

## **Lent Day 11**

Monday March 13, 2017

**Reading:** Romans 4:13-25

*the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.*

### **Reflection**

I remember how frustrated I felt as a young Christian around ongoing sin in my life and it didn't help that I went right into Bible College, either. To me, the place just seemed to be teeming with people who had it all together and I could barely control the words coming out of my mouth. I kept begging God to fix me, by which I meant some sort of 'silver bullet' which would eliminate all of my sin in one dramatic event.

Of course, that's not the way it works as my fellow students could have assured me. They didn't have it all together any more than I did; I was just raw. But, they were also showing me how God does operate. He works over time. Eugene Peterson has an aptly titled book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. This sums up the journey in a lovely way. Yet a key ingredient to pursuing this life long journey is hope.

Why would or how could humanity under the power of sin have any hope of new life? Because, Israel's God gives life to the dead (resurrection) and calls into being things that were not (creation). These categories, creation and resurrection refer to Gentiles (creation) and Jews (resurrection) come to faith in Jesus. Because God does these things we have hope of our sin being overcome, too.

This is tremendously comforting for us during this Lenten season as we engage in self-examination. We can too easily find our face 'shoved in the mud.' But, we need not have that as the result. We can engage in examination because as we present those ongoing sins to God we encounter the promise of new life. It is better than a magic bullet it is the power which raise Jesus from the dead at work in us.

### **Prayer**

God of creation and new life, thank you for the power which breaks the power of sin and restores us to wholeness and freedom in Christ. Amen.