

The Greatest Light of All - by Lorelei Pepe

I never really knew my "earthly" father growing up. He was distant and cold and favored his sons which was typical in an Italian family. I was frustrated as I could not connect or relate to him without a flare up. So as an adult, I often wondered how he felt about God and if he fit in his life. Being Catholic he was ex-communicated from the church when he married my mom who was Protestant. He rarely went to church even though my mom took us kids faithfully every Sunday.

My father got very sick near the end of his life and was bedridden for a few months. During this time a pastor came to visit and prayed with him. I never knew if it impacted him until the night of his death. It was a stormy rainy night and mom was sitting holding his hand and I was by the window in a rocking chair watching the streaks of lightning and thunder crackle in the sky. Hours into the dark, long night a flash of lightning shot through the room and my father sat up abruptly in bed and put his hands out to the light. By morning he was gone.

My father wanted his ashes scattered at sea, so one of my brothers took them out on a jetski to the middle of the ocean. We snapped a picture of the sea as it was beautiful that day and decided to hang the photo on our hallway wall as a reminder. Both my mom and I passed it many times but one day I looked at it real close and saw a faint outline of a ladder going to heaven and it was bathed in light! I could not believe it and when I showed my mom she just shook her head and smiled. We agreed it was a sign that he was in heaven.

My heavenly father, Jesus, lights the way for me. I see and feel him in nature everyday. The closer I get to him in prayer and bible study, the closer he gets to me, and I believe the holy spirit is within me. He comforts me in my trials and tribulations. Life is hard these days and seems to get worse when you get older. So, I ask him to hold me in the palm of his hand, especially on those sleepless nights. In John 1:9 it states that the true light is given to each of us as we believe. That's all it takes.

So, I pray for my fellow believers that they may experience this true gift that God gives to us. When you walk in his light, you will feel great peace as he will never leave or forsake you. Carry him in your heart and as you go out the door today and walk each step know that you are not alone. May he be a comfort to you as he has to me.

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path".