

God's Greatest Gift

Seven years ago, God gave me an opportunity to give my testimony to a group of women at a fall conference at a church in Monroe, NC. Although I had shared bits and pieces of my story of God's grace in my life before, Saturday, October 13, 2012 was the first time that I stood in front of a group of 75 women to witness for God and share with them what He has done in my life. **And today, I want to share with you how God has used adversity (my physical afflictions), gratitude, and joy to mold me into the woman I am today.**

I have battled rheumatoid arthritis ("Arthur") for 34 years, have been hospitalized with pneumonia 3 times, am a 28 year malignant melanoma survivor, have battled 2 lung diseases: pulmonary hypertension and interstitial lung fibrosis for the past 11 years, have been on oxygen at night for 11 years, experienced acute kidney failure in 2013, and suffered an ischemic stroke, which paralyzed the left side of my vocal cord, in 2016. As a result of this stroke, I now have a loop recorder implant above my heart and a gortex implant on the left side of my vocal cord. **But through it all, God has sustained me, has built my trust in Him, and has blessed me with immeasurable joy!**

God has been good to me! I have learned to trust Him because I know He wants to give me good gifts. Some of these gifts are my family, my friends, my students (48 years as a Christian educator), my church family, my Lions Club family, my happy heart, my joy, but most of all the presence of the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life. When I am dealing with my health issues, my prayer always is, **"God, help me. I know you will."**

God has taught me many lessons during my journey: He loves me, is faithful to me, honors my faithfulness, takes care of me, gives me joy, and brings people into my life to bless me. I thank God for His goodness to me and give Him all glory, honor, and praise. **You, too, may have His gifts of courage, joy, and eternal life.**

God has created us to have a loving relationship with Him and has asked us to share this gift with others. If there has never been a time in your life when you have asked God to come into your heart, change your life, and give you eternal life, **then now is the time.** You may pray this prayer of salvation, based on Romans 10:9-10, to God alone or with others:

Dear Father in Heaven,

I know that I have sinned and have not lived my life to honor you. I believe that Jesus Christ is your Son, that He died on Calvary's Cross, and that He rose again on the third day for me to have eternal life. I repent of my sins, ask your forgiveness, and ask you to come into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. Help me to live a life that brings glory and honor to you. **Amen.**

If you have prayed this prayer and have been saved, please share this information with your loved ones. We can be assured that after our time on earth, we will spend eternity together. I also encourage you to begin studying God's Word and find a Bible-based church where you can grow in your Christian walk. **May our Lord bless you, encourage you, and give you joy beyond measure! I love you, thank God for you, and am always praying for you.**

In obedience to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Rachel Brady Walker, 11/07/2019