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# Walking by Faith

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## **Walking by Faith**

I believe in faith. When I was a young child, I put my faith and trust in a personal Savior, Jesus Christ, believing that he guided my every step, loved me, and gave me joy for this journey through life.

Little did I know that my faith would be tested at an early age, during my junior year of college. In the midst of a busy semester I began to experience numbness and tingling in my hands and feet. It slowly spread up my arms and legs until I was barely able to walk. After visits to a chiropractor and a general doctor I was referred to a neurologist, who immediately admitted me to the hospital. Following a long week of tests, the results were conclusive: I had multiple sclerosis (MS). Due to a spinal tap I had severe “spinal headaches” for over eight weeks. The only way to relieve the pain was to lie down, which made it almost impossible to sit through classes or complete papers. These headaches were a blessing in disguise because I focused completely on recovering from them, rather than dealing immediately with the MS diagnosis. I clung to my faith in Jesus Christ, that this trial would strengthen my faith and that I would walk again. My friends, family and college professors prayed for me and remain my greatest support group to this day. Finally, the headaches ended, my ability to walk normally returned, and I finished my coursework successfully, albeit with extensions. I believe God used this experience to remind me to walk daily with Him so that His works might be displayed through me. I developed more compassion for others who suffer and learned how to comfort those who have illnesses and disabilities with the same comfort I received from God.

In the twenty years since that time I have learned how to live with MS and to take each day one at a time. I do not take the ability to walk for granted and am grateful for every day that I get up and walk: to work, at the gym, over mountains, or around my neighborhood. I have had optic neuritis, during which I was blind in one eye, and fatigue and weakness, common symptoms in MS.

While it has been tough to learn to rest, there are times when I just have to relax and be still. As I hope in the Lord, I believe He will renew my strength, so that I can run and not grow weary and walk and not grow faint (Isaiah 40:31).

I believe in walking by faith not by sight. I will continue to walk whether it be unaided, with a cane, or rolling in a wheelchair, with or without my eyesight, until God calls me to my heavenly home. I rely on Him for my daily strength, my joy and the ability to encourage others as we walk this earth.