



DAY 18 | May 18, 2020

Scripture

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” — 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8

Inspiration

This verse sort of sums it up. Such powerful words — hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted and struck down! These are all words that describe where we are, at least at certain moments as this ordeal continues. But this verse doesn't leave us there. **It offers other powerful words that counterbalance all the tough stuff — not crushed, not in despair, not abandoned and not destroyed! In other words, we're persevering, and with hope and strength.** Recently, I had a moment where I saw that perseverance right in front of me. I asked one of our staff, “How are you doing in all this?” It was a question that can sometimes illicit the standard response, “I'm good.” Yet, this time the answer was a joyful, “I'm grateful!” Grateful? In the midst of this? She went on to say, **“I'm grateful I have a job; my family is healthy; and I'm blessed. So, I'm grateful for all that.”** Wow! Despite the challenges, stress and worry, there was gratefulness! Turns out, gratefulness is a blessing in all this, as was this Wellspring team member a blessing to me in that moment!

Prayer

GRACIOUS GOD, we're struggling here as this pandemic continues day after day, with seemingly no end in sight. We're stressed, worried, perplexed and looking for answers. And yet, **we also have Hope and the strength that comes from claiming that Hope.** Help us to be grateful for all you are doing in our lives, with our families and with our work. You continue to provide everything we need, and then some! Your love is evident all around us. And with grateful hearts we give you thanks for that. Bless us that we might be a blessing to others. **AMEN.**