

## Which lens is best?

By Maria Houston

*Almost two months ago our family celebrated the fifth anniversary of our daughter living with type 1 diabetes. Anniversaries play an important role in our personal development. We can use them to help us remember pivotal moments in our past. However, they can also serve as mirrors showing us who we have become since that important day.*



*We can look at December 26<sup>th</sup> through two very different lenses. Through earthly glasses, we can remember this day as the day our lives changed forever. This is the day our child almost died. The day we would learn the importance of insulin, counting carbs, and blood sugar numbers. We would soon become terrified to fall asleep out of fear she would never wake again. A week later we would be shocked at the cost of medical supplies. And by the end of the month we thought we would never be able to survive the life ahead of us. Our fears were great, our God seemed small, and life seemed terrifying.*

*But when I look through heavenly glasses, I see a different story playing out. This is the day God in His mercy saved our child's life. The day God provided medical professionals to patiently teach us how to care for His child. We would soon experience sleepless nights where God reminded us it was Him that kept her alive. And a week later we would realize how He provides for our child's medical supplies. And by the end of the month, we were brought to the end of ourselves, calling on God to help us navigate the life ahead. Over the next five years God would show us how big He is and how small our fears are.*

*Throughout the five years new medical advancements have occurred. New insulin pumps were developed, and new continuous glucose monitors were invented, improving our lives drastically. Her body has grown strong and her spirit has grown even stronger. There were days we were weary, tired, frustrated, and empty. We saw God give us the strength to go on. He provided what we needed when we needed it. After 5 years we are still here, and our family is even stronger.*

I hope this month to encourage you that if you have a chronic illness or an immovable burden, God will be with you in it. He may not ever remove it, but He will be with you through it. He promises; "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). There were days where I would cling to this truth. I may not have felt Him near me in that moment, but I knew I could always hold on to His promise that He was there. When I couldn't see Him, I trusted His Word. I challenge you to do the same. To cling to His Word. Overtime, you will see that He was with you.

As I look back, I also look forward. I pray that in five years from now my faith will be stronger than it is today. I pray God will continue to show me how He is with me in the daily struggle of raising a child with type 1 diabetes. As I look back on a day of sadness, it is eclipsed by the joy I see in front of me. I thank God for His ability to take sadness and turn it into joy.