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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 14, 2018 - Two Ways Through a Valley

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Psalm 27:1-14

FRIDAY

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What do you do when the pressures of life seem greater than you can bear? Journeys through a valley are inevitable and painful, but God doesn't waste them. The trials of life can be times of discovery about Him.

In our helplessness, we discover His almighty power to sustain us.

In our despair, God invites us to experience His peace and promises.

In our pain, He becomes our comforter and protector.

In our hopelessness, He lifts our eyes to see His sovereignty and goodness.

Other discoveries we make in severe crises have to do with ourselves. Terrible times test our faith and reveal our true character. When a crisis first hits, most of us immediately respond with alarm. But at that point, we can take one of two very different paths.

The way of fear. If our relationship with the Lord is weak, fear may cause us to panic, seek ungodly counsel, blame people or God for the problem, or try to find a way out on our own.

The way of faith. On the other hand, if our faith is strong, we'll progressively move from alarm to trust by seeking the Lord through prayer and His Word. We do this by believing He will keep His promises despite supposed evidence to the contrary and by remembering how He helped us in the past. In this way, our endurance and confidence in the Lord is strengthened.

Every adversity God allows in our life is designed to bring us to spiritual maturity, not to devastate us. When we yield to Him in the midst of a crisis, He enables us to trust and wait on Him with patience and hope.

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