

well, it seems like i am getting a chance to walk out my faith. it seems like the evil one is mad and wants revenge for the current article on the website (when hope becomes faith). it seems he was saying "do what you preach". by God's grace i will do just that. here's the story as it happened.

on wednesday, the 22nd, i woke up about 6:00 am and discovered i couldn't talk. i called my neighbor about 9:00 we both thought it best to go to the emergency room. if i had known the misery of the next week, i certainly wouldn't have. it was like a miracle though. when we got to the emergency room, my speech started to clear up. they also gave me a swallow test and i had no problems. i even ate half a sandwich and a few chips they gave me for lunch. they said they wanted to keep me overnight for observation.

after a wait for a room to become available (always full), i was admitted and they decided to do all these tests. mri was 30 minutes long and i really didn't like being in that tube. they said the mri showed no signs of a stroke but i obviously had all the symptoms. what's really strange is that my speech became blurred again and i suddenly couldn't swallow without choking. couldn't really test my strength because they would not let me even sit up on the side of the bed. i didn't really think it affected my vision at the time but now it's like a film is over my eyes.

to my shame i spent too much time in the hospital wallowing in self-pity and not enough time talking to God. finally one night i had a serious talk with my God. i swear i heard the phrase "lying symptoms". the

enemy will try to put on us anything we are willing to accept. the Lord says we are to resist the enemy and use His word to battle. Jesus won the victory when He rose from the dead. He paid for it all at the cross. i know that we all have to die and many times it is a sweet release. it says He appointed our times and places. i believe we all have a race to run and a chance to add as we would to His glory. a chance to hear that command to move up closer at the feast.

i don't know what my appointed time is. admittedly i was looking forward to being with Him, but is there even one more thing i can do to encourage, influence or win someone to Christ? a lost soul that is headed for a place of eternal regret.

my typing is now much slower. the two fingers i type with are drawing further up. mistakes are so frequent i always have to proofread before i send. but this is now my only means of communicating. since i can not eat or drink, this trial will not be long. even though my weight might sustain me quite a while, one must have water. ice chips alone will not sustain me long. to my utter amazement the release notes from the hospital instructed hospice my diet was eat as desired and not to take any meds. the doctor spoke of even changing the blood thinner to a stronger one. my urine is the color of grape juice from the blood thinner shots they were giving me twice a day. all in all. God has His work cut out.

so what am i to do? i choose to believe my Jesus. was He lying when He said "whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive"? or when He said

"as you have believed, so let it be done for you" to the centurion. i do not believe my Lord would deceive me. but i know that whether i live or die i am His. we know that God causes all things to work together for good. for the good of each soul. Jesus said satan is the ruler of this world. paul says the christian walk will be with many trials and persecutions. although satan rules this world, he does not rule me or my body. i belong to Jesus and He belongs to me.

to be continued.

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