

EVEN WHEN JESUS IS IN THE BOAT!

Recently we were privileged to hear a sermon based on Mark 4:35-41. This is the story about when Jesus was in the boat with his 12 disciples on the Sea of Galilee. A severe storm broke out and the boat was rocking and filling with water. They awoke Jesus, because they were full of fear for their lives. He calmed the storm. One of the lessons we learned from this is that hardship can happen to us even when Jesus is in the boat.

When things are falling apart in our lives and they will, the lesson that He is teaching us is to strengthen our trust and faith in Him. Sometimes it looks like there is no light at the end of the tunnel but be patient and pray. He always answers prayer.

Maybe some of you can relate to the challenges that we have faced with my health. We have had one trial after another for the past 8 months. There were times where we were depressed. Prayer and the hymn Amazing Grace helped us to realize that our Loving Lord was preparing us for greater work in His kingdom.

- December 2017, I had a sacroiliac joint injection that didn't help. In January the doctor did a caudal-epidural that helped only 50%. The extreme pain lasted until the end of March.
- In February I had a fall and was taken by ambulance to the hospital.
- In March I fell again and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. They found a subdural hematoma on my brain plus fluid overload around my lungs. I was admitted to the hospital for several days.
- In April I fell by my bed and had to call 911 to pick me up off the floor.
- In May at a doctor's visit an x-ray was taken and again fluid overload only this time two liters of fluid were removed by doing a thoracentesis.
- In May a week later after the two liters of fluid was taken off I had a Knee Revision surgery because I had fallen so much I tore a ligament in my right knee. I was there a week. This time they put me on a constant drip of Lasix.
- In June I was at my doctor's office and she sent me for an x-ray and called the next day that I needed to have fluid removed from around my lungs.
- And it goes on. July 23 I was discharged from the hospital after a 17 day stay because of a collapsed lung. The procedure was called a Robotic right thoracic duct ligation and talc pleurodesis. While at the hospital I was told I have an atrial flutter. I am now home with in-home care.

We share this information with you, not looking for sympathy, but with a hope to relate to those of you who are having trouble with your own health. There were several members of church in the hospital at the same time.

Some people are not able to live by themselves anymore, some have marital relations going bad, some have financial problems. We are told that even if these problems are going on in our lives, Jesus is still in the boat with us. He hasn't stepped out and left us. Trust his wisdom and power and he will bring us home to heaven through it all. In the meantime, his love and promises will calm our stormy hearts. **TRUST HIM.**

AMAZING GRACE

1 Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

2 The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4 When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

