

March 10, 2023

## **New Dwelling Place**

[Isaiah 41:10; 42:1-9](#)

*...do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)*

Have you ever felt like you were in a deep dark hole surrounded by sorrow? Well, I have!

Several years ago, I felt like I had fallen off a cliff into that deep, dark hole. It was depression that took hold of me and literally paralyzed me.

I could hardly talk to anyone without crying. I couldn't write a note or send a card, go to funeral home to visit families, and the worst part, I couldn't go to church, which had always been a big part of my life.

You see, I have had significant loss of loved ones. My husband, Bill, of almost 44 years, by ALS; my son Matt, suicide; and my daughter, Joellen, from COPD and MS. Also, a sister, brother, my best friend, and a grandson by marriage. I challenged God, asking why? I felt as far away from God as I could be.

For three years, depression had me in its grip. I had little control of my life. I prayed day and night for God to help me. But I felt abandoned by Him. My family, church, and friends prayed for me, never giving up.

And then miraculously, day by day, I began to slowly see light.

I began to feel a change. I could talk to people without crying every time, write a note, send a card, and go to funeral home visitations. The best part: I started back to church! I felt God had touched my heart and lifted me up out of that deep dark hole into His Light!

Am I still surrounded by sorrow? Yes, at times. But I don't stay there. I spend my time caring for others and loving the Lord more every day.

It's like the lost has been found. Matthew 28:20b, "lo, I am with you always," has given me the assurance that I will never again forget how prayers and His love lifted me up into His Light.

***Prayer:*** *Lord Jesus, thank you that I have a new dwelling place with you. Amen*

Penny Turley  
Spruce Street United Methodist Church  
Morgantown, WV  
"Sheepdog Ministry" Coordinator