



# Renew Your Hope in the New Year!

## Beam Me Up, Scotty

*Oh that I had wings like a dove. I would fly away and be at rest. Psalm 55:6*



In my early grieving process I just wanted to be transported ahead two years. I imagined by that time the pain would be less. I wanted Scotty in Star Trek to beam me up and instantly re-move me from my nightmare. Can anyone relate?

I often hear that grieving moms don't want to die; they just don't want to be here. Sometimes we do want to die and if you're serious about that and have a plan please let someone know today.

I used to play "Want to go on a lion hunt?" with my toddlers. As we approached the gate, swamp, and lake, we would say, "can't go under it, can't go around it, have to go through it." Slosh, Slosh, Slog, Slog.

As much as we want to run or hide from the big black cloud of grief, the only choice we have is to go through it. Isaiah 43:2 states, "when you pass through the waters I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you will not be scorched, nor will the flames burn you, for I am the Lord, your God."

The book of Hebrews states that Jesus, "for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame." The Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 list many terrible things saints went through in order to receive their reward or what was promised them. There is joy and blessing ahead, but like in our lion hunt game, we will have to slog through the muddy, damp, dark, swamp to get there.



Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, but if not let it be known we will not serve your gods... Daniel 3: 17, 18

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were being forced to step into a fiery furnace seven times hotter than what would kill a normal person. What was their determined declaration prior to entry? What is your determination regarding the fire you are walking through?

The same Person who stood with them in their fiery furnace is standing with you. Who is it? (Daniel 3:25)

*What was on the other side of their "Fiery Furnace" experience? (Daniel 3:27-3)*

