

Broken Things Sister Leona Whistenant's Personal Testimony



“ I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel”
(Psalm 31: 12).

David spoke these words and then he went on to say that when we are broken and in despair: “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that HOPE in the Lord” (Psalm 31:24).

Few unbroken lives in this world are useful to God. Few men and women can fulfill their hopes and plans without some disappointments along the way. But man's disappointments and the things we believe are tragedies may be the very opportunities through which God chooses to exhibit His love, mercy, and grace. If you look around you may find that people that have been broken become better Christians than if they had carried out all their own plans and purposes.

Let me take a moment to share my testimony .

I was born again of the water and the Spirit 8 years ago and became a preachers wife. Since that time I have worked for the Lord and I love the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart. Yet, at the age of 33 I became very sick. I went to the hospital and they did exploratory surgery. When I came out the doctor's told me he found a major tumor in my colon. They removed it but they found 1% of cancer in my Lymph node so I had to take 6 months of chemotherapy and after the 6 months they said I was fine. After This surgery I gave my life fully to the work for Jesus. I had two years free of cancer which I spent traveling with my husband doing the Lord's work.

In 2002 I got sick again and they found out that my cancer had come back, so they put me on chemotherapy for about a year. They told me that this cancer is incurable and that I could not work any more and had to get Disability going but I

had to get help through the state senator to even get it started . We went through a hard time not only physically but also financially. I finally got my check started in the later part of October. All my bills were building up but I never worried about a thing. I knew God would take care of me and my family.

In 2004 I ended up sick again and my skin turned yellow from head to toe. I was so sick one Sunday that I couldn't hardly hold my head up but I still went to church to get prayed for because I know that God is able and I always look to him first. They found out what was wrong with me but they could not fix it, but I said God will make a way! I prayed and God told me not to give up so I went to another hospital in Birmingham (UAB). On the second day there they put a stint in to drain the belly ruben from my liver. Then three days after, the surgeon came in to see me before the operation and my husband and I prayed over his hands to have God guide his hands. The next day after the surgery the surgeon came in and said the by pass of your small intestine to your tummy was perfectly done. That same day God allowed me to walk half way down the hall and back. Then I began to run a fever and they said I had an infection. A few days earlier I made friends with a little lady that had throat cancer and she was so afraid to go through surgery. I got up out of the bed the morning after my own surgery and walked over to her room. I prayed for her and later she was able to rest comfortably the entire night up to her surgery. I kept praying for her and I didn't even worry about my pain because I was doing God's work. She did fine and came out blessed. After I prayed for her my fever went away and I felt much better. If you concern yourself with helping others God will bless you in return. I also was witnessing to the nurses and playing Gospel music. All the nurses said I was an inspiration to them because of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray I can be a blessing to some one else because God never gave up on me why should I give up on him. I am telling you all of this to show what God can do. It is not about me but about the Lord Jesus Christ. I am nothing on my own. It is his grace that gives me my strength and courage. Give God the glory! He is my every thing, thank you Lord for all you have done for me and through me.

This time even after the surgery the doctor's didn't give me much hope at all. They said even if the surgery was a success I probably wouldn't be able to eat enough, but after the surgery they did test and said that I was doing better than they ever thought I would. That just shows what God can do. He is able to do more than we can ever imagine. I am convinced that it is only because of the grace of God and the prayers of all the saints that I made it through all this and have been able to keep going and doing ministry for the Lord. I went back to have a scan done on Aug. 28, 2005 and they told me that the tumors were gone! The doctor said that it is still in my blood but I know that the Lord will heal me of that as well. The doctor's wanted to give up on me several times over the past 5 years, but I never

gave up because I knew the Lord wouldn't give up on me and he didn't. Because of all this I am a stronger witness for God. He used these things that most people would call tragedies to show his great mercy and grace and to open doors for me to be a witness and help to others. Praise His Name!

Are you being broken today? Has the dearest thing in your life been torn away? Then remember that If you could see the purpose of it all from God's standpoint, you would praise the Lord . The best things that come to us are not those that come from having our own way, but by letting God have his way. Though the way of testing and trial and sorrow often seems hard and cruel, it is the way of God's love and in the end will be the best for us.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8: 28).

May the Lord bless you and keep you always,

Sister Leona M. Whistenant

This was Sister Leona's last testimony. She was tried by fire over the last few years of her life but she never gave up on the Lord all the way till the end. She always keep a smile on her face and when ask how she was doing she would say “All is well”. The Lord granted her quality of life. She never had to much pain, and she never lost her hair. Even during her last few days on this earth she was trying to be a witness for the Lord! Two days before she died she talked to a friend that had quit coming to church. She told her “My friend, I know I don't have long before the Lord calls me home to be with him. You know I love you my friend. Promise me that you will get back in church and live for the Lord because I want to see you again someday”. She also spent that last month talking to our children, her mother, and her brother, and all her friends about staying in church and living for the Lord. Leona's mother got born again a few weeks before Leona died. Leona was so filled with joy when she found out about it. She was unable to be at church that Sunday because she was so weak but the pastor called and let her hear her mother's baptism. Leona lifted her hands right there in the bed and as the tears of joy ran down her cheeks she began to praise the Lord.

As I look around me I can still see lives that are being touched by the way Sister Leona lived and by the way she died. For 5 years she keep the faith. She keep a smile. She keep on working and living for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord brought her through so many times because he knew she had work left to do.

However, on April 1, 2006 the Lord knew that her work here on earth was done. It was time for her to come on home to be with him where there will be no more sorrow or pain. She truly fought the good fight, she finished the course, and through it all she keep the faith! The last night of her life in this old world she talked in her sleep. She keep praising the name of Jesus all night. She went home to be with the Lord early Saturday morning April 1, 2006. The last thing she did was raise her head, look over at our son, and gave him a big smile! Then she laid down her weary head and went to be with Jesus.

She loved everyone and all that knew her loved her. She will be missed and she will never be forgotten. Her testimony will continue to touch others and her light will continue to shine as a beacon of hope to this world of darkness until the Lord shall come again.

“He which testifies these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you: But rejoice inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy” (I Peter 4:12-13).

“Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as to a faithful Creator” (I Peter 4:19).

Sister Leona Whistenant was not only my wife but also my helper in the ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ and my best friend. She is at peace now but I know that I must go on with the ministry the Lord led us to. I must continue to fight the good fight and keep the faith until the day the Lord calls me home to be with Him and to see her again.

Brother Mark Whistenant