

For me, going deeper in my faith has been about remembering what God has done for me and seeing how He has been faithful to me. Remembering what God has done is an ancient practice. We see in 1 Samuel 7:12 that Samuel took a stone, set it upright and named it Ebenezer saying, “thus far the Lord has helped us.” It was a testimony to a special help obtained in that time of trouble and a grateful recognition of that help. God has done many amazing things in my life. These are some of my Ebenezer stones.

When I was 5 years old I was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a very aggressive cancer of my nerve cells. My parents were given very little hope; I was given a 15% chance of living 2 years. I had surgery, radiation and chemotherapy but my parents also prayed for me to be healed. And God showed up - not just in healing me, which He did, but in so many other ways. They told my parents before my surgery that they didn't know if I would be able to walk again because of the nerve damage in removing my tumor but I was able to walk the night of my surgery. My mom prayed that I would not lose my hair during chemotherapy and I never did. If I had a birthday party or something special I wanted to go to and knew I would be sick because of chemotherapy, we would pray about it and miraculously the chemotherapy would not make me sick and I would be able to go. To see God show up like this built my faith at an early age.

It also set me up for what I think was my biggest faith testing. As a young married couple, Harry and I dreamed of having a family and yet struggled with infertility for years. This was such a hard time for me. I had seen God perform miracles in my life. I knew of His power and His love for me. But I struggled trying to hold those 2 things together, a God that nothing was impossible for and a God who cared about me and my deepest desires. He had not denied me a birthday party, why was He not answering our prayers for a child? My heart was so worn out praying prayers that God wasn't answering that I had to start praying only for things I knew He would answer. So I started praying that I would know His faithfulness, His peace, His love, that I would know Him. And He answered. And all that time, He was working in the shadows to build our family through adoption. On the way to the hospital to watch our precious son's birth, I opened my devotion book to read Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." And then one month later, God gave us our daughter – He settled the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Psalm 113: 9 Two babies! More than we could ask or imagine.

These are 2 stones of remembrance that are huge, but there are many more that are just as important. Prince George, this church and this church family have been such a blessing to us, Gary and Sue being called here, Ramsey asking my husband to do the Gospel Challenge, godly Christian friends and family that have supported us. There are so many stones of remembrance to look back on and say, "Thus far the Lord has helped me." We are

going through challenges with both of our children now and I don't know how God is going to work it out but I know He will. And not because my faith won't fail but because I know His faithfulness to me never will.