

With God On My Side



a little girl's testimony
remembered by
her father

Douglas L. Crook

The Test Of Our Faith

In both Genesis 22 and Hebrews 11 we read where God tested the faith of Abraham when He commanded him to offer up Isaac as a burnt offering unto the Lord. It is a Biblical truth that God tests the genuineness of our faith for our good and His glory. I offer the following, not as a sentimental story that warms the heart of a loving father, though it is certainly that to me, but as a modern day example of the faith of a little girl that was severely tried and that was ultimately proven to be genuine to the glory of God.

Our daughter, Rose, who passed away at age 14 from complications from a genetic disease that causes the bone marrow to shut down production of blood cells, had suffered all her life with the unpleasant disease. One week, when she was 12, she had suffered one painful, annoying, debilitating symptom after another. One day that week I noticed her standing on our front porch which was about 10 or 12 feet off the ground. She was staring off into space with a look of depression that I had never seen on her face before. I was worried about her and sensed that she was wishing that the porch were 100 feet off the ground so she could jump and put an end to her suffering. I asked her if she wanted to talk. She just kept staring off into space and shook her

head no. I felt so helpless! I was her father! I was supposed to make everything right and couldn't! I wanted to just hold her, but I felt the Lord check me and felt that I was to leave her alone with God.

Later that day, Rose came into my office and just handed me the following note and walked out.

“Well, I've come to a point in my life where I just want to stop fighting! But, if I stop now, all that fighting from 12 years earlier would be ruined and forgotten. I'm sure you have or will come to a place in your life where you just feel like there's nothing left. It's so hard to tell how much I wanted to stop thinking there's nothing left, but there is always God.”

(The following paragraph was scratched out, but legible) “I may be young but I have been through a lot more than a normal kid. So much that I know my body more than those IV stickers.” (nurses with needles.)

“Today, while my mouth was bleeding in 3 different spots and 4 blood blisters too, all I wanted to do was give up! But I got some sense knocked into my head. I was so lucky to be alive, to be saved, to have a home and a family, so many people who care about me, and most of all, God on my side. I finally realized that with God on my side I will not lose this battle or any battle as long as I have God with me.”

I called her back into my office and asked her if she understood that if she died from this disease that it would not be losing the battle. She told me that she understood and knew that Heaven was a place of victory, not defeat. We then read aloud about the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21 and the glories that await God's people and the full inheritance that is reserved for those who live by faith.

The simple childlike faith of Rose continues to challenge me in my walk with the Lord. God takes us through many changes and adversities that we might learn to trust Him and experience His faithfulness. At times, when I get to feeling sorry for myself or get to complaining about the way that He leads me, God has to "knock some sense into my head" by reminding me that "with God on my side I will not lose this battle or any battle as long as I have God with me."

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