



How Lord ... Can I Cope with Hardships?

Closing Devotion

“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).

Life doesn't always unfold the way it was planned. Expectant parents don't plan for babies born with birth defects or developmental challenges. Accidents that leave loved ones paralyzed were not part of the plan for their future. Loved ones living alternate life-styles so different from the way they were raised isn't part of the happily-ever-after life envisioned for them.

The complications that accompany any of these situations, along with dozens more we could name, can become overwhelming because we can't change anything! We question God: “How can I cope with this?” God knows our heartache and assures us that [we] *can do all things through him who strengthens [us]* (Philippians 4:13).

Life's challenges may not change, so we must believe that there are no limits to what God can do in and through us. We will face adversity; how we deal with it is what is important. Learning to rely on God, in good times and bad, will be our source of comfort and strength.

Prayer: Lord, forgive us for being fearful during difficult times. In our frailty, please make us strong. Lift us up, Father, so we can give You glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How Lord ... Can I Cope with Hardships?

Mustard Seed: How, Lord? 7/32

Written by Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer

Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, ©2011

Adapted by CREC, 2017