

## MERCY AND FAITH

Have you ever heard the phrase, "You don't know what's in you until you get squeezed?" Well....I want to share with you about my 10 months of "squeezing." Back last September 2019 I became extremely sick with the Ulcerative Colitis that I have had for many years. I also had a bacterial infection, was nauseous 24/7, could not eat, drink, or sleep. I was very weak and depressed. I woke up every day believing that I would be better but only grew worse. This continued month after month and included 2 trips to the emergency room.

I consider myself to be a woman of faith and I was trusting the Lord to heal me, but He seemed far away. I cried out for His mercy but only got weaker. I did all I knew to do....I worshipped and lifted up the "sacrifice of praise"...I rebuked the Spirit of Infirmity...I prayed for all the starving people in the world (they couldn't eat and neither could I). I repented for doubting that the Lord would heal me. Long story short, I ended up in the hospital for 30 days and had my colon totally removed. I was in isolation not only from the hospital not allowing visitors but also from another highly contagious bacterial infection. Feeling very alone in the isolation, pain, and the ever-present nausea, I cried out to the Lord but continued to get sicker with kidney failure and kidney infection. I was confused and feeling hopeless and told the Lord, "You said in your Word that your mercies are new every morning, but I don't see it!!! Show me Your mercy!!

So....enough of all the above! Here is what decision I finally came to....either I believed what I was "feeling" that God's mercy was not there for me or I was going to believe His Word. I reminded Him what His word says in Lamentations 3:22-23, "**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.**" Holy Spirit impressed on me about FAITH....not in what I was feeling but faith in the Word of God! He is a God that cannot lie!!!

So, that day I confessed and repented again for doubt and unbelief (didn't know it was in my heart until I got squeezed) and I chose to believe He was with me and His mercy endures forever and for all generations! Did I feel better in my body....nope but my faith had been refined in the fires of affliction.

Hebrews 10:38, "**The just shall live by faith.**"

Hebrews 11: 1, "**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (or felt).**

Hebrews 11:6, "**But without faith it is impossible to please Him.**"

Confession: I believe by faith that His mercies are new every morning and He will never leave me or forsake me!!!

Maybe some of you are going thru a fiery test of your faith. Can I just encourage you to not rely on your feelings but anchor yourself in the unfailing and never changing mercy and love of God! I can report that I am recovering and gaining strength every day. I am "**counting it all joy when I fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of my faith produces patience.**" James 1:2 Thank you all for the words and cards of encouragement. My two darling daughters and families have been very close. Grace Place staff have been amazing to continue to serve the poor in spite of a pandemic!

I love you all and assure you that His mercies are sure as the sunrise!!! There is no testimony without the test!!!

Rhonda



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Monroe, LA 71210

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HP 962 xl Ink (black & color)

Hygiene Products:

(shampoo/cond, deodorant, masks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, sanitizer)

*The Lord is  
GRACIOUS,  
and full of  
COMPASSION;  
slow to anger,  
and of great mercy.*

*Psalm 145:8*



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