

Daily devotions for
2019



Day 52
Looking at Life, part 4

No condemnation

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”
John 3:16-17

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
Romans 8:1

*“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.”*
Lamentations 3:22-23

I must have read Ephesians 4 at least 20 times in the last couple of weeks. I was advised to read it and to be focused on what it was saying to me. I couldn't wait to get home and start. I was apprehensive, and very excited to learn more about what God had to say. The first time I read it, I felt discouraged. I asked my husband, “Why have I been asked to read this specifically? Am I a bad person, who's being told that I'm not humble, gentle, patient, kind, compassionate; not living in unity and peace as God instructs? Was I asked to read it as a polite way of telling me I needed to change?”

OK, I make a lot of mistakes in life, but this felt harsh, somewhat condemning. I prayed, and prayed, asking God to show me what He was saying, not how I read into it. I was, and still am desperate to understand His scriptures, to do His will and be in alignment with His plans for me. The more I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to reveal His word, the less condemning it felt. I still don't understand it fully, but our gentle, Heavenly Father reminded me that He sent His one and only precious son to die on the cross for me, and you, for our sins, and for our salvation!

And then Romans 8:1 came to mind, followed by something our minister said to us as a church; he said it again a couple of months later. “God will meet you right where you are!” I felt hopeful, not condemned; glad I was asked to read it, glad for what it was teaching me. I will never forget those words; I cling to them when things often feel tough. Be assured that despite our past, and our current mistakes, God will come down to meet us, right where we are, and gently guide us as we learn to live according to His word. He is a present help, now and always. God loves us and is ever faithful!

“Once we understand how God sees us through Christ, we can refrain from caring what people think about us and feeling bad about ourselves. We don't have to be addicted to