

February 2, 2011

Where to begin? My days are so full it is sometimes hard to recall the number of things accomplished, the number of blessings I've experienced, or the things I want to thank You for. Once again, I want to thank You for these past two extremely difficult years. They were the worst in my life on a daily basis (I'm not counting the ongoing grief over the loss of my son) and for at least a year of those two, I did not think I would be able to hang on emotionally. I feared everything! I lived in a constant state of anxiety! I was ready to give up on everything – just let the chips fall where they may. I was pretty sure what my future held and was basically living in fear of when the ax would fall, so to speak. The other side of the tarp You were asking me to cross, held only doom and gloom - I could see nothing else.

You taught me to hope. You taught me to trust – You increased my faith in tiny increments until it was sufficient for me to live day by day, trusting in You for all my need. You lead me, tiny step by tiny step, across that tarp, ever patient with me and my fears. You never let me see what was on the other side of it until I stepped off of it, still grasping Your hand, confident You were in control and had my best interests in mind. I stepped off into a world of Peace and Contentment I never expected to experience. My circumstances had not changed – in fact in areas they were bleaker than ever. You taught me that my situations do not need to change in order for me to find that Peace that had always eluded me no matter how hard I tried to grab hold of it. It is not to be my state of affairs or circumstances of life that dictate the Peace and restfulness of living life as You intend. It is to be in You and only You – You are the only place these jewels of life are found. How can I ever thank You enough for loving me through these things? Why did it take me so long to reach this point? ☺

You not only brought me through some hellacious situations, but You have given me hope for the unknown future. Life may hold some very difficult things for me, but You are showing me You are in control of all and will take care of them as I have need. Last night's Bible study was especially good at driving the point home that we are not to worry about things before they happen – many of our worries will never come to pass. My conversation with Lew yesterday about Your divine timing and the impact it has had on his life as well as mine was another encouragement. No matter what may come my way, I will still be under Your protection and grace. I need not fear the future. **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Oh, how Your grace has been evident in my life. I am such a good example of weakness and what faith and trust in the Almighty Provider can do for one as I know how weak and pitiful I truly am. I truly want to extol Your faithfulness to me. Let others be spurred on to find this relationship with You as they see Your wonderful Provision for me.

Bill had a really bad day yesterday and yet another sign of brain deterioration was evident. He has had some difficulty with remembering which hand of rummy we might be on, but yesterday he had some more serious memory lapses, even to the point of not remembering the rule for the final hand. This is something he has never done before. He had other such significant moments as well. Then after Bible study and me taking time to get horse pictures, I walked to the house to find the car he drove over sitting in the driveway running! I told him it was and he said, “Did I drive it? Why would I leave it running?” He then obviously was upset with himself. These are things that may cause him to be unable to go out alone with a vehicle much longer. I cannot even imagine what will happen in this situation as

he continues to decline, but I am not fearful any longer. You have proven Yourself to me – I am determined to trust You in all things. I have no need to fear. Your grace will be sufficient for me day by day as I need it.

Thank You that the dogs are gradually getting over this virus and that the little ones don't seem to be getting it too badly. You are a gracious God.

Walk me through this day – Lord, literally help me get to the barn and back without falling on this ice. Should I fall, protect my head from injury that could cause serious harm or death. This is something I need to seriously think about in conditions like this. Life isn't the same for me anymore. But You are the same..... Give me wisdom and direction for the tasks that demand attention this day.