



New Beginnings Devotion

On a crisp, fall day in 1991, we got a phone call stating that we had a new granddaughter, born the night before. Our daughter was so very excited, and when we inquired if she had decided on a name yet, she answered, "Yes, Kiah." Never having heard that name before, I asked, "What? Where did you get that name?" She said, "From a book of baby names. It means 'a season of new beginnings,'" and quickly added, "Just wait until you see her. She looks just like a Kiah!" That name has suited her well for twenty-two years now. She is a blessing to all who meet her.

Our daughter was in a rehab center at the time, having relapsed as well as being pregnant. We had just been to see her in the northern part of our state to celebrate her birthday, which was the previous day. The counselor told us we would probably get a phone call on our way home causing us to turn around and come back as she was due the next day. We did get home that night, but, sure enough, we received the phone call the next morning. "New Beginnings" was the name of the part of the program she was in, thus her new daughter's name!

Is it not amazing how God can take what seemed, in our human eyes, a negative at first, and turn it into a blessing of joy and beauty? Why are we so surprised at that? We are His children and should know to trust our Abba, Father. But we don't always "see" with clear eyes. Let us look at Lamentations 3:19-26, particularly focusing on verses 22 and 23.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (NIV).

Oh, how very true! It has nothing to do with any one of us. It is because of the Lord's **great** love for us – a love we can never understand, never even fathom. We have no such love to compare with His, and we are **not** consumed, His Word says. He loves us so much that He has an unconditional love for us! His compassion for us is tender and loving, so much so that it is new **every** morning – not just if He feels like it that day, but **every day**!

The ESV says *they* [His mercies] *are new every morning*. And that is followed by something we should never forget, *great is your faithfulness*!

So, when we have doubts, questions, or are down-hearted, let us remember to *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5). Because Your Word is truth, oh God; because You have compassion and faithfulness; and because of Your love for each of us, You hear and answer our prayers, dear Lord! To this end, may we keep a strong faith and remain close to You so that we may one day be taken from this vale of tears to a new beginning in the heavenly mansions You have prepared for us.

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