

Seek God's peace, presence

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"When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. " - Corrie ten Boom.

The Lord, who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear, will rescue me...

(1 Samuel 17:37)

Corrie ten Boom and her family were arrested by the Nazis at their home in the Netherlands during WWII and charged with helping Jewish people evade and escape Nazi capture.

Corrie and her family were imprisoned at the Ravensbruck concentration camp. Corrie survived the concentration camp and lived until 1983.

She was certainly familiar with more than her share of dark times. Both Corrie's father and her sister died in captivity. To survive such an ordeal is significant.

But, Corrie didn't only survive; she thrived. After the war Corrie returned home to the Netherlands and continued her helping ministry. She credits the power of God at work in her life for her survival and recovery.

Resisting bitterness, anger, and paralyzing fear can be a challenge when going through, and bouncing back, from uncertain times and painful experiences.

The quote from Corrie above might sum up her strategy for survival and recovery, maybe even growth. This kind of certainty and trust doesn't come from positive thinking or wishing what you want will happen; it comes from experience. Corrie had a history with God.

David's experience was similar. The verse from 1 Samuel 17 above is a statement David made when as a young teenager he was willing to face the giant, Goliath, in order to defend the honor of his nation and God. Goliath was a very experienced, very large and seasoned warrior and no one thought that David had any chance of survival in a one-on-one encounter.

David's faith was much like Corrie's because he too had a history with God.

As a shepherd living alone for weeks at a time in the fields caring for his sheep he would from time to time need to defend his livestock. More than once he escaped death and David credited God's protection for his survival.

I think it's safe to assume that no one reading this has survived a Nazi concentration camp or an attack from a deadly animal. But, we still face times of uncertainty and threats to our wellbeing. Maybe we can learn something from David and Corrie. They possessed a strong faith in God that had grown out of a history with God that saw them through tough times.

My encouragement to you is this: don't wait until the crisis comes to seek God. Seek him now. As I read the Bible I find that God has a long history of keeping his promises. One of the most comforting for me is this, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Experience tells me that over and over, God keeps this promise.

God doesn't promise to change our circumstances, but he does promise his peace and his presence as we trust him to walk through life's challenges with us.