



NEVER-FAILING COMPASSION

February 2019

*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.
I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."*

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Lamentations 3: 19-24

Jeremiah, believed to be the writer here, wrote Lamentations in the midst of painful memories of the fall of Jerusalem and the burning of the temple. He realizes that this destruction was the judgment of a righteous God. But he realizes too that, despite this, God's compassion for us never fails. This is true for you and me as well. We may not always "feel" this while we're in midst of struggles, but when they've blown over, haven't you looked back and seen it?

Jeremiah shows that passing through his great grief was possible by seeking God and in hope quietly waiting for him. In hope he knew that God's compassion would always be there.

God is able to help us through *our* pain as well, whether it be physical pain or emotional pain. When we're in the midst of it, we may think God isn't there. We may think he doesn't care. But he understands our pain better than anyone because Jesus, his own Son, had suffered enormously. And so, in love, God walks beside us, joining with us in our pain, never leaving us. That's compassion.

God's love for us will always be there. Hard to fathom? Yes, it is. But it's true.

But, as Jeremiah points out, in order to recover from our pain we need to wait quietly—with hope. And he tells us to "seek" God.

We can find God by reading almost any of the Bible scriptures. Some will speak to us more than others. The passage above with its promise of God's love and compassion is a good place to start. The Psalms can guide us in offering some of the best prayers, many of them written by King David, a man who himself suffered much. He's a kindred spirit, able to comfort and encourage us in our own suffering.

God is good. He's always good. Whether we're up or down, God never changes. His compassion never fails.

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