

Thought for A Wednesday

Took my wife today for her epidural injection for the inflammation and pain of the bulging disc that is pressing up against her spinal cord. Can I just be honest and say that this pretty much stinks! I hate, yea I know it's a strong word, but I hate to see my wife, anyone in my family that is in so much pain and discomfort and then have to endure some more pain in order to hopefully feel less pain! It doesn't make any sense to me, honestly!

It was so great watching how well she did last weekend attending our oldest daughters college graduation - It was awesome to see you laugh and smile. I wouldn't have traded seeing those moments for anything. God was very gracious and kind to give her such a strong weekend, and I am very grateful to Him for giving our family such a gift last week.

Almost seemed like we should skip this morning's appointment, she was doing better - Gave a great Faith Story Sunday morning at Celebration. Surely God was showing us that we didn't need to go to the doctor for this procedure, right? By Sunday afternoon, the pain and irritation had returned and we knew Monday morning that we were going to have to keep that appointment.

So, this morning, we left the house about 6:40 a.m. to be at the Doctor's office by 7:15 a.m. We prayed together in the car before going in - I prayed that since we had not gotten a word from the Lord indicating not to proceed with the procedure, then we were walking through the doors of the office and trusting God with the path He has laid before us.

I'll be honest with you, the past month or two have been extremely stressful for my family. If I've said it once, I've said it dozens of times - It's so easy to trust God and praise God when everything is going well, and problems are at a minimum... But it gets more difficult when things begin to not go as we planned or hoped for. And things have begun to pile up a bit in our family, so it's one of those seasons where the measure of our faith individually and collectively is being challenged for genuineness and endurance...

This is why I take so much comfort in God's Word - It is an anchor for our soul...

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-6)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

"God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble. The earth may fall apart. The mountains may fall into the middle of the sea. But we will not be afraid. The waters of the sea may roar and foam. The mountains may shake when the waters rise. But we will not be afraid. Selah

God's blessings are like a river. They fill the city of God with joy. That city is the holy place where the Most High God lives. Because God is there, the city will not fall. God will help it at the beginning of the day. Nations are in disorder. Kingdoms fall. God speaks, and the people of the earth melt in fear. The Lord who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. Selah

Come and see what the Lord has done. See the places he has destroyed on the earth. He makes wars stop from one end of the earth to the other. He breaks every bow. He snaps every spear. He burns every shield with fire. He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth.' The Lord who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. Selah." (Psalm 46)

Thank you my dear friends for all your prayers, cards, words of support and love that have been offered to us during the past month - We appreciate it more than you realize.

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,

Pastor Mark