### Week 9

# I ask to feel God's healing love for me—to experience at least the beginning of the gift of freedom from any destructive patterns.

In my own words, what I ask is . . .



Don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me. To me, you are very dear, and I love you. I promised to save you, and I kept my promise. I am God now and forever. No one can snatch you from me or stand in my way.

Isaiah 43:1, 4, 12, 13

### Reading

Brackley – 4. Forgiveness pp. 29-38 Creighton – 9. God's Love for Us—*Healing* Mercy pp. 67-71

## Suggestions

~ Re-read "Gods' word" saying to yourself "I not only forgive you . . . in service to others" (p. 67). Hear it "spoken" to you.

~If you fear "failing again," hear the Lord saying "I am with you."

The vast majority of all the human beings who have ever lived have had to battle every day to keep the household alive against threats of hunger, disease, accidents, and violence. By removing us from the daily threat of death, the benefits of modernity induce in us a chronic low- grade confusion about what is really important in life: namely, life itself and love. . . . The victims stop us short; they show us that they are at the center of things . . . . What frees us is knowing that we are acceptable and accepted, not as a prize for being good, but in spite of being not so good" (Brackley, pp. 37, 31).

~ Talk to God about how I feel when I read this assessment of my "middle class" perspective—or I can talk to the late Dean Brackley about it.

# Scripture

Ephesians 2:4-10 – This is the "good news"; Rejoice in it.

Summing up the week: What return can I make?

Journaling: What do I want to hold on to from the week?

Group Meeting: From praying the Sp. Exs. this week, what do I want to bring to the group?