

FINDING JOY

AMIDST CHRONIC PAIN AND ILLNESS

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Christ Fellowship
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BACKGROUND

- Born in Minneapolis, 1961
- Parents divorced and mother remarried and moved to Dallas in 1961
- Graduated Stanford University, 1983
- US Congress, Legislative Staff, 1983-1988.
- Graduated Univ. of Virginia School of Law, 1989
- Member Texas, California and DC Bars, 1989
- Intellectual Property Partner at several firms
- Two times a General Counsel of Technology Companies
- Chair, IP Department, Allen Matkins

WALK WITH OUR LORD

- Saved in 1973 when witnessed to my brother, back from the US Army
- Attended original Fellowship Bible Church on Arapaho Road, 1974 to 79.
- Baptized by Gene Getz, 1975.
- Fell away in college, at age 20.
- Pursued selfish ambition for next 15 years
- Parkinsons, 1999.
- Redicated life to Christ, 2000.
- Ordained as a pastor, 2016

MY STORY, 1999 DIAGNOSIS

- Door Number 3: Young Onset Parkinsons Disease
- Age 38 when diagnosed in 1999.
- Married in 1988.
- Son, born in 1993, six years old at time of diagnosis
- Son, born in 1995, four years old at time of diagnosis
- Daughter, born in 1997, two years old at time of diagnosis
- My remaining life expectancy at that time: 10-15 years

MY STORY, 2016

- In my 17th year with Young Onset Parkinsons Disease
- Continued working until Age 48 in 2009.
- Married still and for 28 years.
- Son, now 23 and graduate of U of Colorado
- Son, now 21 and studying Physics at Northern Arizona Univ.
- Daughter, 19 and a sophomore at George Mason Univ.
- My remaining life expectancy unpredictable. (I shouldn't be here)

MY PRESENT CONDITION

- Tremors, stiffness, shuffling of feet, freezing
- Loss of senses of smell and taste. Drooling, dry mouth, mumbling
- Loss of balance, falling.
- Decline in memory and cognitive skills.
- Decline in hand and feet dexterity
- Other Issues: over weight, sleep apnea and herniated disk
- Pain levels quite high.

**WHY HASN'T
GOD HEALED
ME ?**



EIGHT REASONS WE MAY SUFFER

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- 1. Consequence of Prior Bad choices and behavior (law of sowing and reaping)
- 2. Fatherly discipline for correction of Believers.

EIGHT REASONS WE MAY SUFFER

- 3 God is trying to get your attention. He is drawing you closer.
- 4 God is equipping you for service.

EIGHT REASONS WE MAY SUFFER

- 5 God may have planned this to allow you to play some role in another person's life for you to a part of something much greater
- 6 Effects of Sin in the World

EIGHT REASONS WE MAY SUFFER

- 7 For the glory of God, most likely by some gift or blessing received by you.
- 8 We haven't got a clue, so we have to TRUST GOD.

NO MORE “KNOW-IT-ALLS”

**WHAT YOU KNOW
GOD IS DOING
DOES NOT LIMIT
WHAT GOD
ACTUALLY DOES**

EPHESIANS 3:19

- and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

WHAT YOU
UNDERSTAND
DOES NOT LIMIT
WHAT GOD CAN DO

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

- And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

HEBREWS 2:8B

- Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control.

**YOUR REQUESTS
DO NOT LIMIT
GOD'S ANSWERS**

EPHESIANS 3:20

- **Now to him who is able**
 - **to do far more abundantly**
 - **than all that we ask or think,**
 - **according to the power at work**
 - **within us,**

ROMANS 8:31-32

- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

**YOUR UNWORTHINESS
DOES NOT LIMIT GOD'S
GRACE**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

- And God is able to make
 - all grace abound to you,
- so that having all sufficiency
 - in all things
 - at all times,
- you may abound
 - in every good work

2 CORINTHIANS 12:8

- "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

**YOUR EXPECTATIONS
DO NOT LIMIT GOD'S
PLAN FOR YOU**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

- For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

I CORINTHIANS 2:9

- But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

GOD IS NOT A COKE MACHINE



EPHESIANS 3:14-21

- ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant **you to be strengthened with power** through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ **may have strength** to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according **to the power at work within us**, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

POWER PRINCIPLE NUMBER 1

I CORINTHIANS 1:17-18

- *God's Healing*
 - *a Soul*
- *Is A Greater Miracle Than Healing*
 - *a Body*

THE WORD IS THE POWER

- **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**
- For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its **power**. For **the word** of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it **is the power** of God.
- *See also 1 Corinthians 2:4-5*

POWER PRINCIPLE NUMBER 2

COLOSSIANS 1:11

- *When God Doesn't Immediately Heal,
He Gives You Power
to Make It Through*

COLOSSIANS 1:11:

- May you be **strengthened with all power,**
- according to his glorious **might,**
- **for all endurance and patience with joy,**

POWER PRINCIPLE NUMBER 3

COLOSSIANS 1:29

- *God Doesn't Usually Zap Us With Power,
More Often He Strengthens Our Muscles*

COLOSSIANS 1:29

- ... I **toil (labor)**, **struggling (agonizing)** with all his *energy* that he *powerfully works* within me.



POWER PRINCIPLE NUMBER 4

ISAIAH 41:10

- *When God Doesn't Immediately Heal,
It May Be to Work a Greater Miracle*

ISAIAH 41:10

- ...I will **strengthen** you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- See also **Isaiah 40:29, Psalm 10:17**

POWER PRINCIPLE NUMBER 5

ISAIAH 40:31

- *When God Doesn't Immediately Heal,
He May Be Healing You Gradually*

ISAIAH 40:31

- but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their **strength**; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.