

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9

There are so many times that I found the words of Isaiah in chapter 40 comforting... ***"But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise up on wings like eagles, they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak."***

It is a passage that has strengthened many of you, as well, I am certain. It came to my mind this past week when I thought about a friend we have had for many years. As a young woman she became very sick and had to have a surgery to correct an issue. She has lived with physical pain and discomfort since that time and yet has raised her family, worked in her profession and been an inspiration to her many friends.

This past week in a conversation with my wife she shared how sick she had become following her second vaccination. Many folks have suffered the same discomfort. But she said quite plainly... "I've been through worse! I'll be just fine!" And my wife responded... "You are a survivor!"

What does it take to be a survivor when life can be so hard? Determination? Courage? Strength? I'm not so sure and I am certain our friend would agree. There are times in life when it is so difficult, and we don't feel so determined... or courageous... or strong. What do we do then?

For me, those words of Isaiah just seem to pop into my mind. We trust... and often we do find our strength renewed. And we look ahead to the days when we run, and not get weary. When we can walk, and not grow weak.

As I have conversations with so many of you I gain my strength by your shared stories. So, when you do feel weary and wonder just HOW you will survive, look to Isaiah. I know how difficult some of these days are and I hold you in my prayers and in my heart. Take courage from the words... *"You WILL rise up on wings like eagles, you WILL run and not get weary, you WILL walk and not grow weak."*

And remember to keep on washing your hands, fold them in prayer. Bow your head and ask God for that strength that lifts the eagle's wings.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, our hearts are heavy with those we love who struggle with physical pain, loneliness, sadness. Help us to offer the strength you give. Let us be the wind that lifts those who falter. Bind us together as your servants in the world. Amen, In Jesus' Name, Amen."