

Will we, like Abraham, trust Him to the point of death **and then some?**

It's time to surrender all of your anger, self-pity and bitterness toward God, yourself, and others who are to blame. It's time to run into the arms of the Potter to be molded into a vessel of trusting and loving; a place of great peace in this storm because *you are under the shelter of the Most High!*

Let's Pray!

Lord, I come to Your throne of mercy and confess that I don't like this terrible loss. Everything in me is screaming that it is not fair! Lord, I have served you faithfully and I don't understand why this has happened to me. My well is dry so I need to draw from Your well! I need Your faith. I need Your peace. I know everything you do is for eternity's sake. Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Lord, forgive me for entertaining the thoughts of the enemy. I know that with Your presence I will walk out of this pit of self-pity and anger, and I'll overcome with the Victory of The Cross, praising You for Your faithfulness. I don't understand why now, but I trust You; I release all my questions and striving, and enter into Your rest. In Jesus name, Amen.

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STAND STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!



A few years ago I went through the pain and sorrow of losing a son who was addicted to prescription pain killers. They cost him his landscaping business, his home, and finally his life.

He moved back in with us after the loss of his home. Several times he had seizures resulting in trips to the ER, where we nearly lost him.

We were finally able to scrape enough money together to get him into a 30 day Drug Rehab program, and it was there that he had a renewed encounter with God. Upon completion of the program, he came home with a pad of paper. On it he had written an eight page list of his sins, and letters to his mother and I, asking us

to forgive him. He also contacted others to apologize for his actions in the past.

One day he told me "Dad, I've planted hundreds of trees; but this is the first time in my life that I've ever seen the *beauty* of a tree." I knew that Jesus was making him into a new creation.

While he was in the program, he had been sick with pneumonia. With all the stress of coming back home, he took some pain killers. Due to his weakened condition, he fell into a coma. I found him the next morning and called 911.

While they were working on him in the ER, I was in the parking lot awaiting the outcome and crying out to God as I had done many times on his behalf. That's when I heard in an audible voice: "Stand still and KNOW I AM GOD!" A short time later the doctor came out and said "Brian is gone. We could not save him."

Questions and guilt flooded my mind: "Why did God let my son die?" "I could have done more to save him!"

"The righteous perishes, and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from evil." (Isaiah 57:1)

The enemy is quick to tell you to question God: "You have served God and He let this happen. You have a right to your

anger. You have a right to feel sorry for yourself!" But the Lord gave two different people the same dream a week apart, which confirmed for us, "In your pain and loss, Brian is OK. I am carrying you through this terrible trial."

We were so brokenhearted. I don't have enough words to express the importance of having church family around us in our time of grief. One family set up a memorial fund at the bank. They received the account information in the mail, and the envelope contained a card that said:

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

To be still means "Quit striving and to rest. I have it under control!"

Later on, we went to the bank and asked where the card had come from. We were told, "I have no idea who put that in. We didn't!" The Lord confirmed to me that His plan is perfect even though, at the time, we may not understand what He is doing!

At the funeral we read David Wilkerson's devotional from April 27, 2011; the day that he went to be with the Lord:

"To believe when all means fail is exceedingly pleasing to God and is most acceptable. Jesus said to Thomas, "You have believed because you have seen, but blessed are those that do believe and have not seen" (John 20:29).

“Blessed are those who believe when there is no evidence of an answer to prayer—who trust beyond hope when all means have failed.

Someone has come to the place of hopelessness—the end of hope—the end of all means. A loved one is facing death and doctors give no hope. Death seems inevitable. Hope is gone. The miracle prayed for is not happening.

That is when Satan’s hordes come to attack your mind with fear, anger, overwhelming questions: “Where is your God now? You prayed until you had no tears left. You fasted. You stood on promises. You trusted.”

Blasphemous thoughts will be injected into your mind: “Prayer failed. Faith failed. Don’t quit on God—just do not trust him anymore. It doesn’t pay!”

Even questioning God’s existence will be injected into your mind. These have been the devices of Satan for centuries. Some of the godliest men and women who ever lived were under such demonic attacks.

To those going through the valley and shadow of death, hear this word: Weeping will last through some dark, awful nights—and in that darkness you will soon hear the Father whisper, “I am with you. I cannot tell you why right now, but one day it will all make sense. You will see it was all part of my plan. It was no accident. It was no failure on your part. Hold fast. Let me embrace you in your hour of pain.”

Beloved, God has never failed to act but in goodness and love. When all means fail—his love prevails. Hold fast to your faith. Stand fast in his Word. There is no other hope in this world.” – David Wilkerson

“That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:7 NKJV)

It is so very hard to rejoice when our world has just fallen apart! But sometimes that is the very thing that it takes for us to realize that there is more than this life!

Oftentimes our quest to be reunited with a loved one in heaven puts us on a collision course with The Maker of Heaven and Earth! The very One, who indeed numbered our days and the hairs on our head! The One who is intimately acquainted with us even from our mother’s womb, who knew us before the foundation of the earth, who calls us His Beloved, who is standing there with outstretched arms waiting for you to bring Him your sorrow for He is acquainted with your grief! He knows your pain and He will carry you through this terrible storm.

A lady, whose husband would not go to church with her, lost her three year old daughter in a car wreck. Her husband got real angry with God. One Sunday, she

invited her minister, Charles Green to their home for dinner after church. Sitting at the table, the husband asked Charles, “Why did God take my little girl?”

Charles said, “I really don’t know the answer to that.”

After dinner, the pastor accompanied the man to feed his sheep. They walked out on the farm and found the sheep on the other side of the creek. Knowing that sheep are skittish of crossing water; the man went over, picked up a little ewe lamb, came back across the creek and set her down. The mother of the lamb ran through the water to be with her baby. As she did, the other sheep ran over too.

Charles, having a revelation from God, said, “That question you asked at the dinner table; The Lord has given me an answer for you. **‘Sometimes you have to carry the baby lamb over first to bring the others over.’**”

The man saw it too and fell down on his knees, repented and was saved.

The testing of our faith by fire takes many forms, however, the greatest test is when you pray for the healing of a loved one and it doesn’t get answered the way you want!

What do you do then?

Do you:

- Lash out at God for failing you?
- Turn from Him in anger, never to darken the door of a church again?
- Blame God for not being as powerful as everyone told you He was?
- Say “prayer worked for you but not for me?”

Or do you run into His arms?

Will you, like Job, say:

‘Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.’ (Job 13:15a NKJV)

At some point, we will all come to a situation where we have to choose to:

“Follow Him no matter what!”

or

“Not!”

THAT is the testing of our faith!

We are told to:

“...love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV)

And we say: “We do!” But then we are faced with the ultimate letdown. Will we continue to obey Him then?

Will we love Him no matter what; with all our heart and soul, when we think that He has failed us?