



HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL

January 2016

*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.*

Lamentations 3:19-23

Memories. We all have them. Many of them causing pain and suffering that return over and over. And like a cow chewing its cud, we hang onto the thoughts that hurt, turning

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them over and over in our minds. The pain becomes worse and worse. We don't know what to do with it.

Does this sound like you? Do you ever go through this?

When we're alone, we will sometimes recall the worst things that happened to. Situations that have hurt us, bad treatment we've received, rejection we've suffered—real or perceived. Repeatedly our minds fall back on things we really don't want to remember. But unfortunately we do. If we could only release the pain somehow, but it's hard! It's locked tightly in the prison of our heart and mind.

If only God would take away the pain of our memories when we ask him. If only he would let those go as easily as he lets our sins go when we ask for forgiveness. If he would only free us from this pain that keeps us from living a full and happy life!

Looking at the above Scripture, it's obvious that the writer, Jeremiah, struggled with the same kinds of pain we ourselves deal with at times. But here is what he did with the depths he found himself in:

Jeremiah shifted the direction of his thoughts, saying, *"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:"* Doesn't reading that little line alone give you hope too? It's a promise for better things. Read on:

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
For his compassions never fail."*

God's great love for us tells us that we don't have to be eaten up by the pain we feel. God has compassion for us in a way no one else does. And his compassion is always there. His love for us is limitless. We are God's children, his beloved children, and he will always be there for us, ready to give comfort. What relief there is in that knowledge!

God's compassion is new every morning. We can greet each new day knowing that God will be waiting for us.

Great is his faithfulness.

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