

Footprints in the Sand

By Mary Stevenson 1936

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
Other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
That during the low periods of my life,
When I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you,
You would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life,
There have only been one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have seen only one set of footprints,
Is when I carried you."

Marks in the Sand

Inspired by Larry Tatum; Revised by Eric Kieselbach

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed marks in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
Other times there were one set of footprints,
Sometimes there was a set of footprints going in the opposite direction,
Other times I noticed several footprints walking in the same direction,
And other times I noticed what appeared to be long lines in the sand.

This bothered me because I noticed
That during the low periods of my life,
When I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat,
I could see only one set of clear footprints, surrounded by a variety of different marks in the sand.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord, that you would be faithful to me,
And that you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying and crisis periods of my life,
There have only been one clear set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you the most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have seen one set of footprints going forward and one set going backwards is when you ran away
from me.

Then I would relentless pursue you.
Other times, I would literally have to drag you up the beach to bring you where you needed to go.
The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, Is when I carried you.
But the most joyful periods are when my people would walk in fellowship together, sharing and caring for each other;
And when we walked side by side together, just you and I, in the cool of the day."