

## GOD'S MERCIES: NEW EVERY MORNING

There's a wonderful hymn that draws tears from me every time we sing it in church:

### *GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS*

*"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

© 1923. Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188

The words to this hymn were drawn from Lamentations 3. This book is a collection of laments, believed to have been written by Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem and the burning of the temple. His mood is bleak: his words are dark and angry. Yet in the middle of the book he focuses on the goodness of God...in spite of everything.

In verses 19 to 24 Jeremiah wrote:

*"I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 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."*

- Can you relate? Have you had moods like those portrayed by Jeremiah?
- Can you recall times, in the middle of your pain, when you have been able to remember the hope God gives you?

Today we can still rejoice, knowing that God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning. What are some of His mercies we see – new every morning?

#### PHYSICAL BLESSINGS

James 1:17 – *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

- What are some of the physical blessings God has for us on a regular basis?

#### STRENGTH FOR THE DAY

Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

- In what ways has God given you strength?
- Are you feeling His strength right now?

#### OPPORTUNITY IS A GIFT – We just need to see it!

Ephesians 5:15,16 – *“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

Galatians 6:10 – *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

- God blesses us with the gift of opportunities. How have you experienced opportunities lately?

#### PROTECTION

1 Corinthians 10:13 – *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”*

God will help us resist the devil if we let Him. Personally, I feel the best way to do this is by keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus.

*“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.”*

We have God's blessings to wake up to...every morning. Ask God to help you see them.