

*I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
Psalm 77:11*

Remembering – and exalting – the ways in which the Lord has worked in my life is a key component for peace. Discouragement presses in from so many directions, and I often find it at the bottom of my own heart. But if I pause and slow down my dizzying assessment of things going wrong, and begin to count **all that the Lord has done and is doing**, it is like putting on a pair of magic glasses. Suddenly, I can see more! More of what the Lord has done, more of what the Lord is doing, and more of what the Lord will do in the future.

As a congregation, we have not met regularly for in-house worship since March. This has created anxiety and concern among members and leadership, yet with soaring new cases and positivity rates, Grace has continued the course of zoom Sabbath Schools and Live Streaming services. Predictions have been made that on the other side of the pandemic, churches will never recover their former attendance, and for an already small congregation, this is a discouraging prediction to contemplate.

So let's pause. Let's take a few moments to remember just a little of what the Lord has done for Grace Fellowship in the past.

After ten years of waiting, He gave us the property on which our new worship center sits. In four months, He turned \$15,000 into \$106,000 in an extraordinary fundraising campaign. He has protected many of our children on mission and educational trips to Central America, India, Italy, and other places around the world. He infused the beautiful truth of His grace and mercy into our very name as a congregation, Grace Fellowship.

And what is he doing for us now? The miracles have not stopped. Every month is a fiscal marvel as, unlike many other area churches, Grace continues to operate in the black, meeting its financial obligations. No one in our family has died of Covid-19, and this is truly an extraordinary example of the Lord's power and mercy. Despite the challenges, our members continue to grow spiritually and lean on one another for encouragement as His word directs us to do. This is, possibly, the greatest miracle of all.

What, then, will He do for us in the future? Friends, the future is good! *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7