

Wednesday, March 18

Scripture Readings: Habakkuk 3:17-19 / Romans 8:28

I have always considered myself to be incredibly blessed. Things just seem to go my way. School was a breeze, friendships come easy, universities competed for my enrollment, my career is exactly what I'd hoped it would be and I work at a job that I love. I have an amazing husband, my very own Prince Charming, and together we have a most beautiful son. I have a loving family, a comfortable home, a close group of friends. My faith is strong and nourished fully at our wonderful church.

You can see where this is going, can't you? We have all been there, sitting tall, the world at your command – until the moment when it isn't. Last year was one of those years for me. In the midst of it all, I found myself wallowing in self pity, wondering why God had forsaken me, why He had revoked His blessings. I became so entrenched in my own personal trials – everything from an irreparable falling out with a close family member, to sitting alone in the waiting room at Memorial Medical Center while my four year old underwent surgery – so sure that I had been abandoned in my hour of need, that I forgot to look up. Instead of relying on the hope that the scriptures promise, I had allowed my spirituality to hang in the balance of day-to-day events.

Habakkuk's prayer challenges us to remain not only faithful, but joyfully so, even in our most challenging hour: "...yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength." That is a powerful statement. The world may be crumbling at our feet, but God is our strength and we are able to rejoice in spite of our own struggles. The passage from Romans promises "that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." We need not ride the crest of positive events as if they are evidence of God's love in our lives any more than we should allow the negative events to become indicators of God's disfavor. Things will not always go my way. The ability to trust in God's love, to accept His strength, and to acknowledge His direction and purpose in my life are the key to a successful journey, no matter how steep the climb.

Prayer: Lord, help us to know your love in both the good and the bad times, never to doubt your greater purpose. Allow us to rejoice in your strength, to trust in your direction. Help us to focus our own love and faith to better serve you. Amen

Written by Nicola Evans