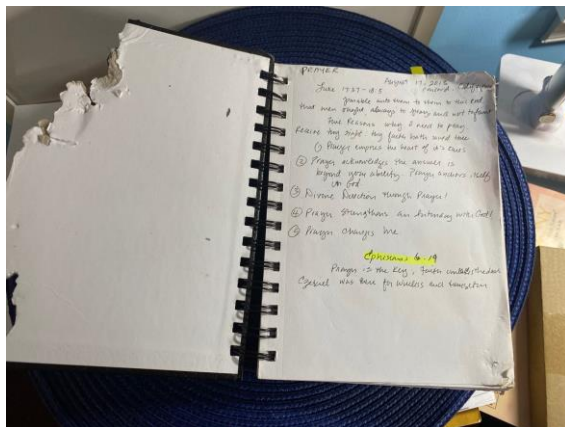


Today's Devotional is provided by Jacqueline Laughlin

A Blessing from Bandit

I have kept a journal for many years. However, it has not been my practice to go back and read something that I wrote long ago. When I do, it is usually a surprise. I usually don't remember writing what I wrote, I can't believe I jotted it down, can't read my own writing; and I certainly don't feel the same way now that I felt so clearly at that moment.

I spend a fair amount of time with a puppy (NOT MY DOG) who insists on playing with me and she has just recently discovered how to pull a book down from the shelf to get my attention. It doesn't take long for this beloved dog, whom I affectionately call Bandit, to dog ear a book and shred the pages.



The other day I had had a rather daunting day the day before in Court on a matter that will go unmentioned. It coincided with the date that I celebrated my first anniversary as an official widow. My husband Ray had died the year before on February 4th and I had a wave of new grief and angst and felt so poorly treated by an unfair judge. Bandit opened my journal to the

entry for August 17, 2013, aptly titled On Prayer and why I need to pray. The parable for that day I referenced was the Widow and the judge, Luke 18:1-8. If you don't remember it, here is a link

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18&version=MEV>

I had scribbled ...

Five Reasons I need to pray:

1. Prayer empties the heart of its cares
2. Prayer acknowledges the answer is beyond your ability. Prayer anchors itself in God
3. Divine Direction through Prayer!
4. Prayer strengthens an Intimacy with God

5. Prayer Changes Me!

Thank you, God, thank you Bandit and thank you for the unfailing comfort of Scripture..... prophetic reflections on that day closed with

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20

I share this reflection from my journal that day in Concord California, then as now a happy prisoner of hope. You never know when you might need a Word...