

Trust

During the sermon on Sunday when Rev. Gotham was speaking about John Wesley and his conversion I was reminded of my favorite quote of John and Charles Wesley. Charles was elated and happy and expressed this by saying, "If God but give me wings, I would fly!" John replied, "If God bids me fly, I will trust him for the wings!" Both statements were indications of the trust they experienced with God. They trusted in all things. When I do my daily prayers, I tend to be repetitive, reminding God with each prayer to hold those I love in his hands, to bless each day, to make me better. I tend to not turn it over but to keep harping on the same things. I am sure God forgives me and I have learned to pray for each day, knowing that the future is uncertain. When I was diagnosed with Cancer, I learned the importance of each day's prayer because I did not know what the news would be tomorrow. It seemed like an avalanche of bad news, with hopes rising and then falling but always God's arms were catching me and giving me hope. It started as I was in the O.R. waiting to have a lump removed. The Doctor told me that the results were back on the mammogram, and everything was fine. I thought, "Then why am I here?" but we had discussed this lump, and both were adamant that it needed to be removed so we went ahead and removed the lump. When I awoke, the Doctor was telling me it was malignant and all I could say was, "I'm really surprised." We then met in the post-surgical area where he told me he had reserved an O.R. room for Monday, this was Thursday, and I was to call him on Friday and let him know what I wanted done, nothing or radical surgery. I began to pray for each day, just get me through it and let me make the right decisions. I had to learn to trust where God was leading me. I prayed that my decisions would allow me to see children settled with those to love them, and if possible, Grandchildren. But God had a different plan, he would use this for good. I changed, with a greater appreciation for each day and expressed that in my prayers. Some people say, "Thank God for Friday," I said, "Thank God for this day" even Mondays. Sometimes the world is hurtful and sad, but one thing remains, God's love for his children. Someone once asked me if I still believed in God now that I had cancer. I was shocked and said that God did not give me cancer, that errant cells in my body had given me cancer, but God had used it to bring me even closer to him. My prayers each day were not to change the results but to give me strength for the day and courage for the journey. Thanks be to God.

Matthew 14:15-31 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you" Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus... But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord save me" immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Thank you, Lord, for the times in our lives when you have held us in your loving arms, those times when you gave us strength to get us through. Thank you for our church, our Pastor, our Staff and Leaders. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, may he feel your love and the love of those he serves daily. Be with our Staff and leaders, give them clarity of mission and strength for service. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, give them your love and comfort. Be with us as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson