



"God, what is it You want to do through me?"

The Faith of Eleanor

"Yes, it is God who raises the humble and gives joy to all who mourn." ~Job 5:11 (Good News Translation)

Many, including myself, have a hard time fully understanding the Book of Job and the story of a devout and faithful servant of God, whose faith was constantly tested and who endured so much loss. However, in my own life I have witnessed the strength of many disciples who have endured much suffering while retaining, and in fact, growing their faith. I have been thinking of such a devout women who I knew in my hometown in Southeast Kansas. Her name was Eleanor. She left this world in 2020.

I knew Eleanor because her two oldest children, Deborah and Randy, were around my age and we attended school together. Every time I saw Eleanor, she was exuding pure joy and sharing blessings with those around her. The last time I saw her was at the funeral – the homecoming celebration – for her son Randy. Her two sons Randy and John suffered with sickle cell anemia, a painfully debilitating condition, which ultimately contributed to their deaths at young ages. She also experienced the death of her daughter, Karon.

Even though she endured more than her share of loss and grief, she remained steadfast in her faith in God. Despite all her loss and grief, Eleanor lived a life full of joy and full of giving to others. She also continued to find ways to serve others through her church and she especially felt called to work at the local women's shelter (a safe house

for victims of domestic violence). She always displayed a sweet and positive spirit.

Though I struggle to comprehend how Job could endure so much loss and remain steadfast in his faith, I have witnessed the lives of people like Eleanor who have personally suffered great losses yet show love and share blessings with others in spite of their own losses. Having the blessing of knowing Eleanor has helped me comprehend Job. She provided me a contemporary embodiment of Job's faith.

Prayer: Thank you God for all the Eleanors in this world. Amen.

By Jim Garner



*Please join the inspiration of our Daily Devotionals for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter on the theme **Full to the Brim**. Please email your reflection, prayer, or other contribution to MCCDC Senior Pastor Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson at RevDwayne@mccdc.com.*

Donate to MCCDC

FOLLOW MCCDC

