

MONDAY *So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust...*

*You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
And praise the name of the Lord your God,
Who has dealt wondrously with you;
And My people shall never be put to shame. Joel 2:25-26*

This has been a cherished scripture to me at various times in my life: God's promise to "restore the years...the locust ate." Do you have years that locust ate? Do they come, wave after wave, to inflict destruction? God promises to restore every last one of them. Hold onto hope as you wait patiently for that day.

TUESDAY *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

The church in Corinth was experiencing divisions among believers. Paul had already sent one letter, now a second is needed. His opening sentences speak to these haggard believers of comfort and compassion. How have you received such comfort at a low time in your life? How might God's comfort flow to others *through you*?

WEDNESDAY *When my anxieties multiply,
your comforting calms me down. Psalm 94:19 (CEB)*
What "multiplies" your anxiety? Is it a person, a situation, a time of the day or night? Once you identify anxiety triggers, you can start start to pray *before* you encounter them. Ask God to wrap you in comforting calm before big meetings, tense conversations, painful times of the year. Choosing one Scripture verse (like the one above) and repeating it slowly and prayerfully can be one way to let God's calm sink into an anxious heart.

THURSDAY *Those who plant in tears
will harvest with shouts of joy. Psalm 126:5*
How do you feel about your tears? Ashamed? Weakened? Vulnerable? Don't let tears keep you from planting, from doing

the work God has set before you. Even if you have to do God's work while crying, don't give up! The harvest will come. The only way it doesn't is if we give up. Is there a place, right now, that you need to "plant" while crying?

FRIDAY *"Comfort, comfort my people,"
says your God.*

*"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.
Tell her that her sad days are gone
and her sins are pardoned Isaiah 40:1-2*

"Comfort" is the word used to begin the second part of the Book of Isaiah, a section of this prophet's works that deal with the coming Messiah. Isaiah promises the Savior will bring comfort. Jesus speaks of comforting those who mourn (Matthew 5:4). How do you best receive God's comfort, feel it, know it to be true?

SATURDAY *He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:4*

I read this scripture at funerals. It's good to be reminded that tears will one day pass away! When you are grieving, remember the promise of an eternity where God will wipe away your tears and they will never return.

