

Living in Darkness

Recently I had been noticing an inability to see fine print when reading. I kept adjusting my glasses and cleaning the lenses, but it was getting worse. The print was blurred and cloudy. Every time I opened Facebook I was hit with another ad about Diabetic Retinopathy, luckily, I could not read it. I finally called an Ophthalmologist and the scheduler asked why I wanted an appointment and I explained about the inability to read fine print and the cloudiness and that it was getting worse. She asked for my insurance information, and I had difficulty reading the numbers she requested. As I stumbled over the numbers, she suggested that I come in as quickly as she could give me an appointment. I went in this past week, and they checked my vision and I stumbled through the small letters on the eye chart and then the Doctor came in, a very pleasant woman. Now I have been going to this firm for a good many years and when I started going, I had a doctor who was friendly, had a sense of humor, and was very good. She passed away from Cancer and the practice was taken by another doctor who had the bedside manner of a kumquat. I put up with him for years rationalizing that he knew what he was doing, and I only saw him every 2 or 3 years for his 5-minute visit. Then I had cataract surgery and I think I might have been talking about him while under anesthesia because the anesthesiologist kept telling me to stop talking and after that the doctor would not speak to me at all. So, I was very happy to hear that he retired and now I was once again in the care of a very pleasant and competent doctor. She examined my eyes and said the cloudiness is like looking through waxed paper isn't it. I said yes and she said this can be fixed very easily with a 10-minute Laser procedure. I am scheduled to have the procedure done in a few weeks. I was so relieved that I was not losing my sight. The thought of not being able to drive and knit and sew and read comfortably was daunting. I know that others have faced much tougher challenges and I look at their bravery and their unchanged spirit and I am humbled at how they have faced the trials they have endured. They faced and are facing a lifetime of darkness and their bright light is the love and comfort of God and the sure knowledge that though our bodies might fail us, those around us might leave us, his love will never fail and will endure.

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Dear Lord, be with those who walk in darkness, those who do not know your words, those who need to feel your presence. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, comfort them. Be with our church, show us your way. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with our leaders and our staff, guide and protect them. Lord, we praise your name and thank you for your daily blessings. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson