AXE HEAD PRAYER

WHERE DID YOU LOSE YOUR EDGE?

WHERE HAVE YOU STOPPED TRUSTING GOD?

What do you have that you did not receive? (1 Corinthians 4:7)

As we open our hands in surrender, speaking honestly with God about where we lost our edge, what feels like loss actually draws us deeper into Jesus.

When chronic illness or pain crashes into our lives, ways of serving that once brought us joy or to which we felt called can be swallowed by grief, pain, fear, isolation, exhaustion, or depression.

Losing our "edge" – our ability to love and serve in familiar and fulfilling ways – can be almost as disorienting and sometimes more discouraging than the illness itself.

READ 2 KINGS 6:1-7

The story in **2 Kings 6:1-7** is one of surrender and prayer, community and hospitality, purpose and transparency, reconciliation, restoration, and redemption.

Where have we stopped trusting that God is greater than our diagnoses? When did we stop believing that whatever He allows in our lives is for our good and His glory? What causes our "axe heads" to fly off into the water?

When we feel as if we cannot stay afloat, as if we've sunk to the bottom of the lake, hoping and praying we will rise to the surface, we can come to God and ask Him to show us where we've lost our edge, and when our axe head floats, we can reach in and lift it out of the water.

For from him and through him and to him are all things.
(Romans 11:36)

Chronic Joy

HOW TO FIND YOUR EDGE WITH GOD'S HELP

- Have you lost your edge? If so, be curious about where you lost it.
- Have you stopped trusting that God is greater than your illness and deeper than your pain?
- Are you sinking in the waters of affliction?
- Have you been sunk by your circumstances?
- Have you lost your faith in God?



AXE HEAD PRAYER

Dear God,

You are the source of all that I have. My life is a gift from You, but sometimes it seems there is too much to bear. Grief, illness, unfinished projects, and other things take my eyes off You. Sometimes, I am overwhelmed as all these things come crashing down on me.

As I feel myself sinking, I remember that I don't have to carry these burdens alone. You have promised to be with me every step of this journey through life. You are greater than any illness or problem that comes my way. Give me the faith to trust You, to meet You in a prayer of lament, and to surrender my burdens to You.

Turn my heart toward You and Your Word. Teach me to come alongside others as we bear one another's burdens and share the load. Remind us that You are the One who is faithful to keep us. Your Your steadfast love will always be with us, and You will never leave us.

Oh, Father, strengthen our faith. Draw us close to You where we can find our "edge" again. Make our axe head float so we can move forward with joy and peace, knowing that You are our strength.

In the name of Jesus, amen.

Chronic Joy