in people’s eyes and minds that I had changed. Then I read how the people in Jesus’ hometown scoffed in disbelief when he taught in the synagogue (Mark 6:1-6). Jesus knew exactly how I felt. Like me, he had experienced the pain of people’s doubt and unbelief. That’s why he was able help me when help was needed.

Eighteen years later, I’m here to say, “Christianity stuck!” Just like Jesus proved his hometown wrong in their doubts, he proved my hometown wrong. Jesus gave me the healing I needed to be transformed!

Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Psalms 41, 52; John 2:1-12

Tuesday, February 23

Deuteronomy 9:4-12 *“How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted gold and made an idol for themselves!”* (v.12b NLT)

I had trusted God completely when I left my job. At that time, I believed that He would provide an income and health insurance. He provided for my health quickly. The income seemed to move slowly.

My bank account was dwindling fast. I began finding things I could sell. I sold my engagement ring. I tried selling Pet Portraits. Yet, my bank account still rapidly dwindled.

Instead of keeping my eyes on God's promise of provision, I panicked! I applied for a 0% credit card. It seemed like the logical thing to do. It would fix my money issues for a while. The credit card was a band aid. Pretty soon, I was out of money again and in debt.

This time, I prayed keeping my focus on Jesus. I wasn't perfect at that, but I didn't apply for another credit card. God provided and He has continued to provide ever since. Even though I had turned away from trusting Him as my Provider, He gave me a second chance when I turned my eyes back on Him!

Psalm 45; Hebrews 3:1-11; John 2:13-22

Wednesday, February 24

John 2:23—3:15 *"The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."* (v.8)

I hate to confess it, but I used to be a lot like Nicodemus when it came to trying to wrap my head around the idea of the Holy Spirit and being born again. I could imagine God, the Father, who created the earth. Jesus, the Son, who walked the earth. But, the idea of the Spirit eluded me.

Then one day, I was watching a movie. The young woman in the movie used an analogy of the wind to talk about her faith. She told the young man that she couldn't see the wind, but she could feel it against her skin. The young man couldn't deny that the wind was real.

This helped me to understand the Holy Spirit. I can't visibly see him, but I feel his presence when singing worship songs. And I hear him, when I get a deeper meaning of a Bible verse. I don't need to understand exactly how we are born of the Spirit, I just need to understand that we live our lives differently when we are filled with the Spirit!

Deuteronomy 9:13-21; Psalm 119:49-72; Hebrews 3:12-19

Thursday, February 25

Deuteronomy 9:23—10:5 *"At that time the LORD said to me, 'Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones'...Once again the LORD wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets and gave them to me."* (vv.1a, 4a)

Our God is a God of second chances.

I was a regular writer for Good News Daily for several years starting in 2007. Then came the year when I suddenly stopped. I had committed to write two weeks worth of devotions, but I failed to finish the assignment. Not only had I let down the Good News Daily team, but I felt like I had also let down God.

After not making that deadline, I started struggling to write. Yes, every once in a while, I was able to grind out a writing. However, I had lost the ability to have the writing flow out of me. Last fall, I began to wonder if I was ever going to be able to write Healing Thoughts or Good News Daily again.

After humbling myself and praying, one weekend in November, I wrote three Healing Thoughts. The writings just flowed out of me onto the paper. Then in 2020, I was blessed to receive a writing assignment for Good News Daily. God had graciously given me a second chance to write for Him!

Psalm 50; Hebrews 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

Friday, February 26

Psalm 40 *He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.* (v.3)

In May 2018, I got a call from my doctor saying that I needed an appointment with a nephrologist immediately. According to testing, I suddenly had stage-3 kidney disease.

I went to the nephrologist to confirm the results and discuss treatment options. He believed that my kidneys were damaged when I had the stroke several years earlier. He didn't see any new damage. My kidneys were holding steady.

In May 2019, I was at the nephrologist for my annual checkup. This time it showed that I had stage-4 kidney disease. This is when you consider options like dialysis and other treatments. I called my friends and asked for lots of prayer.

In November, my test results showed that I had stage-2 kidney disease. My regular doctor said it was a miracle. The nephrologist said, "This doesn't happen!" He's not sure why I keep having acute kidney trauma and then healing from it.

I know why God keeps healing my kidneys! I am believing that Jesus is going to heal them completely. This is my hymn of praise!

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Psalm 54; Hebrews 4:11-16; John 3:22-36

Saturday, February 27

Psalm 55 *But I will call on God, and the LORD will rescue me. Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice.* (vv.16-17 NLT)

Over the last couple of years, I've been struggling with migraines. Sometimes they get so bad, I have a heating pad on my stomach (to control the nausea) and ice packs on my neck/head. Sometimes I must take three doses of medicine to get rid of them. That works out to fifteen hours of miserable pain.

I have several people praying for these migraines to go away. Since they started, the headaches are happening less, and the intensity has gone down on most of them. I'm blessed to have a roommate who doesn't care what time I wake her up to ask for prayer. More times than I can count, she has stood beside me crying out to the Lord at 2:00 am. God always hears our cries when we pray. And the pain either lessens or goes away all together.

I believe that when we cry out to the Lord, He hears us and answers in one way or another. As the song says, "Sometimes He calms the storm, and other times He calms His child."

Deuteronomy 11:18-28; Hebrews 5:1-10; John 4:1-26

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