

## *Sacred Stories*

# **Putting Things in Perspective**



*spirituality*

### ***Suggested Sacred Text***

*Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst. ... he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.*

**Zephaniah 3: 17a,c**

When the code came over the public address system, my heart began to beat quickly just as it does every time I'm on the CPR team and a code is called. The code was in the emergency room, called on an infant who had been in a house fire. As I walked up to the cart, my heart was in my stomach, but I was prepared to provide CPR to a charcoal-covered infant. The attempt was futile, but necessary, on an individual so young.

The team members hovered around the tiny infant, each focusing on a task with the sole intent

of saving this individual. We lived the moment and nothing else mattered.

I was in charge of compression. I gently compressed the blackened chest 100 times a minute, while a respiratory technician maintained the airway and an NICU nurse started a scalp IV to provide drugs and fluids.

What I remember most was the smell of smoke. As we worked on the infant, the smell of smoke seeped into my nose and the stain of charcoal seemed to penetrate my pores. Later, I could not get rid of it, no matter how many times I washed my hands and blew my nose.

The code occurred in the late morning but it was not until the evening, as I sat on my deck, that I cried. I finally let my guard down and realized how fragile life is. Though it was traumatic, I am glad I was involved. Of all the millions of people on Earth, I had the opportunity to be there when

he died. Knowing that God is on the other side gave me the strength to let go. It helped me put things in perspective and realize how lucky I am. I write this story on my own son's 23rd birthday.

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**Question for Reflection**

*What encourages you to keep trying, even when the attempt may be futile?*