

God's Mercy Gave Me Life

*"Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live;
for Your law is my delight." Psalm 119:77*



Number 28 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Beloved, the only thing that kept me from being overwhelmed as I saw the evil of my sin and my broken life as a new believer was all of God's promises of love and mercy that I saw every day as I read my Bible. Instead of condemning me to death and eternity in hell, Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of my sins. His tender mercies gave me eternal life with Him.

Having grown up in an alcoholic home where I was constantly beaten and sexually abused, I had never experienced love. I had never experienced *tenderness*. Truly God's love, mercy, and HIS AMAZING GRACE are indescribable, and while I will never understand it, I will never cease to be grateful to my Lord.

I do not have the words to express how incredible it is to me to be loved and accepted by God, to have God as my heavenly Father, to be part of His family, to have a church family who loves me, and to daily receive His tender mercies instead of fearing anger and abuse.

I will never forget the first time I read Jeremiah 29:11, which reads, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."* For the first 16 years of my life, I lived among so much evil. I survived five minutes at a time. I never wanted to think of the future, wanting to die instead. I did not know what hope was. Here God was giving me a promise of peace, hope, and a future.

In Isaiah 61:1-4 the Lord promised to heal my broken heart and to set me free—free from all my

fears, bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness—free from all my distrust of people—free from my constant loneliness, comforting me in my sorrow of never having a normal childhood or knowing innocence. He took all of the ashes of my life and replaced them with beauty, removing all my heaviness and hopelessness and giving me joy and a heart of praise. He promised to rebuild my broken life and then use me to do the same for others. He promised all of this to me when I trusted Him as savior, so that He would be glorified through my changed life.

Jeremiah 32:17 reads, *"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."* I repeat that, believer. There is nothing too hard for God! The Lord has been abundantly faithful to fulfill all of His promises to me from His Word. I have been cleansed, delivered, healed, set free, and restored. I have forgiven everyone who sinned against me. The Lord has turned all of my sin and sorrow into an international teaching ministry.

Beloved, what He has done for me, He can do for you. Again, I want to encourage you. It starts by acknowledging you are a sinner, asking Christ to be your Savior, and then asking Him to cleanse, heal, deliver, and restore your life and to use your life for His glory. He will never fail you. Trust Him.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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