

**Our Devotion:** “Trying Transgressions” by Lindsey Metzger of Indianapolis, Indiana, a professional writing student at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

"I call to You from the ends of the earth when my heart is without strength. Lead me to a rock that is high above me, for You have been a refuge for me, a strong tower in the face of the enemy." Psalm 61:2-3 (HCSB)

Can I be honest? My week has been absolutely horrible. I've felt tired, stressed, anxious, and asked God, "Why me? Why now?" I believe everything happens for a reason, but what could God possibly be pushing me to learn this time?

As I was cleaning up my dorm room, I stumbled on all the letters I'd gotten from my friends, old and new, as well as my mother and grandparents before and during my first year of college. Naturally, as one does when avoiding important stuff and instead of doing something a little more productive with my time, I sat down to reread those letters. The bulk of them were from right before coming to Taylor, talking about enjoying college, trying new things. You know, the extroverted stuff I'm not known for.

What reading them made me realize is how completely ungrateful I have been recently. I have such a loving community around me, yet I fail to see it. I really do belong somewhere, even though I constantly feel like an outcast, either in my major, my dorm, even in my family. I really am loved, even when I feel unloved or unlovable.

What a loving and patient God we serve, who let's us suffer for a moment to help us learn a lesson we'll carry for an eternity. If you're ever feeling this way, know that you are not alone, and you are loved by a just God.

Prayer: God, through the madness, quiet our hearts. Give us peace through our struggles, and help us grow closer to You when we don't understand Your ways. Amen.