

Three basics

You may, like us, be too easily removed from the sense of His presence, especially when conflict or trials come that seem greater than the grace and faith in our hearts. It is then we realize that we will never outgrow the "basics" -- the necessary responses to life when things go wrong. Here are three Scriptures that are "basic" to us:

One: *"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* Ps. 46:10 When daily struggles come, our vision for reaching nations can become very dim. We have to learn again and again to "Be still" -- the Hebrew word there means to "Go limp, let go, abandon, and relax" -- in the arms of a wonderful Heavenly Dad. On some days, it seems to me, God will just have to take care of the world Himself -- about all we can do is stop worrying, do the little things at hand to do, and trust Him one moment at a time to carry us along in His love...until He chooses to use us again in His great plans.

Two: *"O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul like a weaned child rests against its mother; my soul is like a weaned child within me."* Ps. 131:1,2 We have found that God doesn't use us because we can figure out great things, and solve great problems. Even problems at home can seem impossible to solve, without even considering the world's problems. How is it that He solves great mysteries and moves huge mountains, when all we can do is to stop worrying about it, humble our minds, and just snuggle up in the lap of Daddy God and let Him do what He wants to do?

Three: *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Every other day, it seems, we have to relearn His way to respond to life as it really is, as it gets "dished out" to us: "Thank you Lord for my life just the way it is. Thank you for everyone that has come into my life -- just as they are; thank you for everything that has happened to me -- not because you caused it all...the bad stuff, I mean...but because you said to give thanks in and for all things, and because you said you can make something good out of anything!!! It seems easier to write this to you than to live it...But it is much easier to live this way than it is to not!!

John Matthews