**Unpredictable**

There are times in life when we will be afflicted with personal tragedy and difficulties. We truly have no idea when they are coming or what is lurking around the corner. There will be seasons of life that we wish would pass quickly and some that we want to have an extended stay.

These difficulties are unpredictable and always seem to happen at the most inconvenient times. How can we take the next step when we feel like we don't have the strength?

As we grow and mature in our faith, we will continually take the next step...in our prayer times, gathering with other believers, and worship.  It may feel uncomfortable, but growth and maturity are found here. When we take those steps, we will continually be aligned closer and closer with the Lord. We will desire to be in his word and with his people, the believers. We will continually want to know him more intimately by communicating with him through prayer.  These things don't divert tragedy or difficulties but establish a firm foundation and keep us grounded in our faith.

In the midst of one of David's tragedies, see how he pours out his heart and asks for what he needs in Psalm 35,

1 Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me;
    fight against those who fight against me.
2 Take up shield and armor;
    arise and come to my aid.
3 Brandish spear and javelin
    against those who pursue me.
Say to me,
    “I am your salvation.”

The most interesting thing happened when I learned to walk through the tragedy instead of trying to run from it.  I found that I wasn't alone. The Lord walked through the deepest of waters with me. He has provided faithful believers that walked with me and prayed for me. My faith was built as I began to trust him with the hardest moments, and you can trust him too. He is good, and he is trustworthy.

If we have not met, I want you to know that my name is Holly, and I walked into this church 22 years ago with a 5yo daughter and a two-month-old son in tow. This church embraced me, but more importantly, the gospel and what God did in my life changed this ordinary girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy the SPF ministry and the newsletter, and get excited about what God has in store for you and your children!

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