

5 2 W E E K S
O F G R O W T H

Give it a Year

Week 02

WEEK 02



Lamentations 3:21-24

“But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never
ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my
soul,
“therefore I will hope in Him.”” (ESV)

This is a beautiful scripture. And one that we tend to reference a lot especially related to our shortcomings. If you are someone that struggles with perfectionism or just someone that is trying your best, but you still feel like you are always getting it wrong and messing things up, then this scripture is probably something that you've heard before and one that you hold onto dearly as a source of comfort. "The Lord's mercies are new every morning". And we can all say AMEN and Thank You God for that.

Often times we'll see this scripture on journal notebooks or placed on a picture that we hang in our homes, because it sounds so great. This scripture will make us feel all warm and fuzzy inside thinking about how great God is. And make no mistake, He is great and an amazing God. But what we often forget is that this scripture wasn't written for the perfectionist in mind or those that just want a good sounding scripture to place in their house or office. This scripture was written for a group of people who were going through the worst times in their lives.

This book of Lamentations was written for the Israelites who just witnessed the fall of Jerusalem from Babylon, and they were exiled from their land. This entire book is based on the darkness of that time. The word “Lamentations” means to lament or to mourn, cry, weep, to feel great sorrow. And this book is loaded with all of these feeling...except these verses. These verses are some of the only light and hope in the whole book. The rest of Lamentations talks about the Israelites grief during the fall of Jerusalem. These people lost families. They lost the temple, which housed God’s spirit, essentially making them feel that they lost God. They lost their occupation, their identity, their friends. They were stripped of everything. And this book is filled with their cries...

Except these 4 lines.

These 4 lines of scripture shed a light in the midst darkness. It’s a glimmer of hope when they look around and all they can see is hopelessness. Chapters recount the darkness of this time, yet the writer (most likely the prophet Jeremiah) says in Chapter 3 of this 5 Chapter book, **“But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion therefore I will hope in Him”**.

So, yes, this is an encouraging scripture to read and to post but, it's because we have hope in God as our source of light in the midst of a dark world all around us. "His mercies are (still) new every morning... therefore (we can) have hope in HIM". Whatever darkness that you are going through right now, look to Him for your light and hope.

All this devastation is around him and somehow, he is able to look past it and know that God is his hope.

READ: Lamentations 3

REFLECT:

- How have you been looking to the world as your source of light?
- How would your world change if you were able to see past the darkness in the world and keep your focus on the light of God?
- Think back on some dark times in your life, how did God bring light to those situations?

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You that Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You that You are our source of light in the midst of all the darkness in this world. Help us to not be moved by what we see but instead to keep our focus on You. Give us the eyesight of faith and to walk into each day trusting You as our source of peace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.