

## GOD IN THE FOG

I remember entering seminary a few years ago with fear and trepidation. I had prayed like crazy that the Lord would help me survive going back to school after 25 years in the workforce! I had prepared as best I could, taking the excellent advice of my pastor to memorize the Greek alphabet in advance. We arrived in Dallas and I hit the ground running...right into Mounce's *Basics of Biblical Greek*. I found Greek wasn't nearly as ominous as expected, until I hit Chapter Two! That's when the "fog" descended. The "fog" was the author's description of the harrowing state one enters as the vocabulary, rules, paradigms, and memorization descend in one great cloud to overwhelm and intimidate. The silent scream of panic begins to stir in the distance. Maybe you've been there.

Or maybe you've been there, like me a few weeks ago, when I walked out of the house one morning and could hardly see the car from the front door. The fog hung in the air like wet cotton, making it appear that even breathing would require extra effort. It was numbingly silent, the air so sluggish that even the birds knew better than to sing; knowing that their descant would fall like leaves to the ground as soon as it was released. Everything slowed down to a crawl.

Maybe you've been there when the fog descends upon life. You wake up, ready to feel the sun in your face and instead you find the clarity and peace of "normal" unexpectedly shattered. Maybe it's the death of a loved one or the loss of your job. Maybe it's one of a million different things that invade life, turn things upside down, and bring existence to a stifling crawl. Your eyes strain to see what's ahead, but to no avail. All of a sudden, you're in the fog. You didn't see it coming. You don't know if, or when, it's going to lift. All you know is that it makes life hard to breathe and in its murkiness the seconds seem like hours and the days like weeks. It's thick and confining and asphyxiating.

All of us encounter the fog in life at one time or another. Sometimes it's worse than others. One thing we need to remember is that no matter how thick it is, the sun is always shining on the other side. Sometimes you can't see it. Often you can't feel it. But it is always there.

**Psalm 34:3-4** declares, "O magnify the LORD with me and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Just as the sun is always shining on the other side of the fog, God is always present in our struggle. He is always ready to provide shelter and assurance when we run to Him. Know that He is ready to come to your aid and reach out to Him when the fog settles in.