

Thursday - March 11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV)

Twenty years ago I was hit with atypical Meniere's disease. I went from never having a single health problem to being critically ill within a few months. I felt defeated as physicians were unsure what to do. I had two young children to care for, a job, a great life! Although I felt everything was out of my control, I could pray. I prayed through every attack, through every MRI, and through every physician visit. I especially prayed when a risky surgery was suggested as my only treatment option. While the surgery was successful, I lost my hearing in one ear and lost the ability to balance well.

The truly remarkable part of the story isn't the disease progression or the outcome. The remarkable part is God's guidance throughout the journey. I was awed by the constant stream of caring that was given to me and my family through our church and friends. Physicians I had worked with in the past helped me find the best treatment options. I experienced amazing kindness through meals, cards, visits, and many prayers.

My faith expanded during this experience. It also reminded me we are called on to love and care for a person when they are broken and weak.

Karen

Prayer: Thank you God for being there for us! Help us see the needs of others, so we may lend a hand, be a comfort, or offer encouragement. Amen.