

Some Reflections during these troubled times....Hope, worry, fear and faith...

by Lorelei Pepe

I saw a post on Facebook from a young teen that really impressed me due to his age and it matched my thoughts completely. He said **“since practically everything is shut down due to the virus and we are basically homebound for the next few weeks, maybe God is trying to get our attention. Meaning we now have the chance to reconnect with our families...to actually have one-on-one conversations, to take time to talk and listen and share and eat together! We are running around like crazy people on a daily basis, trying to fit more things in one day than possible. Maybe this is our wake-up call to stop! We are living in a self-centered world filled with greed and evil and we forget quite easily to remember we are not in control, God is. So, He has slammed us big time...I hope we listen.”** Words of wisdom from a young man.

But on the brighter side I would like to convey a nice story about my good friend Bettyann, a sweet, Christian woman living in Miami. She is 88 years old, very strong-willed, and independent. She no longer drives and had to go to Publix, her supermarket in Miami. She got dropped off but did not want to bother anyone to bring her home. So, she sat outside the store in the heat on a bench with a few items in her shopping cart. As she called UBER, she watched people hurriedly running in and out of the store to shop. She told me 3 people actually stopped and asked her if she needed help, as she sat there for over 20 minutes. She said **“No, waiting for Uber”**, but Uber never showed. She was getting anxious and concerned. She thought maybe the driver who had called her misunderstood her directions. She is hard of hearing so he was getting frustrated with her. Finally, a nice woman in her early 40’s stopped at her cart asking if she needed help. Bettyann explained the situation and showed her phone to her. She said **“oh no, it was cancelled!”**

Bettyann was perplexed, tired, hot and dismayed! The woman then saw her face and asked her where she lived. It turned out that she lived only a few blocks from her house. She told Bettyann she was going to get her car and bring her home with all her packages too. When she dropped her off, she wrote down her address and phone number and told her if she needed anything to call her! It turns out the woman was a caregiver too, so she understood. Such compassion!

This story fills me with hope, hope for our world and hope in the Lord! God sends the right people to us in times of trouble. He knows our needs even before we ask! As it says in Isaiah 65:24, “Before they call I will answer and while they are still speaking I will hear”. How great is our God?

This helps me to increase my beliefs and faith. Because there are times in my life, I am unravelling and have felt so alone, the spirit of fear overtakes me and sends me down that spiraling path of darkness. So I pray and remember Jesus is the light and the only way! And then I think of stories like this one about Bettyann. So I will continue to pray and remember I am never alone.

Coming from a family of “worriers” instead of “prayer warriors” it has been a difficult battle for me to remain positive and change my thinking . So, I would like to share some good simple advice I read about worry. (a) Turn worry into prayer (b) Turn your attention to God (c) Remember God is everywhere, knows everything and his power is Limitless! This is not easy, I believe it comes in time and is a process. I need to keep working on it daily and I know I will become more confident and trust my Lord and cling to the Hope in Him.

God has made a promise that he never will leave or forsake me because I am and will always be His child. He is in control, not Me! I pray for that too for all my readers.

Lord! Increase my FAITH!

Psalm 103:19 “He is God ALMIGHTY, He is the sovereign Lord of all. Nothing happens in this world that is beyond the knowledge and power of our God.”