

I Believe, Our Animals Will Be Raptured

This is the beginning of a series on the roles of animals in our lives and how the Lord has given us companions that mirror His love for us. But today I had an experience I want to share with you.

Forty Seven years ago I had a tumor wrapped around my carotid artery, thankfully it was benign. Well last night I noticed a painful lump in that same area, at the very base of the jaw. It was not the normal lymph gland location in my neck. It hurt to the touch but more disturbing than the pain, the fear of cancer presented itself.

My husband came and prayed for me for a very long time laying his hands on the area just moments before my nap. I felt better, the pain had somewhat subsided, and I have seen plenty of healings through his cooperation with the Holy Spirit, so I was standing on faith.

Well, before I tell you what happened next, I want to tell you about Tiger, our gray and peach colored tabby cat. We adopted him from the pound when my previous favorite cat passed away. There was a hole in my heart and I wanted another furry friend.

We went to the animal shelter and there he was about two months old, and extremely eager to leave his cage when he saw us. The attendant opened the cage and gave him to me, he took hold of my neck as if I were his mother and immediately we were in love. I was looking for a cat that looked more like my Himalayan Tabby mix that had passed on, but my husband, always having an uncanny gift for right choices, said, "This is the one for you Honey."

Our mutual affection for one another made us inseparable from day one. Since that he's grown into a tall lanky cat, who loves to hunt in the trees, go for long walks with us and make kitty biscuits in bed. When I go for a bike ride, he sits and waits in the driveway until I come home. If I ride out in the field behind our house he follows, in fact whenever the dogs go for a walk Tiger is right behind them.

I have never had a cat this affectionate. If ever I am saddened by something, he is there jumping up into my lap, licking my nose, and purring so loudly I can hardly think about anything, except how awesome he is, which immediately brings me to praise and thanksgiving to Our Lord for this precious, precious gift.

He takes naps with me, I call out, "Tiger! Night, night, kitty!" And he comes running. When he comes to bed, he climbs onto my pillow, wraps his paws around my neck and tucks in next to my cheek. If I try to move, he grabs me more firmly as if to say, "Oh no you don't, I'm not done with my nap yet." If I just have to use the rest room, he jumps out of bed and climbs into the sink to be with me, then follows me back to bed.

When I call him, ninety percent of the time, he comes running. I've never had a cat that eager or responsive... which I am sure is very undignified in the eyes of other cats. "What? He's coming when she calls! What's the matter with him?"

When the Lord is correcting me for something, of course I feel sad and blue, because I've let Him down, but Tiger also keeps his distance. In fact when he won't come and nap with me, I start checking to see if I've grieved the Lord in some way. And usually I have.

When a new animal is brought into the house, Tiger readily accepts him or her. Nor is he ever cruel or intimidating to the other cats. He's a gentle friend to everyone, a truly extraordinary cat. The bond between Jesus and him is very strong, to the point where I can actually sense Jesus using Tiger to love on me. This has been going on for three years, and it is definitely not my imagination, my husband has frequently made note of it.

So that's the scoop on Tiger.

Well on this particular day, just after my husband had prayed for me, Tiger, whom I had not seen for most of

the day, jumped up on the bed and firmly planted himself right on my neck. I was lying on my side, and the side with the lump was on the side Tiger laid down on. And I do mean laid down on. I just couldn't believe it, he firmly planted himself and at first his weight was a little painful, but then I began to feel really good. The pain totally left my neck.

Now uncharacteristic of this cat, he laid there for a good 45 minutes. Usually he comes, pays his respects, snuggles and is up and gone in ten minutes, checking out the last noise he heard. But this time, he would not budge off my neck. I fell asleep and when I awoke, he was still there and the swelling and tenderness on my neck was substantially decreased. I would say the area was an inch long and raised about 3/8's of an inch before my nap but after my nap only raised only 1/4 inch. You can think whatever you must, but I am personally convinced that the Lord used my husband along with Tiger to heal my neck.

Scripture has it, "1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. John 1, and "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." in Colossians 1:17

So the Lord Himself has made it obvious that creation is held together by His power, and therefore, He indwells even the creatures of the field. But I do believe some animals are destined to be special companions to man during his difficult sojourn on this earth. Horses, dogs, birds, even fish, especially respond to their keepers in an uncharacteristic way, as dear friends.

And moving along from this conclusion, I believe these animals that have a special relationship with their humans, will be taken up in the Rapture. Knowing God's character, His extreme tenderness and mercy, I have no doubts, He will not leave our dear friends behind to suffer abandonment.

In one of the Left Behind movies, there was a scene with a little fluffy dog in the airport, just standing, bewildered, looking this way and that for his human. It was a sad and heart rending sight to imagine what would happen to this creature without the human that loved and cared for him.

I cannot believe that the Lord is going to Rapture innocent children and leave behind innocent pets. Yes, I know, we are made in His image. But by God's power Tiger has his being, and has been chosen to be a special companion exuding the Love of God, even to the point of being an instrument of healing.

In my heart and mind, there is no other conclusion to be had of the Merciful and Tender One, His Bride is going to have 'baggage.' Living beings, although not human, alive by the power of His Love, and I cannot imagine God to have the kind of callousness that would enable Him to leave these appointed vessels of love behind to suffer the punishments and calamities of our evil human ways.

*I can just hear objections right now, "That's not in the Bible." Right. Neither is the Holy Trinity. But there is substantial evidence in favor of this reasoning which I intend to elaborate on in the near future as a teaching. And in case you haven't already visited our book page, *Chronicles of the Bride* is all about the delights of Heaven, and especially the very special place Jesus has gone to prepare for you. Many of the stories of our experiences there include the animals who once were on the earth, but are now in Heaven. Every creature encounter in Heaven is all about love, even the wildest of the wild are affectionate and playful the Love of God permeates all creatures.*

Stay tuned...not only for the trumpet...but for the authenticating Scriptures to put your mind and heart at ease about your dearly beloved creatures.

