

Pk's Perspectives ... Unanswered Prayers

When we pray we often are hopeful for a 'yes' answer. But, what happens when the answer is 'no?' If we're honest, that answer is not easy to take especially if it is something we desire so incredibly much. Sometimes, despite the disappointment though, that 'no' has goodness all over it and our family has recently witnessed a good 'no.'

A few months ago, my sweet father-in-law was diagnosed with kidney cancer. It was found "accidentally" when he went to the hospital for high blood pressure and had a CT scan done. They said the CT scan accidentally went too low which then revealed the tumor. We firmly believe this was no accident but the grace of God. It's amazing how sometimes He works things out. My father-in-law was able to get his blood pressure under control and was given a date for surgery to have his kidney removed. Thing is, this date was farther away than hoped. So, we began to pray that the Lord would work a miracle to get the surgery date moved up.

God answered with a 'yes' and a 'no.' An opportunity came for a second opinion that offered hopeful news but the date still could not be moved up. Our family continued on with the news until a few weeks passed and my father-in-law was back in the hospital with blood pressure issues again. This time it led to a heart catheterization which then led to an answer not expected. A 90% blockage in the main artery. The doctor told my father-in-law that if he would have had his kidney surgery before finding this blockage, he would have had a heart attack on the operating table.

Do you see the 'no' answer in our prayer? The goodness all over it? I literally get goosebumps every time I talk about it! It made me think how often we pray and pray for things and the Lord allows a 'no' for an answer. That 'no' may be lifesaving. That 'no' may bring better things later on. That 'no' may be the best thing even when it feels like the worst. Our understanding is so limited to what the Lord does and why He does it. He knows all things. He sees the unknowns and what could potentially be harmful. He also sees an opportunity for His glory to be revealed. Our lack of knowledge about my father-in-law could have ended up deadly, but, by God's grace He worked it out according to His purpose. I don't know about you, but I am so glad we don't have the final say.

If there is any way for you to be encouraged after reading this, I hope it is to truly just trust God. Release the worry, disappointment and control and rest in the One who has everything under control. 'No' for an answer is not always easy to take. In fact, it can be painful. But, there is a reason beyond our comprehension for that 'no'. I promise you it's not out of spite or hatred either because those do not line up with God's character. I believe Romans 8:28, "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Here's the catch though, that good may not always be what we want but it is just what we need.

Our Heavenly Father was ultimately saving my father-in-law's life all while revealing His sovereignty and glory. Praise the One who sees it all, knows it all and has control over it all. There is a nugget of goodness in that 'no' sweet friend, just seek Him and thank Him as you find it.

This testimony was written by Ashleigh Holland. Her father-in-law is David Holland — a faithful follower of Christ, a servant in my former pastorate @ FBC Glennville, and also a good friend. I came across Ashleigh's blog and thought it might be an encouragement to you!

Grace & peace, love you. PK