

Daily Devotion For December 19, 2022

<sup>31</sup> and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your **God carried you**, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." Deuteronomy 1:31

7 years ago today, Sherry went from a healthy 19 year old college student to being paralyzed from her shoulders down. It took months of rehab for her to be able to walk on her own again and today she lives with 24/7 chronic nerve pain. Through it all, we have seen God watch over and carry her through the rough and difficult times of life. It reminds me of the poem, "Footprints In The Sand"

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed  
he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.  
For each scene he noticed two sets of  
footprints in the sand: one belonging  
to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,  
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of  
his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very  
lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he  
questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow  
you, you'd walk with me all the way.  
But I have noticed that during the most  
troublesome times in my life,  
there is only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why when  
I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child,

I love you and I would never leave you.  
During your times of trial and suffering,  
when you see only one set of footprints,  
it was then that **I carried you.**"

**Thought for Today:** Deuteronomy describes how God carried the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years until they reached the Promised Land. Can you think of a time of how God carried you in the wilderness of your life?

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Pray for Laura Stephens, the daughter of one of our former pastors, Rev. Howard Toriumi. She suffered a hemorrhagic stroke while traveling in Utah. For more information, contact Nancy Ichiuji. Continue to pray for others who need God's strengthening and healing touch. Deo Volente.