



CEO Devotional – August 5, 2013
Written by J.G. Carter –Townebank Mortgage

A Broad Place

"In my distress, I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.....He brought me out into a broad place: He delivered me because He delighted in me." Psalm 18

Often when I ask God to change my circumstances, I am focusing on the wrong things. I regularly find that what I think is the plot of the story – my circumstances – usually turns out only to be a subplot in the story God is trying to write with my life. It's a humbling realization.

Above all else, our Father is relational. He constantly seeks deeper relationship with us. As I ask for relief from my difficulties, He sees beyond the momentary circumstances to the greater opportunity to deepen our relationship; to increase my fluency in the language He uses to speak into my soul. I am learning that when the Psalmist speaks here of God bringing him "out into a broad place," he isn't likely describing a change in circumstance or geography, rather a change of heart.....the broad place of seeing God's redemptive hand in the very circumstances I am pleading with Him to change. The broad place of learning to trust our Father in our difficulties. I find I am continually having to re-enter this broad place, to re-learn this truth. To believe instead of worry.

Can I learn to dwell in the broad place of winsome, care-free dependence and trust? Or, am I still addicted to the "fretting" over circumstances that sometimes seems to control my heart and mind? Sadly, I admit that I am usually more interested in "figuring things out" for myself. I would rather depend on my own script rather than surrendering to the freedom (and uncertainty) that comes with allowing myself to be a part of His storyline. The lie of self-reliance sometimes seems so predictable and dependable, while the truth is unpredictable and ever changing. Clearly a renewed heart is the passport to this broad place where we can walk so freely that we begin to lose our focus on our temporal circumstances.

Our Father seeks an ever-deepening relationship with us that yields this freedom in our lives. Freedom to believe and respond in trust; to hear and obey regardless of circumstances; to be rescued from ourselves by a God who "delights in us." Oswald Chambers refers to this as the "vital, simple life." I love that description. Will we allow Him to bring us out into this broad place? Will we have the courage and humility to stay there when He does?